

DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Monday, April 4, 2022
Council Chambers

Regular Meeting – 7:00 pm

(1) CALL TO ORDER:

(2) MINUTES:

- a) Accept minutes of the March 7, 2022 regular meeting

(3) PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS: None

(4) UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a) Cannabis Application – Responses to Public Notice
- b) Variance Committee Appointment

(5) CORRESPONDENCE: None

(6) REPORTS: None

(7) BYLAWS:

- a) 2022 Tax Rate Bylaw No. 365, 2022 – First, Second & Third Readings

(8) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Council Schedule:
 - April 22 Earth Day
 - April 25 Regular Council Meeting – Resolution to Cancel
 - April 27-29 COFI, Councillor Burns Attending
 - May 2 Regular Council Meeting
 - May 3-6 NCLGA – Fort St. John
- b) Strategic Planning Session and Council Orientation with Ron Poole – November 7th & Nov 24-25th

Closed session as per S. 90(1)(e) and (g), for matter relating to potential litigation and property matters.

Adjournment

DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 7, 2022
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1) CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Lowry
Councillor J. Hobenshield
Councillor B. Henwood
Councillor G. Burns
Councillor A. Berg
Councillor M. Weeber
Councillor R. Sturney

STAFF PRESENT: R. Carlé

STAFF REGRETS: W. Hunt

2) MINUTES:

RESOLUTION 8092/22

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the minutes of the February 7, 2022 regular meeting be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

3) PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS: None

4) UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Councillor J. Hobenshield recused herself due to a potential conflict of interest and left the Council Chambers at 7:02 pm.

a) Misty Rivers Community Arts Council

RESOLUTION 8093/22

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the District of New Hazelton authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate a long-term lease of 3226 Bowser Street, more commonly known as the Meeting Center, to the Misty River Community Arts Council for the nominal fee of \$100.00/month.

CARRIED

- Councillor B. Henwood and Councillor R. Sturney opposed this resolution.
- Councillor J. Hobenshield returned to the Council Chambers at 7:16 pm.

5) CORRESPONDENCE: None

6) REPORTS: None

7) BYLAWS: None

8) NEW BUSINESS:

a) Cannabis Retail Store Application

RESOLUTION 8094/22

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the District of New Hazelton accept the cannabis retail store application for consideration.

CARRIED

- Councillor G. Burns and Councillor A. Berg opposed this resolution.

b) Variance Committee Appointment

Postpone until the April meeting, so Council has time to think of possible replacements.

c) Upper Skeena Recreation Center Advisory Committee Appointment

RESOLUTION 8095/22

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the District of New Hazelton reappoint Peter Newbery as their representative to the Upper Skeena Recreation Center Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

10) ADJOURNMENT:

RESOLUTION 8096/22

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the meeting be adjourned 7:55 pm.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT THIS

DAY OF , 2022

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

MAYOR



NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF NEW HAZELTON
MARCH 01, 2022

The District of New Hazelton has received a copy of a provincial application from a company wishing to open a non-medical cannabis retail store to be located at 4645 10th Avenue (inside the Wesco Service Station).

As part of the application process, the District of New Hazelton is required to notify residents and give them the opportunity to provide comments. Once the comment time has expired, the District will consider the responses when it chooses to accept or reject the application.

Non-medical cannabis retail stores are legal entities within the Province of British Columbia however they must have a valid license of operation from the Province. In addition, they must apply for a business license from the District of New Hazelton and abide by the rules set forth in our Zoning Bylaw No. 317. The most specific requirement is that the business be located at least 200 meters from the nearest school or daycare. This application complies with the regulation.

The comment period regarding this application will be open from March 01 – 11, 2022. Comments should be submitted in writing to the following:

Hand delivered: 4670 10th Avenue, Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Email: whunt@newhazelton.ca or rcarle@newhazelton.ca
Postal Mail: PO Box 340, New Hazelton, BC V0J 2J0

All comments must be received by the end of day, March 11, 2022 to be included in the response to the Provincial government.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Robyn Carlé or Wendy Hunt at the office.

Wendy Hunt
Chief Administrative Officer

**DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
CANNABIS RETAILER PROVINCIAL APPLICATION
FIREWEED CANNABIS LTD**

Consultation Period: March 01, 2022 – March 11, 2022

IN FAVOUR	AGAINST	NEUTRAL
See attached letter	See attached letter	See attached letter(s)
I would definitely put my support behind this retail venture. I am not a cannabis user myself, however I know lots of people that go to Witset, Smithers or Terrace to buy their cannabis. Why not sell it locally? It is legal and creates employment opportunities in our community which is definitely needed. I think we should support an entrepreneur. As a citizen of the Hazeltons and a business owner in New Hazelton I am in favour. peace	I would like to go on record for being against opening a non-medical retail cannabis store anywhere in our community. There are far too many problems with drugs already. I believe it would be too easy for young kids to get drugs from older teens or adults. Therefore it is a hard no from me.	I am a resident of New Hazelton within close proximity to the proposed cannabis dispensary. I oppose the idea of having a drug dispensary nearby, our particular area has been plagued with drug activity and adding another factor into the equation doesn't sound too appealing. Accessibility to marijuana is not an issue in this community for people who choose to use so any benefit would be for the soul outside investor. Another thought, with the lack of employment and business opportunity in this area maybe such things should be reserved for local entrepreneurs.
I am in favour of a cannabis store in new Hazelton	In regard to the vote on the deciding, it should be turned down. Thank you for the vote, for the people, on this decision.	
I think an alternative to alcohol is a good idea. Safe drugs is a good idea. Possible end to a source of illegal activity in the neighbourhood, a good idea. Local availability of medical application of cannabis, a good idea. Let's okay the application.	We both think there are pros and cons. However our feelings are against the sale of cannabis in our town. We feel it may bring more problems into our town than we already have.	

Wendy Hunt

From:
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 7:41 PM
To: Wendy Hunt
Subject: New Hazelton Cannabis Store Inquiry - In Favor

Hi,

I noticed in the browser that community members will have an opportunity to voice their opinion on the potential cannabis store that will be opening beside the Wesco.

I want to begin by stating I am strongly in favor of this proposed project.

Unfortunately I have had a series of brain injuries over the course of my life. I used to suffer from debilitating migraines, seizures, and bouts of nausea. Cannabis, in conjunction with my prescription medication, was able to give me my quality of life back.

I'm sure community members may have their worries about this project, however, one only has to look at the current regulations and success of Indigenous Bloom in Witset, BC to counter these worries.

Like this project, Indigenous Bloom (IB) is 200 meters away from a school and is also neighboring a highway and gas station. IB was built to current federal regulations, which has the security of staff and community in mind. IB has never experienced a major break-in or theft, there are no issues with outdoor loitering and smoke-outs, and it provides employment to local community members. In addition, youth do not have access to the vicinity, thus they do not have access to the legal cannabis inside this vicinity.

I can assure you that any business owner who has invested in non-medical cannabis retail is taking current regulations seriously because they cannot afford not to. The fines for failing to uphold responsibilities as a business owner and staff member are significant, which is why I have faith protocol will be followed.

To the naysayers, I must explain that regulations will not allow cannabis bud to be left out in the open for the public to view or swipe. There will not be a man or woman in a pot leaf costume waving around bongs, and I very much doubt any passing child would find themselves transforming into Cheech or Chong at the very sight of a cannabis store logo.

If we want to protect our youth and community, one of the best things we can do is allow our community access to a safe supply of cannabis. It prevents local organized crime groups from generating sales and operating in our community, it gives community members access to a safe supply free of fentanyl, and it lowers our carbon footprint by reducing the amount of online ordering and unnecessary trips to neighboring communities for what is currently becoming a common commodity.


Cannabis is legal, the current proposed location fits all the requirements for our current regulations, and the majority of the dispute regarding its opening is based on personal misgivings rather than a concrete understanding of the current regulations for legal cannabis retail.

I've said it once already, and I'll say it again;

I am in favor of this proposed project.

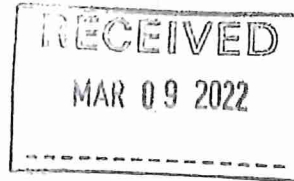
It provides jobs and takes money out of the hands of criminal organizations. That's a win/win in my books.

Sincerely,



March 7, 2022

District of New Hazelton
4670 10th Ave
New Hazelton, BC
V0J 2J0



To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in response to the March 1, 22 notice of application for a non-medicinal cannabis retail store in New Hazelton.


I have been a residence of New Hazelton for 55 years. I raised my family in New Hazelton and now have adult children. This application concerns me.

There are many young families in our community. Even though the cannabis store is farther than 200 meters from the elementary school it is still very close. Many children walk by the application location to go to and from school. Children are very observant. Having a store of this nature they frequently walk by, could potentially encourage them to use cannabis when they are older.

I realize the selling of cannabis is legal in BC but to have a store like this advertising on the main street of our town is distressing.

Another concern I have is a potential increase in crime. Cannabis medicinal or not is still a drug!

I am not in favour for a store of this nature to set-up in our community.



To The District of New Hazelton

My husband and I received your letter in regards to Wesco Gas Station selling marijuana and its other products.

There are enough drug dealers in our community. They also sell marijuana "other products", tinctures, salves, edibles.

Our area had a family selling marijuana and other products and our neighborhood was full of criminal minds lurking around. This went on for 20 years. We finally have peace, quiet and less traffic and wish to keep it that way.


When people lurk around to seek ways to break into the drug store, will we once again have those criminal minded people again in our neighborhood? Yes, I believe we will.

Twenty minutes away has a marijuana store that is placed beside the Highway. People can easily go there.

Statistics show that more people are driving while under the influence of marijuana so I believe that putting edibles and marijuana joints in easy access is not a good idea.

Sure the Wesco people will sell more munchies but it isn't good, it's bad if you have to sell pot to do so. The two gas stations in town only hire their people from out of town. They don't hire our white or native community members. This is discriminating to say the least.

We do not need more drug dealers. Please understand that we in this household, two doors from Wesco gas station. Say NO to Wesco selling marijuana & the products made from marijuana.




March 7, 2022

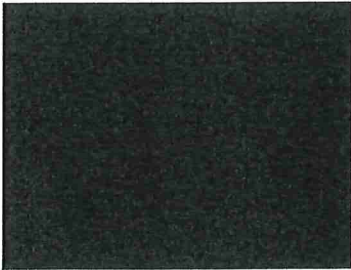
Wendy Hunt
Chief Administrative Officer,
PO Box 340
New Hazelton, BC
VOJ 2J0

Dear Wendy Hunt:

RE: Notice of Cannabis retail in New Hazelton – 4645 10th Avenue , New Hazelton, BC

Please accept this letter to provide you with a response to the notice for a non-local business wanting to open a Cannabis retail store at 4645 10th Avenue, New Hazelton, BC. We have purchased 4 properties in New Hazelton in the last year, both as residential and one business property. As owners and tax payers in New Hazelton, we do not oppose a Cannabis retail store, rather we oppose a non-local establishing a cannabis retail outlet in District of New Hazelton. We  are in process of starting a cannabis retail store in New Hazelton. Hence the reason for purchasing assets in District of New Hazelton, one being a business property.

Over the last year, we have worked on this business venture. As you can understand, these types of businesses take time to establish. We are a local indigenous community and have a strong desire to be a part of local economy. As local Indigenous government, we would like to formally have a meeting for government-to-government dialogue and to establish a working relationship.



1

DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON
BYLAW NO. 365, 2022

Schedule A

Bylaw No. 365, 2022

PROPERTY CLASS	A GENERAL MUNICIPAL	B HOSPITAL	C REGIONAL DISTRICT
Residential	7.3608	0.4892	2.3456
Utilities	25.7628	1.712	8.2097
Supportive Housing	7.3608	0.4892	2.3456
Major Industry	25.0267	1.6631	7.9751
Light Industry	25.0267	1.6631	7.9751
Business	18.0340	1.1984	5.7468
Managed Forest Land	22.0824	1.4675	7.0369
Recreation/Non Profit	7.3608	0.4892	2.3456
Farm	7.3608	0.4892	2.3456

Schedule A

Bylaw No. 359, 2021

PROPERTY CLASS	A GENERAL MUNICIPAL	B HOSPITAL	C REGIONAL DISTRICT
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Residential	8.67	0.5409	2.6136
Utilities	30.345	1.8933	9.1475
Supportive Housing	8.67	0.5409	2.6136
Major Industry	29.478	1.8392	8.8862
Light Industry	29.478	1.8392	8.8862
Business	21.242	1.3253	6.4033
Managed Forest Land	26.01	1.6228	7.8407
Recreation/Non Profit	8.67	0.5409	2.6136
Farm	8.67	0.5409	2.6136