

**CITY OF UMATILLA
PUBLIC HEARING
AUGUST 04, 2015**

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Trott commenced the Public Hearing at 7:00pm. Mayor Trott explained that each individual providing testimony would have fifteen minutes to present. Mayor Trott also explained that they would not take each ordinance individually, they would take comments on both. He asked the audience to make clear in their commentary which one they were addressing.

Tammie Williams – providing testimony in support for adopting the medical marijuana permitting process, which is Ordinance No. 804. She explained that she was a registered nurse, who has worked in local hospitals for thirty-three years. She stated that her testimony was her personal opinion and in no way represented the hospital that she worked for. In the hospital that she works for, she had mainly done intensive care and has worked with very critically ill patients, with chronic pain, debilitating pain that has caused damage. She sits on the Umatilla County Planning Commission, and she asked to be on the on the Umatilla County Marijuana Dispensary Study Committee. She was not asked to be on the committee, she asked to be on it, for one reason only, for the patients she has seen through the years, the pain she has seen through the years, and the options that they have today in this world. Not everybody can afford medical insurance, and not everybody can get on the state level where they can pay for treatment. When she has patients at the hospital, she sees patients that come in that are not taking any medication because they cannot afford to get them refilled. They go in and in, lose their houses, then finally get on state healthcare, but the damage has already been done. She is here to support medical marijuana at least on a trial basis, for the six hundred plus people in the community in Umatilla County. She has heard it said that in many places are all drug seekers and they all want just to get high. She has seen people who take it because they have no other choice, and they are very sick, and for them to get in a car take a trip even two hours away to purchase medical marijuana is almost impossible. She does not promote all forms of marijuana. She is not saying that it is totally safe. She does say that there are risks, but is another option for people who are chronically ill with chronic pain. It does work for some things. Yes, there are risk factors.

It's the stigma of recreational marijuana in this area, among many things, that it is the gateway to hell. Yes, it is addicting. In one of the Oregon State Bar bulletins it states that only eleven percent of medical marijuana users are dependent on the drug, compared to twenty-three percent who depend on heroin and other opiates. Seventeen percent depend on cocaine. Fifteen percent depend on cigarettes or alcohol, and thirty-two depend on cigarettes. She looked at death charts, related to these addictions, which was released in 2013, medical marijuana had zero deaths to finding the cause. Opiates which are morphine, Dilaudid, pills that you take home had fifteen-thousand deaths, and alcohol had forty-thousand, cigarettes had something like forty-five-thousand. You can look this up, you can Google it. Marijuana as a primary cause of death had zero. She is still not saying it is safe. She is still not saying that there are not problems or that it does not need to be studied, but at least it provides another option for people that don't have insurance, and that do have chronic pain. At this point, there have been no studies conducted that shows it takes out your kidneys, or liver, or lungs, but even over the counter Tylenol can. If you have ever seen an overdose with Tylenol, it is horrible.

So, she is just asking that maybe you look at it, even if just on a trial basis and see if the people who really need it in this community are using it. Whoever opens up the shop, and give it a chance to see if it's helping the people who really need it in Umatilla County. She knows that Umatilla County as a whole voted down recreational marijuana, but there has not been a vote on medical marijuana in many years. She would have voted down medical marijuana eighteen years ago, maybe even fifteen years ago, but she would never vote it down now. She stated that as a nurse, she does not believe in alcohol intoxication or marijuana intoxication, or drugs the only time she thinks someone should be using is when someone is chronically ill or in pain. She does not like to see people suffer.

Esteban Rodarte – Asked the audience how many took prescription medication for a condition they suffered from. Arthritis, back pain, muscular spasms, insomnia. What if the government was making it dangerous, or at the very least inconvenient for you to have reasonable access to your medication? Imagine, you have to call a friend, maybe another patient to get in touch with a third party to alleviate your pain, help you sleep, help you eat? How long do you think you could tolerate shopping in the black market or driving half a day to obtain medication safely? He would be willing to guess it would be tiresome very quickly. What about the patients who are mobile impaired? What about the patients with no connections to any of these channels? Not everyone can grow their own medication due to housing circumstances, apartment, rentals, and even if housing was not the issue, not everyone knows how to, and not everybody wants to. What do you say to these people? He understands that some people in the room believe medical marijuana is a valuable therapy. It is not his place to question the validity or the effectiveness of it. The numbers speak for themselves.

Currently, over six-hundred patients in Umatilla County have registered medical marijuana cards and it is to improve their quality of life. He asked them, what is the City's responsibility to its citizens to provide safe and regulated treatment? What is the liability if we refuse to? These are the questions we must ask ourselves. He only advocates them because cannabis became a legitimate medicine in 1998. We should take some responsibility to provide safe access to these patients for their medication. The only way for these patients to obtain their medication is through state regulated dispensaries, patient to patient exchange under the program, and the black market. Realistically there is only one avenue that ensures patients will have safe access to their medication.

Boyd Sharp – Asked the Council if the City banned medical marijuana, could it be reversed by the Council? He said that the Council could ban marijuana until they could figure out what to do with the zoning. Manager Ward explained that it was possible to outright ban, then reverse or lift the ban, if the Council so chose to go that route.

Tomas Raden - Just wanted to let the Council know that he was in support of medical marijuana dispensaries, but was not on the same subject of where they should be located.

William McMillan – Explained to the Council that he used medical marijuana to fight his daily pain from a chronic form of Guillain-Barre Syndrome. He was a Department of Corrections Officer for seventeen years before he was diagnosed with this disorder that attacks his nervous system and creates constant pins and needles feeling on his limbs. He said that he was completely against marijuana up until three years ago. He has found that

using marijuana on days that his pain is bad is a preferable choice to addictive opiates of alcohol. He showed the Council a quart size Ziploc bag full of medication that was prescribed to him by the doctors. He stated that medical marijuana helped him cope with the pain better than the medication that was destroying his liver and kidneys.

Mark Ribich – Told the Council that he did not realize dispensaries would be allowed in Umatilla. He moved from the Seattle area trying to escape the pot, and had he known Umatilla would allow it here, he and his family would have moved to Montana.

Mayor Trott called for further testimony. Seeing none, he closed the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 7:37pm.

**CITY OF UMATILLA
COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 04, 2015**

- 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Mayor Trott called the meeting to order at 7:37pm.
- 2. ROLL CALL:**
 - PRESENT:** Councilors Dedrick, Ray, Fenton, Lougee, and TenEyck.
 - ABSENT:** Councilor Farnsworth.
 - STAFF PRESENT:** Recorder Sandoval, Manager Ward, Finance Director Ince, Planner Searles, Public Works Director Pelleberg, and Chief Huxel.
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited at 7:38pm.
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** It was moved by Councilor Fenton to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Lougee. Voted: 5-0. Motion Carried.
- 5. PRESENTATION:** None.
- 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** It was moved by Councilor Ray to approve minutes for July 07, 2015. It was seconded by Councilor Fenton. Voted: 5-0. Motion Carried.
- 7. PUBLIC COMMENT:**
 - 7.1 Boyd Sharp – He does not know what has changed in the Council Chambers, but he can actually hear the Council Members.
 - 7.2 Karen Hutchinson - Talaski – Wanted to inform the Council that foot traffic and visitation in the Chamber of Commerce has gone up by three percent from last year, and nine percent from earlier in the year.
- 8. CONSENT AGENDA:** It was moved by Councilor Dedrick to approve item 8.1(a) CRIS, Inc. It was seconded by Councilor Lougee. Voted 4-1-0. Councilor Ray abstained. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Councilor Ray to approve item 8.1(c) All Remaining Invoices. It was seconded by Councilor TenEyck. Voted 5-0. Motion Carried.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

It was moved by Councilor Fenton to declare a vacancy in the Code Improvement Board, removing Magdalena Bombela due to lack of attendance. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dedrick. Voted: 5-0. Motion Carried.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

It was decided that there would be a special workshop to hash out what the issues were with the zoning ordinance and to refocus the Council on their main priorities. The special workshop would take place on August 06, 2015 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

11.1 Ordinance No. 804 - An Ordinance Adopting the Medical Marijuana Permitting Process, and Declaring an Emergency. It was moved by Councilor Ray to have a first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor TenEyck. Voted 2-3. Councilor Dedrick, Lougee, and Fenton voted against the motion. Councilor Ray and TenEyck voted for the motion. Motion Failed.

11.2 Ordinance No. 805 - An Ordinance Prohibiting Medical Marijuana and Recreational Marijuana Processing Sites, and Declaring an Emergency. It was moved by Councilor Lougee to have a first reading of Ordinance No. 805. It was seconded by Councilor Fenton. Voted: 5-0. Motion Carried. Recorder Sandoval read Ordinance No. 805 – AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING MEDICAL AND RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA PROCESSING SITES, MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES, MARIJUANA PRODUCERS, MARIJUANA processors, MARIJUANA WHOLESALERS AND MARIJUANA RETAILERS IN THE CITY OF UMATILLA AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Councilor TenEyck to table further discussion on Ordinance No. 805 until the August 18th meeting. It was moved by Councilor Dedrick. Voted: 4-1. Councilor Fenton voted against the motion.

11.3 Resolution No. 03-2016 - A Resolution Authorizing the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and the State of Oregon Department. Manager Ward explained that the Department of Energy called to provide land use polices and cost. The State will reimburse the City for any additional costs. Councilor Fenton moved to approve Resolution No. 03-2016. Councilor TenEyck seconded the motion. Voted: 5-0. Motion Carried.

11.4 Resolution No. 04-2016 – A Resolution Relating to Medical Marijuana Facility Permit Application and Investigation. Manager Ward explained since a first reading for Ordinance No. 804 failed, it would make this resolution a moot point. No action was taken on this resolution.

12. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT:

13.1 Boyd Sharp - Asked the Council to really think about what they were taking into consideration when it came to medical marijuana and zoning. He said the council could ban it and then reverse it, if they wanted to. This might be the better option for everyone who is affected.

13.2 Esteban Rodarte – Addressed the Council by stating that we don't have to follow Hermiston. Having a medical marijuana dispensary could bring in more revenue for our small town and more tax funds for the local schools. He was glad that the Council finally decided to go one way, and thanked them for listening to him.

14. MAYOR'S MESSAGE: Wanted to thank everyone for attending. There have been some heavy discussion on what Umatilla needs to do, and just wanted to remind everyone that there would be a special workshop on the 6th at 6:00pm.

15. STAFF REPORT: Manager Ward explained that he would be out of the office starting the sixth and he would return on the sixteenth. The quarterly newsletter would get out before the end of the month. There will be some paving done on Old River Road, but he expects that to go fairly quickly. Rates went up and there have been no real issues with it. The Code Improvement Board has been working on a revision to the Code, which will enable them to have more jurisdiction over abatement of nuisances.

16. COUNCIL INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

16.1 Councilor Dedrick – Thanked the audience for coming. She was a recent attendee at a workshop put on by Oregon Volunteers! She is excited about what she has learned and is hopeful to have more resources available.

16.2 Councilor Ray- Thanked the audience for coming. He feels more educated on the issues they have been discussing for that last several months.

16.3 Councilor Lougee - He is glad he has had the opportunity to work with each of the Council Members. He feels optimistic that they will come around on the zoning issue.

16.4 Councilor TenEyck – He appreciates the needs of the medical marijuana community. However, he cannot agree with the recreational aspect of cannabis. He does believe that the Council will come to an agreement and will need to work through their issues.

17. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: ORS 192.660 (2)(g)

18. RECONVENE:

19. ADJOURN: There will be a special workshop held on Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers. There will be a Council meeting on August 18, 2015 at 7:00pm. It was moved by Councilor Dedrick to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Councilor TenEyck. Voted: 5-0. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:32.

David P. Trott – Mayor

ATTEST:

Nanci Sandoval – City Recorder