

**Policy Committee Meeting
March 14, 2022**

Committee Chair Norman Belanger called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Roll Call: Councilors Norman Belanger, Amy Clearwater and Liam LaFountain;
Committee Member Jake Pierson

Committee Member Renee O'Neil was excused.

Staff Members Present: City Clerk Carmen Morris, Planning & Development Director Mathew Eddy, City Solicitor Keith Jacques

The Committee, and all who were present, recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Acceptance of Minutes: **January 24, 2022**

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor LaFountain to accept the minutes as printed.

Vote: Unanimous.

Discussion/Approval: **Permitting Mobile Food Courts in B2 Zone (Outer Elm Street)**

Planning & Development Director Mathew Eddy presented this item. A proposal has been submitted for a mobile food court at 585 Elm Street, which is located in the B2 Zone, next to the I1 Zone (Industrial Zone). Mobile Food Courts are currently allowed in the [MSRD1 and MSRD-3 Districts](#).

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor LaFountain to recommend the issue of allowing mobile food courts in the B2 Zone to the City Council. In turn, the City Council will recommend this issue to the Planning Board for review.

Councilor Clearwater noted that a bathroom facility is not included on the diagram that was provided. Mathew explained that this would be part of the site review process with the Planning Board, and a bathroom would need to be provided.

Member Pierson asked about the traffic flow in this area in light of the fact that the business currently located at 585 Elm Street (Industrial Hardware) should become an active business again. Mathew noted that the question of traffic flow and parking had come up with the applicant, which is part of the reason why the food court is located on the corner of the property. Again, traffic flow and parking will be considerations during the site review process with the Planning Board.

Councilor Belanger asked if the abutters to this property have been notified of the proposed Mobile Food Court. Mat assured him that this too, would be part of the site review process with the Planning Board.

Vote on motion: Unanimous.

Discussion/Approval: **Amendment/Ch. 22, Businesses, Sec. 22-38-Marijuana Establishments/Licensing Provisions**

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor LaFountain to send the recommended ordinance amendment to the City Council for consideration.

Mathew Eddy and Keith Jacques presented this item, noting that the ordinance amendment addresses licensing provisions in Chapter 22, Businesses, for marijuana establishments.

After quite a bit of discussion and questions, the Committee asked that the following issues be looked at in more depth:

- Assess each type of marijuana establishment separately, i.e. medical retail, medical grow; recreational grow; recreational retail
- Reconsider the mandated 500-foot distance between marijuana facilities
- Clarify and consolidate other odor management/control ordinances in the Code of Ordinances to ensure consistency
- Come up with licensing fees that are reflective of actual Staff time to process the business license and respond to complaints
- Consider licensing for those who deliver marijuana, whether from within Biddeford or coming from outside of Biddeford.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Belanger to table the ordinance amendment until the next Policy Committee meeting, so that the above talking points can be reviewed and recommendations made by Staff.

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor LaFountain to adjourn.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 6:30 p.m.