

City of Chula Vista

Meeting Minutes - Final

Thursday, August 3, 2017

4:00 PM

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

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Chula Vista was called to order at 4:01 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, Acting City Clerk Bigelow, and Deputy City Clerk Larrarte

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilmember Padilla led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

WORKSHOP

[17-0306](#) CANNABIS WORKSHOP

Presentation and discussion of current state cannabis laws and the future of local regulations regarding cannabis

Deputy City Manager Bacon, Deputy City Attorney McClurg, and Police Chief Kennedy presented information on the item and answered questions of the Council.

The following members of the public spoke in support of regulations that would allow cannabis sales in the City:

- Sam Elhomsy, Bonita resident, representing Pharmacists Association, and he gave a presentation*
- David King, San Diego resident, and he also expressed concerns regarding marijuana use*
- Alan Cassell, Chula Vista resident*
- Mike Barbee, San Diego resident, representing Lighthouse Pharmacy*
- Theresa Acerro, Chula Vista resident, and she also spoke in support of adequate staffing for regulation, inspections, and criminal enforcement*
- Ken Sobel, San Diego resident, representing Grow for Vets US California*
- Mickey Kasparian, San Diego resident, representing UFCW Local 135*
- Sapphire Blackwood, San Diego resident, representing Association of Cannabis Professionals*
- Derek Candelario, Chula Vista resident*

The following members of the public spoke in opposition to regulations that would allow cannabis sales in the City:

- Manolo Guillen, Chula Vista resident*
- William Perno, Chula Vista resident*
- Kathleen Lippitt, Poway resident, representing San Diegans for Safe Neighborhoods*

John Redman, San Diego resident, representing CADFY, spoke regarding issues with marijuana sale and use in other countries.

Carol Green, Chula Vista resident, spoke in opposition to commercializing marijuana.

Randy Epstein, Chula Vista resident, submitted a request but declined to speak.

At the request of Councilmember Padilla, there was consensus of the Council to request a summary of the recent trip Mayor Casillas Salas and staff took to Aurora, Colorado to learn about Aurora's implementation of cannabis regulations.

At the request of Mayor Casillas Salas, there was consensus of the Council to direct staff to provide a report within 90 days on the effects of legalizing and regulating the sale of cannabis, including the following points:

- Efforts of cities that have approved cannabis sales, both regulatory and educational, to prevent and reduce the use of cannabis by minors;*
- Potential or proposed regulations that may be required to protect public safety;*
- Zoning requirements to prevent clustering of cannabis operations and to protect the City's neighbors and economy;*
- Regulations and resources needed to quickly shut down unlicensed operations, as well as costs associated with current efforts to close illegal operations; and*
- Additional information on the two initiatives that had been submitted to the city clerk, including efforts to inform and solicit input from the public.*

Councilmember Diaz requested staff also provide information on the following:

- Anticipated resources and costs for all affected departments to administer a legalized cannabis program, including education, prevention, and treatment programs;*
- Cost for the City Attorney to implement a criminal prosecution unit; and*
- Actions the City could take to oppose the proposed initiatives.*

Councilmember Diaz also spoke in support of staff creating a webpage to make materials provided to the City available to the public, including reports and studies.

Councilmember Padilla requested staff also provide information on the following:

- Research and information on the correlation between individual use and access to cannabis;*
- Options for potential regulations to address safety concerns related to cash-based businesses; and*
- The ability of local regulations to control aspects of cannabis sales, such as the potency and availability of certain products to specified age groups.*

City Attorney Googins provided information on the citizen initiative process and related timeline.

Councilmember Aguilar requested staff also provide information on the following:

- Possible regulations related to cultivation;*
- Ability to limit the amount of THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) in products; and*
- Regulations to limit advertising and signage of dispensaries.*

Councilmember Aguilar also spoke in support of illegal dispensaries being closed quickly and requested additional information on the resources necessary to do so.

Deputy Mayor McCann requested staff also provide information on the following:

- Protections for children and neighborhoods, such as buffers between dispensaries and houses, parks, and schools;*
- Potential impacts on public safety and ensuring affected departments would have adequate resources to address the effects; and*
- The status of Federal law and the 1970 Controlled Substance Act, in conjunction with local cannabis legalization efforts.*

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:40 p.m., Mayor Casillas Salas adjourned the meeting to the Regular City Council Meeting on August 8, 2017, at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

Kerry K. Bigelow, Acting City Clerk