

118 Central Avenue North, New Prague, MN 56071 phone: 952-758-4401 fax: 952-758-1149

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

CC: JOSHUA M. TETZLAFF, CITY ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: KEN ONDICH, PLANNING / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

TIM APPLEN, POLICE CHIEF

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO CANNABIS – ZONING ORDINANCE

AMENDMENT #354 AND CITY CODE AMENDMENT #355

DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2024

As the Council is aware, in 2023 (and later amended in July of 2024) an interim ordinance (#338 and amended as #350), also known as a moratorium, was approved until January 1, 2025 (unless repealed earlier) so that the City can further study the effect of the state's new law regarding cannabis, specifically related to cannabis businesses regarding time/place/manner restrictions.

Staff has been working with Scott Riggs and Joe Sathe of Kennedy & Graven to draft amendments to the zoning ordinance and to the city code that would meet the requirements of Minnesota Statute Chapter 342.

The Zoning Ordinance amendment was reviewed with a public hearing being held at the October 23rd Planning Commission meeting with no public comments received.

The City Council introduced and conducted the first reading of both proposed ordinances on November 18th.

Notable provisions of the ordinances include:

- 250' buffer from schools to all cannabis businesses (not just retailers)
- Hours of operation for retailers to match liquor establishments
- One compliance check before operations (to verify hours of operation for example) and one annual compliance check (minimum) to assess age verification requirements by Police Department
- Limit of 2 retail registrations in the City (does not include lower-potency hemp edibles).
- Manufacturing related cannabis uses are limited to the I-1 Light Industrial Zoning District.

Recommendation

Staff would like the Council to conduct a second reading and adopt both proposed ordinances at tonight's meeting.

Attachments:

- 1. Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment #354
- 2. Proposed City Code Amendment #355