

## West Cape May

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and could be an opportunity for a local family to have an agricultural business. He said his family has been in farming in Cape May for more than 100 years.

Resident Richard Kauffeld said he thinks cannabis manufacturing

and retail sales are very good ideas.

"I would encourage us to think about how large we are willing to let indoor manufacturing facilities be in the limited space we have in West Cape May," he said.

Kauffeld said he did not want to see the borough have a huge 100,000- to 200,000-square foot "tin

building."

Resident Lee Patton offered her support for the cannabis ordinance.

Resident Jack Killeen, who has attended several recent commission meetings, continued to voice his opposition. He said from his background in the military and as a former police officer, the borough was bringing problems into a small, family-oriented town.

Killeen said he believes the borough will spend more money than it makes from taxing cannabis businesses "to cope with problems that may be precipitated."

"I just want you to know that I and quite a few other neighbors, when this goes wrong, are going to hold you accountable for it," he said.

Resident Janet Dwyer complimented the commissioners for the research they conducted on cannabis businesses.

Judy Smith asked how the borough would receive revenue from cannabis businesses.

Mayor Carol Sabo said West Cape May would receive a 2 percent tax on cultivation and manufacturing and a 1 percent tax on retail sales. She said it was impossible at this time to project how much revenue the borough would receive.

Sabo said the revenue could reduce the tax burden and be inserted in the municipal budget. She said spending needs in the borough include infrastructure, employee salaries and benefits, vehicles, police services from Cape May and support of the volunteer fire company.

"You're expecting a great deal of revenue from this, right?" Smith asked.

"Yes," replied the mayor.

Resident Bill Oetinger said he is generally in favor of cannabis businesses. He asked if the borough has considered requiring on-site security guards as such businesses.

Commissioner John Francis II said he spoke with the sheriff in Gunnison, Colo., where six cannabis retail outlets opened after legalization. He said the sheriff reported two stores were burglarized and security was stepped up.

Dr. Tom Harrison, who identified himself as a biologist and physiologist, said he has been a board member of a pharmaceutical company that uses cannabis for medical purposes. He said he is an adviser to another pharmaceutical company that is testing cannabis for pain management.

"I've seen through all the clinical trials the impact that cannabis has medicinally on patients who often times can't get any

relief from any prescriptive medicine," Harrison said.

New data would suggest that most patients take cannabis to decrease their opioid pain medications, he said. Harrison noted 68 percent of patients taking cannabis for pain could stop taking opioids.

He said the cannabis being produced today is not the "weed" from the 1950s and 1960s that was laced with heavy metals and a significantly high level of THC.

"If West Cape May follows the path of every market that I have seen in the past five or six years, you'll be very happy you did this," Harrison said. "Your townspeople who need it medicinally will thank you for doing this."

Sabo thanked residents for their comments. "I know that all the concerns that have been voiced have been done out of a love for this community, which I share," she said.



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## Lafayette Street Park

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in Archer and Greiner's contract. He said the firm would seek to get the city free and clear on the property.

The Cape May City Elementary School Board of Education deeded property to the city for the proposed phase IV of the park a year ago with the provision construction must begin in one year. The anniversary is next month, and no construction has started.

During a Board of Education meeting July 15, Vice President Sharon Lee Kus-

tra said the city canceled a meeting to discuss the issue with the board the previous week. She said the board was pleased the city demolished a dugout on school property but a former concession stand still needs to be removed.

Board member Mark LeMunyon, who chairs the Facility and Grounds Committee, said the city did not demolish the concession stand because there was some "controversy attached to that building."

The stand has been vandalized on more than one occasion, according to

board president Dawn Austin. The school had hoped to put tables in the area for outdoor instruction.

Board member Larry Reed suggested the school board take back the property Aug. 20.

JCP&L is implementing deed notices on each property, including the housing authority property, where impacted soils exceed residential direct contact regulations since contamination remains in deeper subsurface soils. In addition to the former manufactured gas plant site, impacted soils were removed from residential properties on St. John's Street and across Lafayette Street on public housing land.

In 2017, Benzene-contaminated groundwater continued to be monitored across Lafayette Street under the front yard of Osborne Court Apartments, operated by the Cape May Housing Authority. JCP&L excavated 1 to 6 feet of soil in 2002 from the front yard of Osborne Court, replacing it with clean soil.

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