

1 **Minutes of the Special Meeting**
2 **Denali Borough Assembly**
3 **Tri-Valley Community Center**
4 **April 17, 2019**
5

6 **WORK SESSION**
7

8 **CALL TO ORDER**

9 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the work session to order at 6:09 PM.
10

11 Presiding Officer ZIMMERMAN announced that the meeting was being video streamed
12 live and stated that the purpose of the work session was to hear public comment on
13 marijuana retail store license application number 20221. Mr. ZIMMERMAN opened the
14 floor to public comment.
15

16 A total of 36 people provided comments including Jason Wells, Kristin Randall, Denver
17 Urlaub, Stacey Urlaub, Jason Motyka, Joseph Graham Jr., Samantha Van Zyl, John
18 Ross, Janet Powers, Linda Chatfield, Deb Cizmowski, Shawn Peterson, Erik Haugen,
19 Nikki Wells, Gordon Carlson, Tim Russell, Cara Thurston, Derek Hurt, Angel Hayes,
20 Vincent La Rochelle, Erica Watson, Joe Garner, Valerie Taylor, Dorothy DeBlauw, Sam
21 Kimmel, Charles Terry, James Bright, Nicole Shreeve, Elma (Binky) Graham, Caleb
22 Graham, Carmen Adamyk, Crystal Deyette and two individuals that did not provide their
23 full name. Ms. Susan Nowland and Mr. George Jordan provided comments as the
24 marijuana license applicants and answered questions from the assembly. Alaska State
25 Trooper Sgt. Joel Miner did not provide comment but answered questions from the
26 assembly.
27

28 A summary of points made by members of the public in opposition to marijuana retail
29 store application number 20221 include, but is not limited to, the following:

- 30
- 31 • the store location is too close to the community and residents of Healy and to the
32 public laundry facility
 - 33 • allowing a marijuana retail store in our community will set a bad example and
34 send a message to our youth that we approve of the use of marijuana
 - 35 • concern that the location will provide easy access and increased use and
36 experimentation by the youth in our community
 - 37 • concern about the negative physical, mental, emotional, and social impacts that
38 can accompany marijuana use and experimentation by our youth and the lack of
39 facilities in our area to address those impacts
 - 40 • marijuana is considered a schedule one drug according to the United States
41 Drug Enforcement Administration and is therefore a danger to our community
 - 42 • fear of an increased number of impaired drivers
 - 43 • concern that there is no location for seasonal employees to legally consume
44 marijuana which could lead to an increase in seasonal employees looking for
places to consume their purchase, and

- concern about addiction and the life-long struggle that accompanies addiction, not just for the addicted individual but for their family and friends as well.

A summary of points made by members of the public supportive of marijuana retail store application number 20221 include, but is not limited to, the following:

- marijuana is a legal business in the State of Alaska
- a retail store will provide a safe location to purchase a tested and verified product
- the Denali Borough has no regulation restricting this business from opening
- some people in our community need marijuana for medical and mental health reasons and a retail store in our community would improve their quality of life
- you must be over 21 to enter the store so the youth will not be allowed access or entry
- support and encourage new businesses in our community
- the applicant has a proven record of being a responsible business operator
- we already have a marijuana retail store in our borough and without any new borough regulations, it would be unfair to protest this application
- marijuana is often taxed by municipalities and could be a new revenue stream for the borough

Assembly members thanked the public for their comments and participation, encouraged the public to remain engaged with local issues and meetings, acknowledged the diverse opinions expressed and assured the public that all the comments were heard and considered.

SPECIAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN adjourned the work session and called the Special Meeting to order at 9:15 PM.

Mayor Walker led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Presiding Officer ZIMMERMAN asked for roll call. Assembly members present: Joe CHATFIELD, Tallon SHREEVE, David EVANS, Don DEBLAUW, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Krista ZAPPONE, Jake HILL, and Jill BOELSMA. Absent members: Eileen HOLMES. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.

Jill BOELSMA MOVED to excuse Eileen HOLMES. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands to excuse was unanimous.

MARIJUANA RETAIL STORE LICENSE APPLICATION NUMBER 20221

Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to not-protest marijuana retail store application license number 20221. The motion was seconded.

1 Tallon SHEEVE expressed concern about our proximity to the federal lands of Denali
2 National Park given the fact that marijuana is still considered illegal by the federal
3 government.

4
5 Joe CHATTFIELD expressed concern about the location of the marijuana retail store.
6

7 Jake HILL stated that effective community planning is accomplished through legislation
8 and not through selective license protest.
9

10 Don DEBLAUW expressed concern about legalized marijuana and stated his opposition
11 to this retail store.
12

13 The VOTE by show of hands to not-protest marijuana retail store license application
14 number 20221 was BOELSMA, HILL, ZAPPONE, and ZIMMERMAN recorded as YES
15 to not-protest, and CHATFIELD, SHREEVE, DEBLAUW, and EVANS recorded as NO
16 to not-protest. In accordance with Denali Borough Charter, Mayor Clay Walker was
17 called on by Presiding Officer ZIMMERMAN to provide the tie-breaking vote. Mayor
18 Walker issued an affirmative VOTE to not-protest resulting in approval by a vote of 5 to
19 4 on the motion to not-protest marijuana retail store license application number 20221.
20

21 Assembly members stated that they often vote unanimously and the fact that the
22 assembly vote was split on this issue, is reflective and representative of the public
23 comments provided during the work session.
24

25 The assembly thanked the public for their attendance and participation, and thanked the
26 public for a respectful and civil exchange of differing opinions.
27

28 Assembly members encouraged the public to stay engaged and expressed interest in
29 continued work on local legislation regarding marijuana and other adult business
30 activities.
31

32 **ADJOURN:**

33 Jake HILL MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned
34 by unanimous voice vote at 9:55 PM.
35
36
37

38 APPROVED: 
39 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer
40
41

42 ATTEST: 
43 Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk
44
45

46 Date Approved: May 7, 2019