

**CITY OF MARSHALL
WORK SESSION
M I N U T E S
Tuesday, August 27, 2024**

The work session of the Common Council of the City of Marshall was held August 27, 2024, at City Hall, 344 West Main Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Mayor Robert Byrnes. In addition to Byrnes the following members were in attendance: John Alcorn, Steve Meister, Craig Schafer (via Zoom), Amanda Schroeder, James Lozinski and See Moua-Leske. Absent: None. Staff present included: Pamela Whitmore, City Attorney; Sharon Hanson; City Administrator; E.J. Moberg, Director of Administrative Services; Jason Anderson, Director of Public Works/City Engineer; Ilya Gutman, Plans Examiner; and Steven Anderson, City Clerk.

Discussion on Cannabis Related Topics

Attorney Whitmore provided a brief overview of Adult Use Cannabis. At the end of the 2023 legislative session, and further amended at the end of the 2024 legislative session, the Legislature legalized the use of Cannabis and what the Legislature now calls Lower Potency Hemp Edible products and established the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM), a state agency, to create and enforce a licensing system throughout the State. Under the State Law, a local jurisdiction must register Cannabis and Lower Potency Hemp Edible retailers and enforce certain zoning regulations within their jurisdiction against all Cannabis and Hemp businesses, but local jurisdiction cannot license these businesses. Use of these products, in certain places, was also legalized, as was the right to grow a certain number of plants at home. Amendments were made to allow for commercial cultivation before OCM even started licensing. Whitmore reviewed the actions that had been taken by the City Council since the legalization of Adult Use Cannabis in Minnesota, which included moratoriums and allowing retail sales of lower-level hemp edibles. The city under the new law had very little control on cannabis use and must allow a minimum of two cannabis retail businesses within city limits. The city however was allowed to restrict location through zoning ordinances and “buffer” zones 1,000 feet from schools, daycares, residential treatment facilities and certain parks. The City of Marshall opted to create buffer zones of 500 feet from schools only. Councilmembers discussed a registration system for higher levels of cannabis, the total number of retail businesses, and hours/time that products could be sold. Members settled on two retail licenses for now as there were two smoke shops already in the city that would more than likely apply and wait and see if an expansion of the limit would be needed in the future. Members also would like the hours/time to mimic the municipal liquor store, including Sunday hours. A municipal dispensary would be a discussion point for a later time.

Adjournment

At 6:55 PM Mayor Byrnes adjourned the meeting.

Attest:

Steven Anderson, City Clerk

Robert Byrnes, Mayor