

Royalton Township Special Town Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
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8 July 2024
Approved

7:31 p.m., Monday, 8 July 2024, Clerk Duane Swanson called to order the special meeting of the electors of Royalton Township. This meeting had been mandated by a petition signed by two supervisors and twelve freeholders and authorized by the town board at its regular meeting on 25 June 2024. 53 residents and 4 guests signed the attendance roll. The meeting had been duly posted on the town bulletin board and published in the legal newspaper of the town. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Clerk Swanson called for nominations for the position of moderator of the meeting. Jeff Schlaeger and Gordon Nordby were nominated. By a show of hands, Gordon Nordby was elected moderator and assumed the chair.

7:35 p.m. Moderator Nordby stated that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the authorization of a study and imposition of a moratorium on the operation of cannabis businesses in Royalton Township. No other topics could be brought up. Moderator Nordby began by noting that the township cannot, by law, prohibit the growing of cannabis, that these businesses will be licensed and regulated by the state of Minnesota, and that local regulations are likely not necessary.

Troy Downing moved, Barb Dreyer seconded, to approve the agenda as printed. The motion carried without audible dissent.

Moderator Nordby stated that each speaker would be allotted two minutes. Barb Dreyer was appointed timekeeper.

Denise Weis called on the assembly to adopt an ordinance calling for a study of possible regulation of cannabis businesses in the township and imposing a moratorium on the approval of those businesses until 1 January 2025. At the end of Mrs. Weis' two minutes, Bryan Weis approached the podium and yielded his two minutes to Mrs. Weis, who continued her remarks by noting that many issues remained unsettled, and that County Attorney Reese Fredrickson has recommended that local jurisdictions study this issue. She then presented to Clerk Swanson a petition signed by 77 Royalton Township electors requesting an interim ordinance that would allow for further study while imposing a moratorium on the approval of cannabis businesses until 1 January 2025.

Moderator Nordby asked for further comments. No one requested to speak.

Moderator Nordby then called for a hand vote on the proposed ordinance authorizing a study and imposing a moratorium on the operation of cannabis businesses in Royalton Township

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until 1 January 2025. Gary Valvoda was appointed teller. Moderator Nordby asked all visitors who were unable to vote to stand to the side of the room. Teller Valvoda counted 14 “yes” votes and 28 “no” votes. Moderator Nordby declared that the proposed ordinance failed to pass.

At 7:50 p.m., Gary Valvoda moved, Laura Martin seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried without audible dissent.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

ATTEST:

Gordon Nordby, Moderator