

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD

State of Minnesota
County of Kanabec
Office of the County Coordinator

March 7, 2024

The Kanabec County Board of Commissioners met for Public Hearing at 6:00pm on Thursday, March 7, 2024 pursuant to adjournment with the following Board Members present: Rick Mattson, Tom Roeschlein, Wendy Caswell, Alison Holland and Peter Ripka. Others Present: Board Clerk Kris McNally, County Attorney Barbara McFadden, and Recording Secretary Kelsey Schiferli.

The meeting was held in the Kanabec County Jail Training Room in order to allow enough space to accommodate all attendees. Approximately twenty people attended.

6:00pm - The Chairperson called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Coordinator Kris McNally read the following meeting notice aloud:

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
INTENT TO ADOPT AND ENACT AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE USE OF CANNABIS AND CANNABIS DERIVED PRODUCTS IN PUBLIC PLACES WITHIN KANABEC COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Kanabec County Board of Commissioners intends to adopt and enact an ordinance regulating the use of cannabis and cannabis derived products in public places within Kanabec County.

A public hearing will be held on this topic at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at the Kanabec County Jail Training Room; 100 South Vine Street, Mora, MN 55051.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the meeting at:
Kanabec County Coordinator
317 Maple Avenue East, Suite 181
Mora, MN 55051

Or via email at coordinator@co.kanabec.mn.us

For further information, contact the office of the Kanabec County Coordinator at 679-6440 or coordinator@co.kanabec.mn.us or visit our website at kanabecounty.org

Community Health Director Kathy Burski gave a presentation regarding the Proposed Ordinance Regulating the Public Use of Cannabis and Cannabis Derived Products in Public

Places within Kanabec County. Community Health Planner-RPC Patti Miller and Health Promotion Coordinator Allison Krueger were also present.

Discussion was held regarding permits required by the state for consumption, as well as whether cities can adopt their own ordinances or opt in to the county’s ordinance. Information only.

The Chairperson called for comments from City and Township Officials. Those that responded included the following:

City of Mora Human Resources Director, Mandi Yoder	Questions regarding the enforcement of laws and ordinances pertaining to people under the influence of cannabis in public. Questions regarding whether the county intends to issue cannabis licenses to establishments.
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Discussion was held regarding whether licenses for businesses would allow sales and or smoking of cannabis, state laws pertaining to growing, possession and selling of cannabis, saliva testing for cannabis, and the use of cannabis in vehicles. Information only.

6:23pm – The Chairperson called for public comment. Those that responded included the following:

Dennis McNally	Questions regarding whether there are limits on the amount of edible cannabis products an individual can possess in their vehicle.
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County Coordinator Kris McNally read letters of public comment submitted by Don & Vicki Lindquist, Terri Huro, Dan Voce, Kristi Bryant and Kelli Maag.

The Chairperson called for public comment a second time. Those that responded included the following:

Gordon Gullixson	Questions regarding pending cannabis laws. Clarification regarding concerns in written comments pertaining to how the proposed ordinance would negatively affect renters and the homeless. Questions regarding legalities of smoking cannabis on private property and crossing public roads. Comments regarding cannabis licenses for businesses outside city limits.
Mora High School Principal, Brent Nelson	Comments regarding the importance of all adults in the community acting as positive mentors for teenagers.
Dennis McNally	Questions regarding the use of cannabis products on public roads.

Pat O'Brien	Questions regarding townships adopting their own ordinances or opting in to the county's ordinance.
Nancy Heins	Comments regarding impaired drivers on public roads.
Charlie Strickland Jr.	Comments regarding sections 2 & 3 of the proposed ordinance and clarification regarding the presence of minors.
Julius Cochran	Questions regarding petty misdemeanors under the proposed ordinance and if child protective services would play a role in that. Questions regarding whether multiple petty misdemeanors would escalate to a higher charge.

Commissioner Alison Holland asked for clarification regarding whether the proposed ordinance would include townships by default. Environmental Services Supervisor Ryan Carda responded that it sounds like most townships plan to opt in to the county's ordinance. Townships that choose not to opt in to the county's ordinance can adopt their own, but they would be responsible for enforcing it as a township ordinance. Commissioner Alison Holland clarified that the ordinance is not enforceable until townships opt in.

Environmental Services Supervisor Ryan Carda gave a brief update regarding the Association of Minnesota Counties working on developing a model ordinance for counties to use. The timeline for this is unknown. Information only.

7:08pm – The Chairperson adjourned the Public Hearing. The Kanabec County Board of Commissioners will meet again in regular session on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 9:00am.

Signed _____
 Chairperson of the Kanabec County Board of Commissioners,
 Kanabec County, Minnesota

Attest: _____
 Board Clerk