1380-ORD
04/08/14

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 6156

AN ORDINANCE extending Ordinance No. 6133 B-1, adopting interim official zoning controls regarding the regulation of recreational marijuana producers, processors and retailers for a period of six months, to be in effect while the City drafts, considers, holds hearings and adopts permanent zoning regulations; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2012, Washington votes approved Initiative 502 (I-502), which in relevant part, legalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana and marijuana-related products for persons age 21 and older, and directed the Washington State Liquor Control Board (LCB) to develop and implement rules to regulate and tax recreational marijuana producers, processors, and retailers by December 31, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the LCB re-filed its proposed rules regulating recreational marijuana uses on September 4, 2013, and accepted the proposed rules on October 16; and

WHEREAS, the LCB rules became effective on November 16, 2013, and the LCB began accepting license applications for recreational marijuana uses on November 18, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the LCB allocated four recreational marijuana retail licenses for the City of Bellevue, and there are no limits on the number of recreational marijuana producer and processor licenses to be issued; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellevue Land Use Code (LUC) prohibits all recreational marijuana producers, processors, and retailers as uses in the City of Bellevue;

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it to be in the public interest to establish interim regulations advising the public where recreational marijuana producers, processors, and retail uses may be located in the City of Bellevue before the application deadline established by the LCB for state licensing for such uses; and

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2013, in response to the licensing schedule published by the Washington State Liquor Control Board, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 6133 B-1 implementing an emergency interim zoning ordinance regulating the location of recreational marijuana uses and imposing performance criteria intended to mitigate negative impacts arising from operation of recreational marijuana uses; and

WHEREAS, under the Growth Management Act (GMA), the City was required to hold a public hearing within 60 days of adopting Ordinance No. 6133 B-1, which public hearing was held on December 2, 2013, to receive public comment and extend Ordinance No. 6133 B-1 for a six-month period; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 6133 B-1 will, by its own terms, expire on April 21, 2014, unless the City Council extends the ordinance as allowed by law; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2014 the Washington State Legislature convened and is considering several bills related to regulating recreational marijuana and reconciling medical cannabis with the recreational marijuana regulatory structure; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2014, the Washington State Attorney General issued its opinion (AGO No. 2014) that I-502 does not preempt counties, cities, and towns from banning recreational marijuana within their jurisdictions and that local ordinances that do not expressly ban state licensed marijuana licensees from operating within the jurisdiction but make such operation impractical are valid if the properly exercise the local jurisdiction's police power; and

WHEREAS, the establishment or licensing of recreational marijuana uses may allow new uses that are incompatible with nearby existing land uses and lead to erosion of community character and harmony; and

WHEREAS, marijuana is still classified as a schedule I controlled substance under federal law and crimes related to marijuana remain subject to prosecution under federal law; and

WHEREAS, On August 29, 2013, the United States Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, ("DOJ") released updated guidance regarding marijuana enforcement. The guidance reiterates that DOJ is committed to using its limited investigative and prosecutorial resources to address the most significant threats to public safety related to marijuana crimes in "the most effective, consistent, and rational way." The guidance directs federal prosecutors to review potential marijuana-related charges on a case-by-case basis and weigh all information and evidence, including whether the operation is demonstrably in compliance with a strong and effective state regulatory system and if the conduct at issue implicates one or more of the eight stated federal enforcement priorities. The DOJ appears to not differentiate application of the guidance between medical cannabis and recreational marijuana; and

WHEREAS, the extension of interim regulations of six months in duration for establishment of recreational marijuana producers, processors, and retailers will prevent substantial change until the land areas and the text of development standards applicable to recreational marijuana uses is reviewed, and any needed revisions are made to city codes; and

WHEREAS, the City has a compelling interest in the protection of the health and safety of all its residents, as well as a compelling interest in ensuring that the goals and policies contained within the Comprehensive Plan and other policy/planning documents are fulfilled; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35A.63.220 and RCW 36.70A.390 authorizes cities to adopt interim zoning ordinances provided the City Council holds a public hearing on the interim zoning ordinance within 60 days of the commencement of the ordinance; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35A.63.220 and RCW 36.70A.390 further authorizes Washington cities to extend interim zoning ordinances for additional periods of up to six months following a public hearing and adoption of findings of fact; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to BCC 22.02.050 and WAC 197-11-800(19), the adoption of this ordinance is exempt from environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Extension of Interim Zoning Ordinance. Ordinance No. 6133 B-1 is hereby extended for an additional six-month period, unless repealed, extended or modified by the City Council after subsequent public hearing and the entry of additional findings of fact pursuant to RCW 35A.63.220 and RCW 36.70A.390.

Section 2. Section 1.C of Ordinance 6133 B-1 shall be amended as follows:

C. Limitations on Uses. The following limitations shall apply to all marijuana producers, processors, and retailers, unless stated otherwise:

1. A marijuana producer, retailer, or processor, shall not be located within 1,000 feet of the following uses or any use included in Chapter 314-55 WAC now or as hereafter amended:

    a. Elementary or secondary school;
    b. Playgrounds;
    c. Recreation center or facility;
    d. Child care centers;
    e. Public parks;
    f. Public transit centers;
    g. Libraries;
    h. Any game arcade or
    i. Any medical cannabis collective garden.

2. No marijuana retailer shall be located within 1,000 feet of any other marijuana retailer.

3. No marijuana producer, processor, or retailer shall be allowed in single family and multi-family land use districts (R-1 – R-30).

4. No marijuana retailer is allowed as a subordinate or accessory use in any land use district.

5. Marijuana shall be grown in a structure. Outdoor cultivation is prohibited.

Section 3. Severability. Should any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance be held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

Section 4. Findings of Fact. The findings contained in this ordinance are hereby adopted as findings of facts to justify extending Ordinance No. 6133 B-1 imposing the interim zoning ordinance.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force on April 21, 2014.

Passed by the City Council this 17th day of March, 2014 and signed in authentication of its passage this 14th day of April, 2014.

(SEAL)

Claudia Balducci, Mayor

Approved as to form:

Lori M. Riordan, City Attorney

Lacey Hatch, Assistant City Attorney

Attest:

Myrna L. Basich, City Clerk

Published _____