

COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING AGENDA
RIDGEFIELD PARK
March 4, 2021
7:00 PM

Mayor Anlian announces that this meeting is being held in accordance with the “Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10 4-6 et seq.” notice of which was sent to the Record and the Star Ledger on December 28, 2020 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board.

Due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Health Crisis, this meeting is being held via ZOOM.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Caucus Meeting of February 4, 2021
Closed Session Meeting of February 4, 2021
Caucus Meeting of February 18, 2021
Closed Session Meeting of February 18, 2021

DISCUSSION

Cannabis Law
Employee Handbook

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution:

2021-29 Request Planning Board Study Concerning Cannabis Establishments

CORRESPONDENCE

- 02-09 Aurora Castello – Block Party
- 02-10 Adam Strobel, County of Bergen – 2021 Bergen County Open Space Application Deadline
- 03-01 Chief Louis Bordi, President, New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police –
Cannibas
- 03-02 Mike Kelly, Boswell Engineering – 64 Challenger Road
- 03-03 NJLM – Daily Update
- 03-04 Sen. Paul Sarlo – Ridgefield Park School District State Aid
- 03-05 Joseph Baumann Jr. – TP Access

HEARING OF CITIZENS

REPORTS

Mayor & Commissioners	Chief of Police
Village Attorney	Village Clerk
Superintendent DPW	

CLOSED SESSION (if necessary)

2021-30 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution 2021-29

A Resolution Requesting that the Planning Board Conduct a Study and Make Recommendations to the Board of Commissioners Concerning Cannabis Establishments

Whereas, on Monday, February 22, 2021, Governor Murphy signed the “New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act” (the “Act”); and

Whereas, the Act legalizes the use and possession of small quantities of cannabis and establishes a regulatory framework for certain businesses associated with the cannabis industry; and

Whereas, more than 70% of Village residents supported the referendum held at last November’s General Election, which asked residents whether they supported the legalization of cannabis in New Jersey; and

Whereas, the residents of Ridgefield Park voted in favor of legalizing marijuana, with 2,736 in favor and 1,177 opposed, which percentage was even greater than the 67% of residents statewide who supported the referendum; and

Whereas, as a result of the foregoing, the Board of Commissioners is giving consideration to the adoption of an ordinance that will permit certain cannabis-related businesses to operate within the Village; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners believes that it may be in the best interests of the Village to permit cannabis cultivation, distribution and wholesaling, as those terms are defined in the Act; and

Whereas, the Commissioners do not wish to permit either the retail sale of cannabis or the establishment of delivery service businesses within the Village; and

Whereas, the Commissioners wish to refer this matter to the Planning Board to study, determine, and recommend appropriate zoning standards to be adopted by the Board of Commissioners related to such businesses; and

Whereas, the Act requires municipalities to take action to prohibit cannabis-related businesses within 180 days of the effective date of the Act, or no later than August 22, 2021, otherwise such uses are deemed permitted for a minimum period of five (5) years; and

Whereas, the Commissioners therefore request that the Planning Board address this matter and provide recommendations to the Board of Commissioners as soon as possible, but in no event later than the Planning Board’s first meeting in April.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Board of Commissioners of the Village of Ridgefield Park that it is hereby requested that request that the Planning Board consult with the Village Planner and determine, among other things:

- 1) Appropriate zoning districts for the location of each type of cannabis-related business, if any;
- 2) Appropriate bulk standard or other “buffers” necessary to keep such cannabis-related businesses away from churches, schools and residential neighborhoods; and
- 3) Whether commercial cultivation of products should generally be allowed, or whether cannabis should be the only permitted commercial cultivation use within the Village.

Be It Further Resolved that all other appropriate Village Officials and employees are hereby directed, authorized and empowered to assist the Planning Board in connection with the recommendation requested by this Resolution.