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Levy County ban against medicinal marijuana dispensaries continues



Levy County Attorney Anne Bast Brown helps County Commission members have a clear understanding of legal issues related to the ban against medical marijuana dispensaries in the county.

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © Nov. 22, 2017 at 11:57 a.m.

LEVY COUNTY -- The Levy County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday (Nov. 21) extended the moratorium against the establishment of a dispensary of medicinal marijuana in the county.

On Feb. 7, the commission first adopted an ordinance banning these business interests from starting in Levy County.



County Commissioner Rock Meeks made the motion.

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County Commissioner Matt Brooks seconded the motion.

The Tuesday event heralds the second public hearing to extend the moratorium until April 16, 2018.

County Attorney Anne Bast Brown in responding to a question from County Commission Chairman John Meeks confirmed that the County Planning Council had reviewed the moratorium. The group recommended approval, Brown said.

Brown responded to a question about how the federal law could show marijuana is illegal, but how the state law allows people to use this drug as medicine.

The federal law remains in effect, Brown said, but currently the federal government is allowing states to exercise state's rights to allow medical marijuana or recreational marijuana.

In answering a question about purchase of medical marijuana being exempt from state sales tax, Brown said the Florida Legislature created that because in the amendment to the Florida Constitution which was approved by a majority of voters, the drug is allowed as a treatment for medical conditions.



**County
Commissioner
Mike Joyner**

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County Commission Chairman John Meeks

County Commissioner Mike Joyner said he thinks the drug will be allowed nationwide as a recreational drug, just like alcohol in a few years.

County Chairman John Meeks said he wishes it could be taxed.

Also during the discussion, it was learned by listeners that medical marijuana in Florida is not the kind that can be smoked.

On a motion by Commissioner Rock Meeks, seconded by Commissioner Matt Brooks, Chairman Meeks, and commissioners Mike Joyner and Lilly Rooks all voted to extend the moratorium they adopted in February.

Chairman Meeks indicated that if there is a class action suit brought against the many sets of local government entities placing moratoriums on these dispensaries, then the County Commission might consider whether to amend its current stance.

Unless something changes between now and April 18, 2018, though, there will be no legal dispensaries of medical marijuana in Levy County.