

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

**RECORD OF A PUBLIC HEARING OF COUNCIL
HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2018 COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3400 – 30 STREET, VERNON, B.C.**

PRESENT: Mayor Mund

Councillors: B. Spiers, J. Cunningham, C. Lord
S. Anderson, D. Nahal, B. Quiring

Staff: W. Pearce, CAO
P. Bridal, Deputy CAO/Director, Corporate Services
J. Nicol, Legislative Committee Clerk
C. Broderick, Manager, Current Planning
K. Flick, Director, Community Development & Infrastructure
A. Harrison, Bylaw Compliance Officer

Others: Members of the Public

Mayor Mund called the Public Hearing to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Mund outlined the procedures to be followed.

Corporate Officer, Patricia Bridal advised that Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the **Sunday, January 14, 2018, and Wednesday, January 17, 2018** issues of the Morning Star Newspaper, as required by the *Local Government Act*.

Administration reviewed the rezoning application for:

"Zoning Text (Cannabis / Marihuana Dispensaries) Amendment Bylaw Number 5671, 2018"

A Bylaw to:

1. Amend Zoning Bylaw #5000 to prohibit the retailing of marihuana and marihuana products within the City of Vernon.

Prior to Public Hearing one written submissions was received and distributed as follows:

Date	Name
January 22, 2018	Sharon Schnurr

Mayor Mund called a first time for representation from the public in attendance with regard to **"Zoning Text (Cannabis / Marihuana Dispensaries) Amendment Bylaw Number 5671, 2018"**.

SPEAKER NAME	COMMENTS
Robert Larsen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs do not improve anything • Has lived here for 55 years • Is a taxpayer.
Mr. Kelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonders when the dispensaries will receive the covenant. • Tired of being told what to do • Smoking marihuana is his right.
Zelina Wong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operates Flower of Life Dispensary • Medicinal marihuana needed as Health Canada does not provide useful medications • Need quality access to quality medicines • Would like Council to consider the rules and regulations that need to be followed to run a marihuana dispensary • Would like Council to consider only lab-tested medicines and regulate the contaminants • Implores Council to visit the dispensaries • Dispensaries provide education • Consider who is operating the dispensaries and their intention.
Norman Belanger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to consider that some dispensaries are not providing correct information • Will there be as many dispensaries as liquor stores?
Wayne Lippert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue was dealt with a number of years ago • Better to regulate through zoning for RCMP enforcement • Previously run through Partners in Action • Federal Government is controlling licensing for growing, Province will have the ability to regulate which will determine how municipalities will deal with legalization • Legal if you have a prescription • Suggest to have it operated on a prescription only and regulate for licensing.
Steven Simons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands rationale, scope and scale of proposed amendment • Follows UBCM Resolution • Understands that municipality is preparing for eventual legalization • Would like the patients considered • Propose that the City starts a dialogue with citizen group • Federal scope of licensing is not in line with the Province • Encourages limiting the scope and scale of existing dispensaries.

Don Klapco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults should be able to make a choice on their own and should not be told by Council that they can't smoke marihuana • Won't frequent dispensaries but does go to liquor store • Recreational marihuana will be legal in July.
Kevin Adams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runs Monashee Mountain Medicine dispensary (since July 2016) • There are many regulations that businesses must follow • Had an opportunity to speak with past Solicitor General and current Solicitor General through Chem-CD. • Has met Dr. Perry Kendall, Provincial Health Officer • Federal government interested in having craft growers • Praise to Council for their efforts • He goes to his suppliers' growing facilities • Need to have products tested and in proper packaging • Operates four dispensaries throughout Valley • Has heard there will be a public and private businesses • Would like to give Council a tour • Recommends consulting businesses and ensure that staff are paid properly.
Delphine Burylo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about use of marihuana and the rights of people who don't use the products • Has had children coming to preschool and daycare smelling strongly of marihuana • Lived in the Okanagan since 1994 • Offended by pot smokers in places where she has her children and grandchildren • Need to consider how smoking will affect citizens • Would like Council to consider those that are not using marihuana.
Bryce Kennedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved from Winnipeg • Has not been offered any drugs at school compared to being offered many in Winnipeg • Thinks it's because of dispensaries that there isn't so many drugs being pushed • Dispensaries allow his father who is sick with bone cancer to treat his pain and function daily • Not a good idea to mix alcohol and marihuana • Dispensaries will provide revenue through taxes.
Colin Kennedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is ill with cancer, diagnosed in 1999 • Thinks legalization will go in a positive direction but with growing pains • Each dispensary should have an Industry Standards Number

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knows few locations that abide by regulations • Adults need to make sure that tobacco is also not exposed to children as it is a health issue • Has been on medical marihuana for 19 years • There hasn't been a single death associated with marihuana • Need to make sure that marihuana is well regulated and transparent • Need infrastructure to support the marihuana • Need to take logical steps over expediency.
Tania Robinson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like a 1km bylaw instituted similar to liquor stores • Needs to be limited as to how many dispensaries are located in a certain area.
Becky Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overwhelming to see so many dispensaries • Some should not be open and regulations are needed.
Russ Stevenson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applaud this move • Owner of dispensary and did have a licence with prior businesses • Dispensaries in town run under different models • Makes no sense to be able to purchase then be arrested outside store • It should be just medicinal marihuana available.
Dawn Belanger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comes from the health industry as a care aide • Medical marihuana users should be respectful and take responsibility for their actions • Encourages regulations that are holistic.
Dane Webster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like product inspection and regulation.
Zelina Wong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider safe medication sites • Many users do not have a place to medicate due to stigma associated with marihuana • Encourages more public discussion as many need medicinal marihuana to function.
Mr. Boyd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses marihuana to function • Also works in the industry • There is a need for regulations.
Steven Simons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to increase in business license fee.
Susan Lehman – Downtown Vernon Association (DVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to City for confronting this issue • Market will correct to limit number of dispensaries • DVA agrees with bridging being proposed

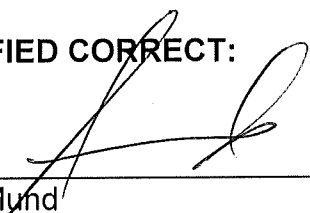
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vernon proving itself a leader across the country.
Donna Johansson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is a patient, consumer of cannabis and cannabis consultant• Frequent dispensaries• Interested in seeing a safe and regulated businesses• Need discussion and education for public to make informed choices.

Mayor Mund called a second, third and final time for representation from the public. There being none, Mayor Mund closed the Public Hearing for **"Zoning Text (Cannabis / Marihuana Dispensaries) Amendment Bylaw Number 5671, 2018"**.


CLOSE:

The Public Hearing closed at 7:00 pm.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Akbal Mund
Mayor



~~Ratti Bridal~~ Susan Birkely, Acting
Corporate Officer