

Parma Town Board held a Special Meeting on Monday, November 22, 2021 at the Parma Town Hall, 1300 Hilton Parma Corners Road, Hilton, New York.

**ATTENDANCE**

Supervisor  
Councilperson  
Councilperson  
Councilperson  
Councilperson

Jack Barton  
James Roose  
Linda Judd  
Tina Brown  
Dave Ciufu

Town Clerk  
Building Department  
Dir. of Parks and Recreation  
Highway Supt.

Carrie Fracassi  
Mark Lenzi (excused)  
Tom Venniro (excused)  
Jim Christ (excused)

FILED  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
12/8/2021  
TOWN OF PARMA

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Jaclin Bonfiglio, Andrew Steinbronn, Christopher Spallina, David Warren, Carl Cottorone, Rick Nawrocki, Tia Colon, Samantha Lautner, Declan Cosgrove, Liam Cosgrove, Tim Myers, and other unidentified members of the public.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Deputy Supervisor Roose called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence. Emergency exit procedures were noted.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**LOCAL LAW #1-2021**

Deputy Supervisor Roose read the following Legal Notice that was published in the North and South Editions of the Suburban News and posted on the Town website and the Town Bulletin Board.

**TOWN OF PARMA  
SET PUBLIC HEARING  
INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW #1-2021**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New York recently enacted the Cannabis Law; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the terms of such law, municipalities have the option of opting out of allowing Cannabis Retail Dispensaries and Onsite Cannabis Consumption Sites within such municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Parma desires to adopt a Local Law electing to opt out of allowing Cannabis Retail Dispensaries and Onsite Cannabis Consumption Sites within the Town of Parma;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Town Board of the Town of Parma, Monroe County, New York, as follows:

**Section I.** That the Town Board of the Town of Parma will hold and conduct a Public Hearing to consider the enactment of Introductory Local Law # 1-2021 of the Town of Parma which Public Hearing will be held and conducted at the Town of Parma on the **22<sup>nd</sup>** day of **November 2021** at **7 p.m.** and at which hearing all interested persons shall be heard concerning the subject matter thereof.

Section II. That the proposed Local Law proposes to prohibit the establishment of Cannabis Retail Dispensaries and Onsite Cannabis Consumption Sites within the Town of Parma, a full and complete text of such Local Law is presently filed in the Town of Parma Town Clerk's Office where it may be examined by all interested persons during normal business hours.

Dated: November 8, 2021  
Carrie Fracassi  
Town of Parma  
Parma Town Clerk

Deputy Supervisor Roose opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. for public comment.

Jaclin Bonfiglio said she is a resident of Greece but has a business (#hydroink) at Parma Commons Plaza on Ridge Road. She said there is a stigma attached to cannabis use and she would like to help people understand the benefits of using cannabis. She stated she is an avid smoker, is well educated, contributes the community, and operates a successful business. She does not think the Town opting in would create a hazard to the community and in fact feels opting out would be bad for the Town. She would like the Town to support business and other business owners in the Town. She feels the rules would be like alcohol sales and is very secure to sell. She feels there is a medical benefit to many members of the community. She feels that cannabis is safer option than alcohol.

Christopher Spallina said he grew up in Parma and owns a small business on Hilton Parma Corners Road and is in the process of opening. He was in the Army for 4 years and sees the medical benefit cannabis has done for his fellow soldiers and for himself. He feels allowing this will not be bad for the area, they are not looking to bring this to younger children. He understands there is a stigma with cannabis use but it is safer, more helpful and has less side effects than opioids. Cannabis helps people struggling with depression, anxiety, and suicide. He would like to be able to have a smoking lounge at some point in the future. He hopes to help people get access for medical purposes.

Andrew Steinbronn said he is a resident in the Town of Greece. He is a Marine Corps Veteran who served for over 5 years and uses cannabis to help with anxiety and PTSD, he previously used heavy anxiety medication which altered his speech and created health issues. Cannabis has helped with his symptoms from PTSD and anxiety with less side effects.

Timothy Myers said he is a resident in Greece and a realtor. He asked why this is on the table since the State has approved the use of cannabis. Councilperson Ciufu explained that while the State made it legal to smoke and use with limits, each Town was given the option of opting out of allowing the sale and consumption sites. If the municipality does not opt out by the end of December, there is no option to opt out. The concern of the Board is since the complete law has not been written and regulations are not complete, the Board must decide without all the information and what the possible implications are to the Town. The Board would like to make an educated decision and not rush into something without all the facts. If the Town opts out now, the issue can be revisited at a later date and there would be an opportunity to opt in later.

Jaclin Bonfiglio asked if the Board is concerned with business going elsewhere and away from the Town, they do not want to leave. Councilperson Ciufio said most Towns are opting out.

Councilperson Ciufio said without proper guidance from the State the Town cannot provide proper guidance to business owners. The Town must do their due diligence on behalf of the whole Town. Councilperson Brown said the Zoning for the Town will have to be looked at as to where this would be allowed. Ms. Bonfiglio said she believes the guidance will have the same regulations as liquor sales. She stated if allowed, not everyone will be selling, it is very costly to get a license from the State.

They are willing to work with the Town and they hope the Town does not opt out tonight effectively stopping them from moving forward. They would like to start their business before big companies come in and set up and they are willing to abide by all regulations. Councilperson Brown said this is about the Zoning Laws and where this will be permitted.

David Warren said if the Town opts, out illegal dispensaries will be popping up as they have already in the City of Rochester and then they leave and find a new location when they are found. Mr. Spallina said the revenue will be an asset to the Town. He understands the Town wants to wait but the businesses will lose out if they must wait and everything they worked for will be gone. The Town will receive tax revenue from the sales which helps the Town.

Supervisor Barton would like to gather more information and see what the pitfalls might be before approving as the State has not finalized the guidelines for the law and they could make changes to the Law that the Town does not agree with. Mr. Spallina stated that it seems like everyone here does not want the Town to opt out. Rick Nawrocki stated that is not true. He is a resident in the Town with a young daughter and he does not like the idea in his Town. He does not want business owners educating his daughter or the public about cannabis and the benefits.

Councilperson Judd said Parma is very conservative and she will not vote to have cannabis in the Town especially without the laws being in place first to ensure what is going to happen. The Board must think of the Town as a whole, while some people want this some will not and while some people will follow the regulations what happens if someone does not abide, which creates issues for the Town to fight that problem and how to make them abide by the rules. She feels that it is the job of the Board to be the positive role model. As it is there are business' that do not follow the regulations and then the Town must chase them to bring them back in line. The Town needs the legislation in place to see what this will look like. She wants them to understand that this is not personal, the Board has to look at the benefit to the Town as a whole.

Carl Cottorone said he is a Parma resident, and he is against this. He agrees with the Town taking this slow to make sure all the i's are dotted, and t's crossed since it is

impossible to opt out once the Town opts in. The State has had many issues over the last two years and the Town should move slow.

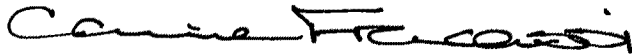
After further discussion, the Board felt that they would like to review the comments from tonight and any other information they may receive and decide at the next meeting.

Mr. Spallina stated he appreciates the Board listening and taking time to review the information and any other information before deciding.

The public hearing was closed at 7:40 p.m.

There was no further business before the Town Board, Councilperson Ciufu made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m., seconded by Councilperson Brown and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carrie Fracassi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct loop at the end.

Carrie Fracassi  
Parma Town Clerk