

City of Chula Vista

Meeting Minutes - Final

Thursday, October 26, 2017

6:00 PM

Council Chambers
276 4th Avenue, Building A
Chula Vista, CA 91910

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Chula Vista was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, located in City Hall, 276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista, California.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmember Aguilar, Councilmember Diaz, Deputy Mayor McCann, Councilmember Padilla and Mayor Casillas Salas

Also Present: City Manager Halbert, City Attorney Googins, City Clerk Bigelow, and Deputy City Clerk Larrarte

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilmember Aguilar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

WORKSHOP

1. [17-0475](#) CANNABIS (MARIJUANA) POLICY IN THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA
As a follow up to the City's previous discussions on this topic, this workshop shall include Staff Presentations, Input from the Public, City Council Discussions and Directions to Staff Regarding Possible Changes to the City's Current Policies Banning Commercial Cannabis Businesses in Chula Vista.

City Attorney Googins, Deputy City Manager Bacon, Deputy City Attorney McClurg, Development Services Director Broughton gave a presentation on the item and answered questions of the Council.

Staff answered questions of the Council and discussion ensued.

The following members of the public spoke in support of legalizing and regulating commercial marijuana sales:

- Kelly Paulson, Chula Vista resident
- Ken Sobel
- Mickey Kasparian, UFCW Local 135
- Daniel Green
- Gina Austin, San Diego resident
- Andrew Deddeh, Chula Vista resident
- Dorian Zaentz, Chula Vista resident
- Edgar Garcia, Chula Vista resident, representing Green Seed Investments

The following members of the public spoke in opposition to legalizing commercial marijuana sales:

- Niesha Hernandez, Chula Vista resident*
- Michael Monaco, Chula Vista resident*
- Sara Fernando, Bonita resident*
- Vanessa McEvoy, Chula Vista resident*
- Art Castanares, Chula Vista resident*
- David Oyos, representing the Chula Vista Police Officers Association*
- Janelly Favela, Chula Vista resident*
- Manolo Guillen, Chula Vista resident*
- Carol Green, Chula Vista resident*

Mark Hoekstra, representing The Heritage Group, spoke in opposition to allowing marijuana sales in industrial zones.

Ali Golchi, Chula Vista resident, expressed concern regarding illegal marijuana dispensaries.

Virginia Jensen, Coronado resident, representing Terry Enterprises, expressed concern regarding illegal marijuana dispensaries and requested information regarding the petition that was being circulated.

At the request of Councilmember Aguilar, there was consensus of the Council to direct staff to plan an additional Council workshop to discuss a potential draft ordinance.

Councilmembers spoke in support of including the following provisions in a draft ordinance that would regulate cannabis:

- Councilmember Diaz: limiting advertising at the retail locations; considering fire safety concerns; requiring video surveillance; considering the proximity of potential retail locations to drug treatment centers; requiring the tracking of cannabis sales and sources of products sold; and implementing a criminal prosecution unit.*
- Councilmember Aguilar: protecting areas where children congregate, including parks, schools, and businesses that serve children; considering the proximity of potential retail locations to drug treatment centers; requiring video cameras and other security measures at retail locations; considering regulation of potency of products sold; addressing medicinal and adult use; keeping the kind of use compatible with existing zoning, such as retail use in retail zones; equally distributing locations among council districts, with a cap of two or three businesses per district; implementing a tax range; and she requested additional information regarding cultivation and banking methods for dispensaries.*
- Councilmember Padilla: setting a timetable to direct staff to return to Council with a draft ordinance; permitting cultivation, testing, and manufacturing in industrial zones and retail locations in retail zones; balancing the distribution of retail locations throughout the City; expressly prohibiting any currently unpermitted business from obtaining a license for a future permitted business; periodically reviewing the impacts; considering caps on commercial operations; and earmarking tax revenues for public safety.*
- Deputy Mayor McCann: protecting children; preparing an initiative for the ballot to include taxation; prohibiting retail locations near parks; requiring video cameras and other security measures; allowing one retail location per district; prohibiting any currently unpermitted business from obtaining a license for a future permitted business; including adequate fees for businesses; and considering tax based on the square footage of the business.*
- Mayor Casillas Salas: including a stringent vetting process for permit applicants; and she requested information on a potential oversight committee for the tax revenues.*

There was consensus of the Council to direct staff to return to Council in early December with a draft ordinance for further discussion that incorporated the Council's feedback.

There was consensus of the Council to direct staff to engage with the cannabis industry, with a focus on the industry that was circulating the petition, in order to assist with the process of providing the Council with a draft ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:26 p.m., Mayor Casillas Salas adjourned the meeting to the Special City Council Workshop on November 2, 2017, at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers; and thence to the Regular City Council Meeting on November 7, 2017, at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

Kerry K. Bigelow, MMC, City Clerk