

TOWN HALL MEETING
CITY OF AMITY, OR

Minutes

A Town Hall Meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday October 24, 2022, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 109 Maddox, Amity, Oregon.

Councilors Present

Councilor Melissa Bojorquez, Councilor Acie Dunlap (late), Councilor April Dyché and Mayor Rachel King.

Councilors Present via Zoom

None

Councilors Absent

Councilor Denis Saucier, Councilor Cody Goings and Councilor Sandy McArthur

Staff Present

City Administrator Mike Thomas and City Treasurer/Recorder Natasha Johnson

1. PSILOCYBIN BALLOT MEASURE:

Mayor King detailed the specifics of the upcoming ballot measure regarding psilocybin and went over the background for why the city seeks the voters' input. Councilor Dyché elaborated on some of the particulars. Then Councilor Bojorquez informed the community that the city seeks the community's feedback on psilocybin and since the City of Amity was able to place it on the ballot at no cost to the city.

With no further comments, Mayor King opened the floor up to the community for any comments or questions they had for council. Citizen L. Engel asked council if there were any requirements for the City to accommodate and provide for psilocybin within the community. Mayor King replied that the City of Amity cannot violate the state's approved measure by enacting ordinances that are openly discriminatory to psilocybin businesses. Citizen L. Engel then asked how voters can ensure this measure goes on ballot to vote in the future. Mayor King replied, the next time this measure could go on a ballot is in two years (2024) as we already have the moratorium on the ballot this year.

Next, Citizen E. Silverman asked for clarification regarding if the use of psilocybin is only for medical services or as a retail business. Mayor King answered that psilocybin will be dispensed to a person in a building by a facilitator.

Councilor Bojorquez concluded that council didn't feel comfortable without knowing what the parameters will be for psilocybin in the state and the two-year moratorium will give council more time to figure it out.

2. INTRODUCTION OF ANY CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES:

Citizen L. Engel asked what the requirements are to be able to run for council. Administrator Thomas stated the requirements.

Mayor King stated to the community that there were two open positions and then described what the time commitment is for being on council. Councilor Bojorquez stated how she joined council, and why, and clarified that she was appointed, not elected. Councilor Dyché explained that while she was elected, she did a write-in campaign.

Citizen M. Jackson asked if out of town citizens could join. Mayor King explained that per the established requirements, all candidates must reside within city limits. Councilor Dyché described the logic behind that requirement. City Recorder Johnson mentioned that the one needs to pay taxes to the community in which they reside to represent it.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

Citizen L. Engel followed-up an earlier question by asking what a yes or no vote on the ballot measure accomplished. Mayor King replied by describing what each vote accomplished. Then she explained Council has directed Amity's Planning Commission to start putting rules in to place regarding psilocybin. Mayor King informed Ms. Engel that City Staff will publish more information out to the public.

Citizen D. Brockman stated to Council that her father and his friends want to know if the city can reestablish Amity Police Department. Mayor King explained that now it is not financially possible for the city to bring back the police department. Councilor Dyche stated that this is a request that is brought up every year at the City's goal setting meeting and becomes a topic of discussion. Citizen Brockman asked what the City receives for its current contract with the County Sheriffs. Mayor King explained what is included in the current contract.

Citizen D. Brockman then asked what the requirements are to be able to run for council. Administrator Thomas stated the requirements.

Citizen B. Brockman asked if there were any restrictions against private entities installing speed bumps on certain public streets. Mayor King requested that he leave his contact info and the city do some research and get back to him. He also asked how the city is handling rat complaints. Administrator Thomas explained that the city is currently working on some of rat complaints, described how these complaints were progressing, and then recommended to the citizen to turn in a new complaint form if he was still seeing rats. Then Administrator Thomas detailed the complaint process.

Citizen M. Jackson advocated for filing complaints and complimented the city by stating that having filed a complaint, City Staff kept her informed as to the process and progress of her complaint. Then Citizen M. Jackson brought up her concern about loose dogs within the community and how with the change in responsibilities for dog catching being now up to the County, if the city would support getting volunteers to go door to door to hand out info regarding loose dogs. Mayor King stated she will check with county to see about getting more information out to public.

Citizen B. Brockman asked for a final update regarding ballot measure on psilocybin. Mayor King summarized the ballot measure for her.

Mayor King thanked citizens for coming and adjourned the Town Hall meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Approved by City Council November 2, 2022

Rachel King, Mayor

Attest:

Natasha Johnson, City Recorder