

CITY OF WILLIAMS CITY COUNCIL

ANNOTATED MINUTES
AGENDA ITEM

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JANUARY 23, 2014
COUNCIL ACTION

I. PROCEDURES:

- A. Call to Order Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- B. Pledge and Invocation Police Chief Herman Nixon led the pledge of allegiance, and Ruth Sanzari offered the invocation.
- C. Roll Call Mayor John Moore, Vice Mayor Don Dent, and Councilmen Bernie Hiemenz, Frank McNelly, and Lee Payne were present and constituted a quorum. Councilmen Craig Fritsinger and James Wurgler were absent.

Present from City Staff were Brandon Buchanan, City Manager, Police Chief Herman Nixon, Finance Director Keith Buonocore, Building Inspector Tim Pettit, and City Clerk/HR Director Susan Kerley.
- D. Approval of Minutes January 9, 2014 Councilman Dent made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Hiemenz seconded the motion, and it carried 4-0.
- E. Adopt Agenda Councilman McNelly made a motion to adopt the Agenda as presented. Councilman Payne seconded the motion, and it carried 4-0.

II. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Catholic Charities Community Services/ Supportive Services for Veteran Families: Andrea Leggett, Outreach Specialist
Andrea Leggett and Mark Tierce explained the Supportive Services for Veterans and Families program:
- Its goal is to prevent homelessness and evictions.
 - They've received more than \$1 million for assistance.
 - They can pay five months of housing expenses forward or backward.
 - Other expenses, like childcare, transportation, and utilities, can be covered.
 - The region they cover includes Coconino County and East Yavapai County.
 - They are trying to get support from outlying communities.
 - Part of their job is to go around getting support from local authorities, churches, motels, apartments, etc.
 - Veterans need only to call an 800 number and fill out minimal paperwork to get assistance.
 - Assistance is available for an individual veteran, veteran and spouse, veteran and significant other, or veteran and unrelated group.
 - This grant is good for one year, and they anticipate getting it for another two years.
 - Mark said his forte is getting out into the woods and remote areas, taking donations of water, sleeping bags, blankets, and hygiene packs to those who do not want to be

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housed.

- Mayor Moore told them he thinks they will find our community to be supportive of their program.
- Vice-Mayor Dent asked for an estimate of homeless veterans in Coconino County. Andrea replied that approximately 200 were assisted in Coconino County and East Yavapai County last year; however, some don't want to be housed.
- Mark added that last winter in Flagstaff alone over 200 veterans were assisted, but this is a highly transient population.
- They left business cards and pens for distribution.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Chris Novosol reported that, during Polar Express season, it was great to see lights in the Park at 1st Street and Railroad Avenue. She believes it would be nice to have lights on a timer at least from November through March for security reasons. She finds the Park to be a cool little place. Mayor Moore thanked Ms. Novosol for her interest and noted that Council cannot respond at this time, but they will look at maybe placing it on a future Council Agenda.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

B. Approval of Purchase Orders: K. Buonocore

Councilman Dent made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Councilman Hiemenz seconded the motion, and it carried 4-0.

CONVENE TO PUBLIC HEARING (7:14 p.m.)

Pursuant to A.R.S. 9-462.04, the public will be heard on its comments regarding a Request by Cannabis Research Group for a Conditional Use Permit to relocate its Marijuana Dispensary to a better-equipped building on (APN) Assessor's Parcel Number 200-07-006, located at 324 East Railroad Avenue.

Mayor Moore explained that this Public Hearing is not to discuss the use of marijuana. It relates only to a request for a Conditional Use Permit for 324 East Railroad Avenue. He then invited the public to speak.

Ruth Sanzari of 2900 W. Luces Road believes that something this important should be brought to residents on a ballot or a survey. She continued by saying a ramp could be built at the present location. A contractor who looked at it said one could be built on the east side of the steps. She concluded by adding that three members of P & Z voted "no, and they must have a good reason and suggested that Council deny the move.

Judy Givens, no address given, said her only concern is the unresolved question of whether they are planning for further expansion.

Ryan Schmitz, 420 S. 4th Street, thinks that some townspeople have reached a consensus that they don't want this move/expansion, not from its inception, not for its expansion.

High School Student, no name or address given, sees that an expansion will allow a better product. He doesn't think the town needs an increase in medical marijuana and asked Council to deny this request.

Tim Moore, Cannabis Research Group, explained that this relocation is not about expansion; it allows addition of handicap access, a kitchen for preparing edibles, and a wall for patient

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privacy. He pointed out what would happen if the dispensary were not here: Under Proposition 203, 96% of the State is covered by halos. This means patients or caregivers cannot grow their own medical marijuana. If the dispensary were not here, up to 12 lbs. per patient could be grown every ninety days. The dispensary deters growing plants in town and distributing marijuana onto the black market.

RE-CONVENED TO REGULAR SESSION (7:27 p.m.)

VI. NON-CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

C. Council will consider this request and may approve it: J. Moore

Councilman McNelly asked Chief Nixon about experience with the dispensary since its opening. Chief Nixon said if you didn't know it was there, you wouldn't know it was there. The Department has received one call for service in one year and that was generated by the owners because of a separating employee. They haven't had one problem. If the dispensary were not here and people in the community were allowed to grow their own marijuana, it would be a nightmare for the City. Patients who purchase medical marijuana may put some on the street, but the cost of medical marijuana would prohibit most users from purchasing it.

Councilman Dent said he understands it is the right decision for the community. The law allowing dispensaries is here, and we have to deal with it. The expansion to have a kitchen will allow them to produce and to sell to other facilities that don't have kitchens.

Councilman Payne asked if the new location will be as secure as the current one. Tim Moore said the security level will be exactly the same except that they are adding cameras for the kitchen.

Mayor Moore concluded the discussion by adding that folks initially had concerns about the dispensary locating on Route 66. This was one of the bigger objections. The dispensary's move off Route 66 should ease those concerns.

Councilman Dent made a motion to allow the Request for a Conditional Use Permit for APN 200-07-006, 324 E. Railroad Avenue. Councilman McNelly seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken.

- Councilman Dent *Yes*
- Councilman McNelly *Yes*
- Councilman Hiemenz *Yes*
- Councilman Payne *Yes*
- Mayor Moore *Yes*

The motion carried 5-0.

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VII. *REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS:*

- D. Mayor and Council None
- E. Staff Reports None

IX. *ADJOURN:*

Councilman McNelly made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Councilman Payne. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Mayor John Moore

ATTEST:

City Clerk

