Aztec City Commission - Workshop

Tuesday, August 24, 2021; 5:15 pm City Hall 201 West Chaco Street Aztec NM 87410

Mayor Victor Snover called the workshop to order at 5:15 pm at Aztec City Hall, 201 W, Chaco, Aztec NM 87410

Cannabis Regulation Act (CRA) & Aztec

Paul Eckert has been working with staff members, cultivators and producers over the last two months regarding CRA. He mentioned tonight's focus would be on cultivation and production, it will be about 45-90 days before the discussion of retail sales.

Community Development Director Steven Saavedra went over the new law that has been passed regarding CRA. The City of Aztec can create zoning, as far as areas that it can be consumed. Steven went over what the City cannot do, they cannot prohibit retail, or prevent the transportation of cannabis on public streets or restrict identification. The State of NM said they will start processing licenses Sept. 1st, but they are indicating that it will probably not be until the beginning to mid-October for them to actually issue them. Steven mentioned that anyone over the age of 21 can have 6 marijuana plants, up to 12 in a household and 2-8oz is legal as is paraphernalia. City of Aztec has received a lot of interest in cultivation and production, primarily, if not all, in cultivation. Micro-businesses can have up to 200 plants while producers can have up to 8000 plants. Production and cultivation would be placed in already commercial areas such as C-2 zoning districts. There will be a no sight no smell approach, so where there is a residential area within 250ft there would have to have some kind of conditional use permit for that.

Mayor Victor Snover is interested in looking at the cultivating side of cannabis, as other cities have not allowed it, he is curious as to why they have not but have allowed retail sales.

Commissioner Padilla mentioned that he thinks there needs to be solid plans and regulations. He is concerned about the enforcement of ordinances and codes.

Chief Heal mentioned that we don't want to have to over enforce the ordinances, rather we want to have open communications about it. He summarized his meeting with the Durango Police Chief and how they go about regulating it in Durango.

Citizen Sabrina Rials expressed concern with the odor and allergies that people may have from the growing of cannabis.

Producer Michael Muscari advocated for the cultivation of cannabis, he has been in business for over 12 years, and has worked with other municipalities on cannabis cultivation, He believes there will revenue to be made by the city in cannabis since most users go to Durango for it now. As production goes up, they will be employing more people to help run their operations, so it will also eventually create jobs in Aztec

Commissioner Lewis emphasized water conservation, he wants more information on what the water use will be for these facilities.

Commissioner Randall shared his opposition to any cannabis efforts by the city.

Producer Steve Martinez advocated for a well-run cannabis processing facility, he offered to show his current operations and help educate anyone that would be interested in it.

Producer Jeremy Bonin also offered a tour of his Pagosa Springs cannabis operation.

Mayor Victor Snover

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Alisha Campbell, Administrative Assistant

ATTEST:

Karla Saylen, City Clerk

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