

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL ONLINE SPECIAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

Mrs. Betty Ann Fort *calls the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Mr. J. Albanese, Mrs. BA Fort and Mr. A. Mueller

ALSO PRESENT: Municipal Clerk K. Parker, Administrator R. Sheola, Attorney S. Dragan

ABSENT: Mayor J. Huelsebusch and Deputy Mayor J. Heller

Mrs. Fort led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Fort stated that at the last meeting three (3) cannabis ordinances were adopted and this resolution is being considered by the Township to support Verano NJ, LLC as part of their application process to the State of New Jersey.

1. ***Resolution Supporting Application Made to the State of New Jersey by Verano NJ, LLC for a Cannabis License to Operate Both a Medical and Personal Use Cannabis Establishment within the Township of Readington***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2022-48

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING APPLICATION MADE TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY
VERANO NJ, LLC FOR A CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE TO OPERATE AS BOTH A
MEDICAL AND PERSONAL USE CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP
OF READINGTON**

WHEREAS, in 2020 New Jersey voters approved Public Question 1, which amended the New Jersey Constitution to allow for the legalization of a controlled form of marijuana called “cannabis” for adults at least 21 years of age; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2021, Governor Murphy signed into law P.L. 2021, c. 16, known as the “New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act,” N.J.S.A. 24:61-31 et seq. (the “Act”), which legalizes the personal use of marijuana by adults 21 years of age or older, and establishes a comprehensive regulatory and licensing scheme for commercial personal use cannabis operations, use, and possession; and

WHEREAS, the Act establishes the following six marketplace classes of business licenses to be issued by the State of New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission for the legal operation of cannabis establishments and other types of cannabis marketplace activity in the State: Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator; Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer; Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler; Class 4 Cannabis Distributor; Class 5 Cannabis Retailer; and Class 6 Cannabis Delivery; and

WHEREAS, section 33 of the Act (P.L. 2021, c. 16 §33, N.J.S.A. 24:61-46) and section 34 of the Act (P.L. 2021, c. 16 §34, amending N.J.S.A. 24:61-7) allows certain pre-existing State licensed Alternative Treatment Centers (“ATCs”) to concurrently hold certain class(es) of the above-referenced State cannabis establishment license(s), thereby enabling such pre-existing ATCs to simultaneously operate as both a medical and personal use cannabis establishment so long as the ATC first obtains approval from the municipality in which the proposed cannabis establishment is to be located, by municipal endorsement or through a local licensing procedure and the ATC submits an expansion application to the Cannabis Regulatory Commission (the “CRC”); and

Resolution #R-2022-48 cont'd:

WHEREAS, section 31a of the Act, N.J.S.A. 24:61-45a, authorizes municipalities to adopt ordinances and regulations prohibiting outright or limiting the number of any class of licensed “cannabis establishments” (defined in section 33 of the Act, N.J.S.A. 24-61-33, as “a cannabis cultivator, a cannabis manufacturer, a cannabis wholesaler, or a cannabis retailer”), cannabis distributors, or cannabis delivery services allowed to operate within its municipal boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Verano NJ, LLC was previously approved to, and currently does, operate as an ATC at a location within the Township of Readington pursuant to the “Jake Honig Compassionate Use Medical Cannabis Act,” P.L. 2009, c. 307 (N.J.S.A. 24:61-1 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, Verano NJ, LLC now wishes to operate as both a medical and personal use cannabis establishment, and specifically as a cannabis cultivator and processor/manufacturer within the Township of Readington and has submitted an application to the State of New Jersey for same; and

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Committee has adopted ordinances which provide a municipal licensing process, taxation and zoning provisions which allow a facility to operate both as a medical and personal use cannabis establishment within the Township of Readington, including specifically as a “Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator, Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer, Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler, and/or Class 4 Cannabis Distributor”; and

WHEREAS, the Township understands that on November 23, 2021, the CRC issued a memorandum to all ATCs in New Jersey regarding the expanded certification process for an ATC (the “Memorandum”); and

WHEREAS, the Township understands that in the Memorandum the CRC required, among other items, that an ATC seeking to submit an expansion certification provide proof of municipal approval, which must include, “[i]f the municipality has a governing body, a resolution by that governing body that includes (i) The ATC’s legal name under which they are registered to do business in the State of New Jersey; (ii) A determination that the municipality has authorized the type of cannabis business license being sought by the license-applicant to operate within its jurisdiction; and (iii) A confirmation that if the municipality has imposed a limit on the number of licensed cannabis businesses, the issuance of a license to the license applicant by the Commission would not exceed that limit.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of Jersey, as follows:

1. The aforesaid recitals are incorporated herein as if set forth at length;
2. Verano NJ, LLC is registered to do business in the State of New Jersey and is authorized to operate as an ATC by the CRC under Permit #02032020;
3. The issuance of a license to Verano, LLC by the State to concurrently operate as both a medical and personal use cannabis establishment by the CRC will not exceed any limits placed on the number of licensed cannabis establishments permitted to operate within the facility in Readington Township and zoning amendments have been adopted to permit such a use.
4. The Township of Readington supports the application of Verano NJ, LLC being made to the State of New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission (“CRC”) and this Resolution may be relied upon by the CRC as proof of local support by the Township of Readington of Verano NJ, LLC’s application for expansion certification; and
5. The Township Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to provide a copy of this Resolution to Verano NJ, LLC and to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the CRC; and

This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption in accordance with applicable law.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Mueller and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	- Aye
Mr. Mueller	- Aye
Mrs. Fort	- Aye

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

John Broten, Dogwood Drive, requested clarification on the retail cannabis business license.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

There were none.

As there was no further business, A **MOTION** was made at 8:48 a.m. by Mr. Albanese to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Mueller with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karin M Parker, *RMC*
Municipal Clerk