

MINUTES
Town Hall Meeting
January 25, 2016
Page 1

MINUTES

TOWN HALL MEETING
OF
January 25, 2016
5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
THE DALLES, OREGON

PRESIDING: Mayor Stephen Lawrence

COUNCIL PRESENT: Russ Brown, Tim McGlothlin, Taner Elliott, Linda Miller

COUNCIL ABSENT: Dan Spatz

STAFF PRESENT: Interim City Manager Julie Krueger, City Attorney Gene Parker, Recording Secretary Izetta Grossman, Senior Planner Dawn Hert, Police Chief Jay Waterbury, Project Coordinator Daniel Hunter

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lawrence at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was conducted by Recording Secretary Grossman; Councilor Spatz absent.

PRESENTATIONS REGARDING MARIJUANA ISSUES

Mayor Lawrence reviewed the format of the meeting, and introduced Rob Bovett, counsel for Association of Oregon Counties.

City Attorney Parker reviewed the staff report, and handed the meeting over to Mr. Bovett.

Bovett reviewed Measure 91 – the decriminalization of possession of marijuana for people over

MINUTES
Town Hall Meeting
January 25, 2016
Page 2

21 years of age. He said the measure went into effect in July 2015, noting that cities and counties cannot re-criminalize marijuana.

He said the City can decide what types of businesses it would allow, and that was the topic of discussion. He said there are two ways to regulate businesses, put the question on the ballot for the voters to decide, or by updating or creating new Land Use Development and general ordinances.

Bovett said that OLCC accepted applications beginning January 4, 2016 for four classes of businesses. He said OLCC intends to phase in the classes, with growers in the spring, processors and laboratories in late spring or summer, and retail in the fall.

Bovett said that current medical dispensaries cannot also sell retail when the early start sales end on December 31, 2016. He said that the medical dispensaries could convert to retail stores and then sell both retail and medical marijuana.

Bovett said the 3% local tax had to be voter approved. He further explained that the distribution of the state tax was based on net not gross. He said OLCC had to pay back loans from the alcohol funds before any distribution could be made. He said distribution would be 40% to the School Fund; 25% to alcohol and drug treatment; 15% to Oregon State Police; and 10% each to cities and counties for enforcement.

In response to a question he said that while marijuana was a Federal Controlled Substances Act Schedule 1, the Federal Prosecution Discretion gave flexibility and that the federal government was not prosecuting if compliant with state laws.

Testimony:

Karen Wilson, Jackie Williams, Maria Pena and Debby Jones spoke in opposition to retail sales and requested that Council do the research and consider the consequences to the children of the community. Karen Wilson had a handout from the National Institute for Drug Abuse newsletter. (attached)

Chief Waterbury said he felt the voters should decide.

Luke Taner, Ed Solher, Jessie Brewer and Holly Morris spoke in favor of retail sales and production.

Mayor Lawrence thanked everyone for attending and said a decision would be made at a future Council Meeting.

MINUTES
Town Hall Meeting
January 25, 2016
Page 3

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by/
Izetta Grossman
Recording Secretary

SIGNED:



Stephen E. Lawrence, Mayor

ATTEST:



Izetta Grossman, Recording Secretary