

**CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 22, 2022**

**Mayor Gallo called the Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance**

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: McHale, Budmats, O'Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi, Reyez, Sanoica

Absent: 0

With 7 present and 0 absent. A quorum was present.

Members of the audience were reminded that the proceedings were being recorded for current and future broadcast.

**Staff Members Present:** City Manager Rob Sabo, Deputy City Clerk Judy Brose, Assistant to the City Manager Lori Ciezak, Police Chief John Nowacki, Fire Chief Jeff Moxley, Director Public Works Rob Horne, Assistant Director Public Works JoEllen Charlton, Chief Information Officer Waseem Khan, Business Advocate Martha Corner and City Attorney Melissa Wolf

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Gallo asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 8, 2022 City Council Meeting. Alderman McHale made the motion and was seconded by Alderman O'Brien. A voice vote approved the Minutes as presented.

**MOTION TO DEVIATE:     None**

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Gallo stated that he and other residents received a flyer and was disappointed with the series of misinformation it contained. City Council, Staff, the Planning and Zoning Committee did not subvert any process or withhold any information from the public as it relates to the first reading of this Ordinance that is on the tonight's agenda as item B. The City published the notice of the Planning and Zoning Public Hearing in the Daily Herald on January 17, 2022. The Planning and Zoning Committee conducted the public hearing on February 1, 2022 and contrary to what the flyer says, we are not opening our doors to the marijuana industry nor do we want to be the first town in Illinois to do that. The flyer misleads residents to what we're here to discuss and eventually vote on tonight. Cannabis is already in our community for medical use since 2015 and when cannabis was recreationalized for adult use it was approved by over 70% of Illinois voters. I received calls from residents who received the flyer expressing their opposition and I fielded a lot of phone calls with a lot of misguided information for what Council will be discussing this evening. Mayor Gallo hopes that everyone who received the flyer researches the information to find objective sources that are valid.

Mayor Gallo cited the following sources to refute the propaganda that was delivered to Rolling Meadows residents by referencing to the following research:

**Allegation made by the Save Our Society From Drugs Group:** *Marijuana commercialization significantly increases the need for homeless services in places that are among the first to legalize the drug.*

Objective Source: [Reason Foundation](#) “Think Tank founded in 1978” Put out a 5 page report in 2018.

**Titled:** *Does Recreational Marijuana Legalization Contribute To Homelessness?*

Studied Washington & Colorado 2 states with the longest recreational cannabis laws. Excerpt: *...But they also examined neighboring states such as Idaho (neighbor to Washington) & Wyoming, which borders Colorado who did not have legal cannabis and found the rates in homelessness mirrored one another. Reason Foundation says: ...These data suggest that factors other than marijuana legalization are likely responsible for changes in the rates of homelessness. At the very least, there is not a clear or predictable relationship between marijuana legalization and homelessness.*

**Allegation made by the Save Our Society From Drugs Group:** *Children who live near pot shops have more access to marijuana and are more likely to use it and Other Drugs*

Objective Source: [Colorado Department of Public Safety](#)  
Division of Criminal Justice  
Office of Research and Statistics - published 188 page report

**Titled:** *Impacts of Marijuana Legalization in Colorado*

Survey Dates: 2005, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019. Excerpt: *A total of 53,520 randomly selected students from 195 randomly selected schools participated in the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey. The sample includes 46,537 students in 166 public high schools and 6,983 students in 29 public middle schools. The results show \*The proportion of Colorado high school students reporting using marijuana ever in their lifetime remained statistically unchanged between 2005 and 2019 (Figure 56). Further, Figure 56 shows there was no statistically significant difference between Colorado student responses compared to national data. So the State of Colorado where cannabis has been recreationally legal since 2005 17 yrs. Has the data to refute.*

**Allegation made by the Save Our Society From Drugs Group:** *\*Density of pot shops in Delivery Services was positively related to the frequency of child abuse and neglect. There is also an increase in hospitalizations for marijuana use and dependence.*

Objective Source: [73 page thesis published by KD Bradshaw from the University of Reno, Nevada](#)

**Titled:** *The Proof's in the Pot: Are There Relationships between Statewide Cannabis Legislation and Child Maltreatment Substantiation?*

Mind you, this is a complex study with in-depth analysis; in which, it does state. Excerpt: *...The density of bars and liquor stores was positively correlated with child neglect and child physical abuse. The conclusion of the thesis reads: Rob Nixon (2011) coined the term “slow violence” to describe the hidden, relentless, daily onslaught of calamities faced by the environmental poor. The term is assistive in*

*comprehending the incalculable challenges and long-term repercussions of maltreated children. Mothers who suffered at least one episode of maltreatment as children were 72% more likely to abuse their children, and if they suffered multiple episodes, they were 300% more likely. Yet, over half of the states in the US have enacted cannabis legalization legislation over the last decade and researchers and practitioners have barely scratched the surface into revealing the impact on children. This study and comparable studies illustrate the reality that a myriad of interconnected mechanisms contribute to child outcomes and untangling the web is arduous. Albeit, these complications should not paralyze researchers and practitioners into inaction.*

For the flyer to definitively state that pot shop density is positively related to child abuse and neglect is unfounded and misleading...and when you mislead people to garner support to serve your own agenda that is wrong!

### **WARD REPORTS:**

Alderman McHale stated that she attended the first Community Events Foundation (CEF) meeting for 2022. They discussed the exciting events planned for 2022 including the Memorial Day Parade to kick off summer and they started to organize the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. If anyone would like to be a part of this year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade or would like to volunteer for the many events they host throughout the year please contact Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager at [ciezakl@cityrm.org](mailto:ciezakl@cityrm.org) or 847/394-8500 ext. 1002 directly. CEF meets once a month and their next meeting is on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

Alderman Budmats read the following letter that was submitted anonymously:

*To the City of Rolling Meadows, Mayor Gallo, and Alderman Nick Budmats,*

*It is my understanding that a vote will occur on February 22 to open its doors to the marijuana industry in our town. As a resident of Rolling Meadows for in excess of 32 years, I am greatly concerned about this and the ramifications this creates. Our town should NOT allow this to occur. We should first consider that our town is one of class and we should be proud of that and protect all that it stands for. I believe that the opening of the marijuana industry should be concerning due to the impact that it would have on our children and its usage and the costs to our town to regulate/police it. There is also a link of marijuana usage to criminal behavior, welfare dependence, and lower life satisfaction. There is also a potential for hospitalizations for marijuana usage, marijuana dependence, and abuse. To open the doors to the marijuana industry in Rolling Meadows would be a significant mistake and would have long-lasting negative effects on our town. I beg you TO VOTE NO and to move forward the desire to keep the City of Rolling Meadows as a town of class and instead of one where a drug is more available and prevalent. Thank you for your consideration.*

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR 20 MINUTES:**

Mayor Gallo read the rules of procedures for addressing the City Council.

Lisa B., Rolling Meadows resident, stated that she is here to talk about the Cannabis item on the agenda. She noted that she has been a social worker for 30+ years and has seen the impact of marijuana and how it can escalate as a gateway drug to where it can then impede, impact and impair someone's functions. She understands the value and role of medical marijuana and that there is access to it in our community already and in other local communities. She noted that she only had a brief time to review the Planning and Zoning Committee's agenda documents but had a few questions for Council. She does not see any evidence of why this is being recommended for our community. What is the anticipated tax benefit to our community? What is the value add? What is the evidence that this type of business will bring in other desired businesses? This community has struggled to fill the store fronts with meaningful businesses that add to our community. Why do you believe that other businesses will want to be located next to a dispensary? Mayor Gallo stated that her Alderman will supply her statistical information based on the current entity that is operating in Rolling Meadows.

Luke F., Rolling Meadows resident, stated that he supports expanding dispensaries to the commercial area. Rolling Meadows collects 3% sales tax and he noted that if Rolling Meadows gets more taxes in then they're going take less taxes from the residents.

Mayor Gallo stated that there are four other people signed in for item D on the agenda, they did not wish to speak but were available to answer any questions.

**PENDING:**

**A) Ordinance No. 22-10 – Amend the Alcohol Liquor Code to Increase the Number of Licenses Permitted Under the Class K Liquor License – Aloft Hotel located at 3405 W. Algonquin Road (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

Mayor Gallo read the title into record and asked for a motion to adopt this Ordinance. Alderman McHale made the motion and was seconded by Alderman O'Brien.

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Budmats, O'Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi, Reyez, Sanoica, McHale  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed. This Ordinance was adopted.

➤ **ORDINANCES (1<sup>st</sup> Reading):**

**B) Ordinance No. 22-00– Amend Sections 122-85 and 122-331 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rolling Meadows, Illinois, to Allow and Regulate Adult Use Cannabis Dispensaries as an Allowable Special Use in Commercial Zoning Districts (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

Mayor Gallo read the title into record and asked for a motion to consider this Ordinance for 1<sup>st</sup> reading. Alderman Sanoica made the motion and was seconded by Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman Budmats stated that after substantial input from the residents in his Ward he will be voting no on this item.

Alderman O'Brien stated that after receiving input from residents in his Ward and outside his Ward he will also be voting no on this item. He noted that residents felt that one dispensary in Rolling Meadows is enough.

Mayor Gallo stated this item is for special use so it will have to come before Council for approval so it's not like anyone can open up shop when they want to.

Alderman Sanoica stated that residents that are in favor and against the proposed ordinance contacted her and appreciates their input. She noted that she ran on a platform that was focused on infrastructure, inclusion and sound financial management. For the resident to spoke tonight requesting specific benefits of recreational marijuana revenues, the first few months we were provided those revenues and there was a significant increase, however under the current Illinois law we can no longer look at the specific breakdowns but it's included in our total commercial revenues that are supplied in the quarterly financial reports with Council packets. Additionally, Council relies on the Planning and Zoning Commission and the public hearings to provide recommendations. Council looks very closely at decisions that are split but for decisions that are unanimous it gives the Council confidence to vote in favor as they did their due diligence reviewing the proposed text amendments. Because these are special uses located in a commercial area they will still need to go through the Planning and Zoning Commission process. There's always an opportunity to prevent a specific commercial entity from coming in so this is not stating that we are opening the flood gates, it's very misleading and not true. There are very specific parameters in the ordinance and because it's a very controlled policy, a policy that will benefit the City and a policy that will ultimately benefit public health. Alderman Sanoica stated she will be voting in favor of this item.

Alderman Bisesi stated that he didn't get a lot of feedback from residents. He confirmed with Staff that this is only for the commercial area east of New Wilke Road. Alderman Bisesi stated he will be voting yes for first reading but is encourages residents to reach out to him.

Alderman Vinezeano stated that she received a lot of input from residents regarding this matter and will be voting no.

Alderman Reyez stated that she received a lot of input from residents regarding this matter. She feels that this is an opportunity that Rolling Meadows can't pass up. Regardless, if you approve the use of recreational marijuana or not, there is a demand for it, there is a large customer base and disposable income. Having an additional dispensary in that area will attract customers not only to that dispensary

but also to our existing businesses. The additional traffic will eventually attract new businesses as well. Surrounding City's like Schaumburg have already done it very successfully within commercial districts and others like Arlington Heights are seriously moving in that direction. Alderman Reyez stated she will be voting yes on this item.

Alderman McHale stated that she didn't receive a lot of input from residents and will be voting yes on this item.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bisesi, Reyez, Sanoica, McHale  
NAYS: O'Brien, Vinezeano, Budmats  
ABSENT: 0

With 4 in favor and 3 opposed. This Ordinance moved forward for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

➤ **NEW BUSINESS:**

**C) MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS ON WARRANT 2/22/2022**

Mayor Gallo asked for a motion to approve the Warrant. Alderman O'Brien made the motion and was seconded by Alderman Vinezeano.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Vinezeano, Bisesi, Reyez, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats, O'Brien  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed. The Warrant was approved.

➤ **CONSENT RESOLUTIONS:**

The Consent Resolutions consisted of six (6) items, items D thru I. Mayor Gallo asked if any Alderman wished to remove any item from the Consent Agenda for Resolutions. No items were removed.

Mayor Gallo declared it in order for one motion to consider the Resolutions in one motion without debate. Alderman Vinezeano made the motion and was seconded by Alderman O'Brien. Mayor Gallo read the titles into the record.

**D) Resolution No. 22-R-20 – Authorize the Support of a Cook County 6b Classification Tax Incentive for Property Located at 5300 Newport**

**E) Resolution No. 22-R-21 – Adopt the 2021 Zoning Map**

- F) Resolution No. 22-R-22 – Award a Contract for the Annual Street Maintenance Crack Sealing (2022) for Various City Streets**
- G) Resolution No. 22-R-23 – Award a Contract for 2022 Sidewalk and Curb Replacement Program**
- H) Resolution No. 22-R-24 – Approve and Authorize the Execution of a Public Utility and Public Bike Path Easement Agreement**
- I) Resolution No. 22-R-25 – Authorize the Renewal of Agreements with Private Refuse Haulers for the Disposal of Refuse from Multi-Family Dwellings to SWANCC Facility**

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Bisesi, Reyez, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats, O’Brien, Vinezeano  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed. The Resolutions were adopted.

**OTHER BUSINESS & REPORTS:**

**Mayor's Appointments:** None

**Mayor’s Proclamations:** None

**City Clerk’s Report:** None

**City Staff Reports:**

**Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager reviewed the following:**

**1) Community Items of Interest**

- 1) Save a life and consider giving blood this Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, from 1-7 pm at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road). Appointments are required and all donors must wear masks. Register at [www.vitalant.org](http://www.vitalant.org) or call 877-258-4825.
- 2) While there is still snow on the ground and we’re in the thick of winter, summer fun is just around the corner. Mark your calendars as we’re excited to announce our music line up for the City’s summer concert events. Rolling Meadows will be rocking with performances by acclaimed bands including 16 Candles, Hello Weekend, Wedding Banned, Student Body, Anthem, and many more. It’ll be a fun filled summer here in Meadows. Stay up to date on

City happenings and special events by visiting and following the City's Facebook page at, [facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows](https://www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows).

- 3) With spring just under a month away, we are providing a friendly reminder that daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 13 at 2AM. Mark your calendars and get ready to spring forward in just a few weeks. When changing your clocks, also remember to test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and replace any non-functioning batteries or expired alarms.
- 4) Chicago Northwest Eat Local Week is set for March 4-13. This 10-day event only happens once a year so don't miss out on what's cookin'! Plan ahead to visit your favorite Rolling Meadows lunch or dinner spots in advance or try something new. A list of participating restaurants can be found at [EatChicagoNW.com](https://www.EatChicagoNW.com) and make sure to let the host and server know that you're there for Chicago Northwest Eat Local Week! As a reminder, a complete listing of Rolling Meadows restaurants and businesses can be found at the City's business website, [rmbusinessbuzz.org](https://www.rmbusinessbuzz.org).

## 2) FY 2022 January Financials

Mayor Gallo stated that the financials are in the packet and if Council has any questions they should contact the Interim Finance Director, Tom Glaser directly as he is unable to attend our meetings.

**Rob Sabo, City Manager reviewed the following:**

## 3) March 8, 2022 City Council Draft Agenda

*MOTION TO APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2022 COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING AND THE FEBRUARY 22, 2022 CITY COUNCIL MEETING*

*MOTION TO DEVIATE: New Police Officer Swearing-in:*

- *Cassandra Defranco*
- *William O'Sullivan*

*MAYOR'S REPORT:*

*WARD REPORTS:*

*MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR 20 MINUTES:*

*PENDING:*

- A) *Ordinance No. 22-00 – Amend Sections 122-85 and 122-331 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rolling Meadows, Illinois, to Allow And Regulate Adult Use Cannabis Dispensaries as an Allowable Special Use in Commercial Zoning Districts (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)*

*CONSENT ORDINANCES:*

*NEW BUSINESS:*

*B) MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS ON WARRANT MARCH 8, 2022*

*CONSENT RESOLUTIONS:*

*C) Resolution No. 22-R-00 – Approve Landscaping Contract*

*D) Resolution No. 22-R-00 – Approve Contract for Brockway Sanitary Sewer Extension Project*

*E) Resolution No. 22-R-00 – Approve Engineering Contract for Construction Observation Services for Brockway Sanitary Sewer Project*

*F) Resolution No. 22-R-00 – Approve Replacement of High-Ranger Forestry Vehicle*

*OTHER BUSINESS & REPORTS:*

*Mayor's Appointments:*

*Mayor's Proclamations:*

*City Clerk's Report:*

*City Staff Reports:*

- 1) Community Items of Interest*
- 2) Carnegie Drainage Improvement Status Report*
- 3) March 15, 2022 Committee of the Whole Draft Agenda*
- 4) March 22, 2022 City Council Draft Agenda*

*MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:*

*CLOSED SESSION:*

*ADJOURNMENT:*

**MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

Alderman Budmats stated that there seems to be some discontent surrounding the process by which the announcement was made for the Planning and Zoning Commission as there was no property to put a sign on and notice was only given in the newspaper. Alderman Budmats suggested that in the future if there is a zoning change and there is no property to put a sign on then a sign be placed in front of City Hall letting people know that there's going to be a hearing to let as many people in the process and be transparent as it can possibly be.

Mayor Gallo stated that he will defer to staff and our attorney to see if that's possible and if it is we should absolutely do whatever we can to provide our residents with more information.

Alderman Sanoica stated that she would love to volunteer for any projects that staff would like to embark on for increasing our communications with our residents. As Council, we want to be accessible and this is a good example for Alderman Budmats where he would have appreciated more leeway for his residents and all residents would appreciate it too. Alderman Sanoica is happy to help wherever she can.

Mayor Gallo noted that Manager Sabo is putting together a communications committee to help with communications to our residents. We're having continued conversations to help improve our abilities to communicate and bring forth transparency. There will be Committee of the Whole discussion on improving communications in the near future.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

- 1) **Union Negotiations – 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (2) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act** - Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.
- 2) **Pending or Imminent Litigation – 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act** – To consider litigation, when an action against the public body has been filed or is probable or imminent based upon the finding of the City Council.

Mayor Gallo stated the he would like to entertain a motion to go into closed session under section 2(c)(2) of the Open Meetings Act regarding Union Negotiations and under section 2(c)(11) of the Open Meetings Act based upon the finding that Litigation against the City on a certain matter is probable or imminent. Alderman O’Brien made the motion and was seconded by Alderman Vinezeano.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Reyez, Sanoica, McHale, Budmats, O’Brien, Vinezeano, Bisesi  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

With 7 in favor and 0 opposed. City Council entered into Closed Session.

The audience and press were advised that they do not anticipate taking any action upon returning to open session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, by unanimous consent the City Council meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Judy Brose, Deputy City Clerk

February 22, 2022 City Council Minutes Approved by Council on March 8, 2022.

*Judy Brose*

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Judy Brose, Deputy City Clerk