

Report to Council



Date: November 18, 2024
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Cannabis Business Licensing Updates
Department: Business Licensing

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from Business Licensing, dated November 18, 2024, recommending that Council rescind the Medical Marihuana Production Regulation Business Bylaw No. 10920 and consider amendments to the Business Licence and Regulation Bylaw No. 12585 and Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 10475;

AND THAT Bylaw No. 12727, being Amendment No. 1 to Business Licence and Regulation Bylaw, No. 12585 be forwarded for reading consideration;

AND THAT Bylaw No. 12728, being Amendment No. 37 to Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 10475 be forwarded for reading consideration;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to notify all cannabis producers and retailers within the City with pending and approved business licences, as well as place a newspaper advertisement, allowing for comments to be submitted to the Business Licensing Supervisor no later than 4 p.m. on November 27, 2024.

Purpose:

To repeal Medical Marihuana Production Regulation Business Bylaw No. 10920 and update Business Licence and Regulation Bylaw No. 12585 and Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 10475 to reflect current cannabis legislation and practices.

Background:

Since the legalization of cannabis in Canada on October 17, 2018, federal, provincial, and municipal regulations have evolved. The City's Zoning Bylaw has been updated accordingly, addressing the licensing of cannabis producers and retailers. This report recommends rescinding the now obsolete Medical Marijuana Production Regulation Business Bylaw No. 10920 and updating the Business Licence and Regulation Bylaw No. 12585 to incorporate relevant cannabis-related definitions, regulations, and

fees. Furthermore, to ensure all related bylaws are updated, the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 10475 will be amended to remove the section with charges related to the Medical Marijuana Production Bylaw.

Discussion:

The Medical Marijuana Production Regulation Business Bylaw No. 10920 is no longer relevant, as it predates significant changes in cannabis legislation and local industry needs. Since cannabis legalization, the City has established a regulatory framework for licensing cannabis-related businesses. The proposed amendments to the Business Licence and Regulation Bylaw reflect these changes and support the administration of the City's cannabis licensing program.

The proposed amendments to the Business Licence and Regulation Bylaw introduce cannabis-specific definitions and establish special use provisions that outline requirements for ventilation, waste management, and water supply protections. These measures are designed to prevent any negative impact on City infrastructure and assets while ensuring full compliance with City standards. The amendments also set fees for cannabis-related businesses, consistent with those for other businesses operating under similar regulatory frameworks.

Research from other municipalities, including Abbotsford, Nanaimo, Prince George, Vancouver, and Victoria, informed the decision to integrate these changes into the existing business licence bylaw, rather than creating a separate bylaw. This approach ensures user-friendly access to the regulations.

As required by legislation, the affected parties will be given an opportunity to provide input on the proposed bylaw changes. A letter will be sent to all cannabis producers and retailers with a pending or approved business licence within the City, and an advertisement will be placed in the newspaper, and public comments can be submitted until 4 p.m. on November 27, 2024.

Conclusion:

Council's approval of the amendments will streamline cannabis business licensing and enhance the City's regulatory framework. This will support the administration of the City's cannabis licensing program.

Internal Circulation:

Utility Services
Water Quality and Customer Care
Development Services
Financial Planning
Office of the City Clerk

Considerations applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Community Charter Sections 15, 16, 59 and 60.

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Community Charter Section 59 (2)

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Consultation and Engagement:

Comments from the public to be submitted to the Business Licensing Supervisor no later than 4pm on November 27, 2024.

Communications Comments:

Submitted by:

G. March, Business Licensing Supervisor

Approved for inclusion:

R. Smith, Divisional Director, Planning, Climate Action & Development Services