

**The Corporation of the City of Iqaluit
Minutes of a Public Hearing #03**

Held on Tuesday, the 28th day of April 2026, commencing at 5:32 p.m. at the City Council Chambers.

PRESENT FROM COUNCIL

Mayor Solomon Awa
Deputy Mayor Kimberly Smith
Councillor Amber Aglukark
Councillor Kyle Sheppard
Councillor Romeyn Stevenson

ABSENT

Alternate Deputy Mayor Harry Flaherty
Councillor Methusalah Kunuk
Councillor Simon Nattaq

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Peter Tumilty, Acting Chief Administrative Officer/Chief Financial Officer
Jamie Evic, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Brianna Longworth, City Clerk
Katrina Sarmiento, Deputy City Clerk
Carol Nakanwagi, Executive Assistant
Mathew Dodds, Director of Planning and Development
Geoffrey Byrne, Communications and Customer Service Manager
Maiya Twerdin, Planning and Development Clerk
Tracey Oram, Director of Financial Services

Mayor Awa called the Public Hearing to order.

1. By-law No. 1033, Amendment to Zoning By-law No. 899 (ZBA 25-040)

Mayor Awa indicated that a related information item was included on the City Council Meeting #05 agenda, and the meeting would be held following the Public Hearing. He noted that the correspondence was from the Government of Nunavut and summarized the results of community consultations under the *Cannabis Act*.

Maiya Twerdin, Planning and Development Clerk, presented By-law No. 1033, Amendment to Zoning By-law No. 899 (ZBA 25-040). Ms. Twerdin advised that the amendment proposed a site-specific rezoning for 609 Mattaaq Crescent to permit a cannabis establishment.

Mayor Awa asked if any representations were received by the Planning Department.

Ms. Twerdin advised that representations were received by the Planning Department.

Ms. Twerdin advised the following:

- Five respondents expressed general support for the proposed relocation, but did not provide reasonings
- Overall, the submissions indicate approval of the relocation and acceptance of the cannabis store operating at the proposed site
- Anonymous submissions were received and the following comments were provided:
 - Cannabis use has calming effects and is not typically associated with violent behaviour
 - Expressed concern that if the store closed, individuals may seek alternative sources
 - Cannabis is beneficial for both mental and physical well-being and less harmful than alcohol
 - Limiting access to cannabis could contribute to increased alcohol related issues
 - Closing the cannabis store will increase illegal activity
 - Safer to walk to a cannabis store in a central area to avoid walking alone at night
 - Business owners are good people, and it would be unfortunate to see the business close
 - Cannabis is used for pain management
 - Central location eliminates paying transportation costs
 - Store is discreet with no apparent impact on children or youth
 - A long-time resident expressed concerns that the proposed relocation could lead to increased traffic and/or unwanted activity in the area
 - Potential issues include limited parking
 - Promotes unhoused, unemployed transients to have a location to congregate
 - Opposed the relocation due to the proximity to the school, bus stop and income support services
 - Suggested that the location on Federal Road is sufficient for Iqaluit
- Resident named Kaitlyn supported the relocation as the cannabis store benefits the community by helping a local business to remain open and continue to grow
 - Important to have a safe and legal purchasing environment rather than relying on unsafe or illegal sources
- Mr. Leslie, parent of a student at Nakasuk School, expressed support for the relocation
 - Store is not highly visible
- Submissions received:
 - Fourteen submissions were received supporting the relocation, but did not provide reasonings
 - Seven submissions were received supporting the relocation and provided reasonings
 - Two submissions were received opposing the relocation

Mayor Awa called for input from the public.

Kevin Ikeno, business operator of Higher Experience, made the following comments:

- Proposal is not a new store
- Relocation of existing cannabis business is approximately 30 metres from the current location
- Operating in the community since April 2024
- During that time, worked hard to operate a professional, compliant and respectful business
- Most customers are local residents
- Store has become part of the day-to-day aspects of the community
- Move is to improve the space to make it more efficient, better organized and better customer experience
- Store will continue to meet all the regulatory requirements and community expectations
- Important that the store will be relocated in the same neighbourhood and will continue to have the same customer base and store operator
- No change in the business
- Willing to work with the City and community to address any concerns
- Goal is to operate in a way that positively reflects on the industry and the community

Mayor Awa called for input from the public a second time.

Mayor Awa called for input from the public a third and final time.

Hearing none, Mayor Awa deemed Public Hearing #03 closed at 5:41 p.m.



Mayor Solomon Awa
Chair

Brianna Longworth
City Clerk

Approved by City Council on the 12th day of May 2026.

