

**City Council Meeting  
October 22, 2019**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Regular Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor LeBarre.

**2. FLAG SALUTE:**

The flag salute was led by Supervisor Lopez.

**3. ROLL CALL:**

City Manager Adams conducted roll call.

City Council: Mike LeBarre, Darlene Acosta, Rob Cullen, Carlos DeLeon, Mayor Pro Tem Carlos Victoria.

City Staff: City Manager Steven Adams; City Attorney Roy Santos; Executive Admin. Asst./Deputy City Clerk, Erica Sonne.

**4. CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None

**5. PRESENTATIONS:**

Helen Putnam Award – Mayor LeBarre went over the City winning the award for Comprehensive Plan to End Youth Violence. City Manager Adams further explained the award and having a booth at the League conference to explain what King City did as a community to end youth violence. They showed the Helen Putnam you Tube presentation. Supervisor Lopez presented the Mayor a framed certificate of recognition. Anna Velazquez from Senator Caballero’s office and a Ricardo Estrada representative of Assemblyman Rivas’ office awarded the Mayor a certificate of recognition.

Council is very proud of the hard work put into this effort and being recognized for it. They feel it needs to continue to do more.

**6. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:**

John Conricod a King City resident stated that we owe it to our children hand on to them a great nation and not a third world cesspool. Billions of people around the world are lacking food, shelter, clean water and medical care. There is no way that America can take in all of the wretched of the world. Allowing mass migration to continue is not a matter of self-sacrifice it is a matter of survival. He further stated that America does not have enough money or resources to help the whole world. He calls on the council to declare itself a no sanctuary city and to pledge full support with ICE.

**7. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Council Member DeLeon stated he didn’t have anything to report. He stated that we have important things we discuss at every meeting; he would encourage people to attend and find out about what is happening. He would like people to come and voice their opinion.

Mayor Pro Tem Victoria stated he had nothing to report.

Council Member Cullen stated he has Solid Waste Authority. He will not be able to attend the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and would like Council member Acosta to see if she is available to attend.

Council Member Acosta stated she had nothing to report

Mayor LeBarre stated that tomorrow he will have his TAMC meeting. He spoke on Water Resources Board meeting and they addressed the dams being checked and assessment fees. There are five years to correct the issues that have been found.

## **8. CITY STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS:**

City Manager Steven Adams stated that the City did a full-scale disaster training exercise that included Cal Water, both school districts, hospital, EOC, planning, local press KRKC and the Rustler participated as well. This type of exercise sets us apart from any other city.

City Attorney Roy Santos stated that it was an honor to work at the booth with staff and it was amazing the amount of people that were interested in how the City did the Comprehensive Plan to End Youth Violence.

## **9. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2019 Council Meeting
- B. City of King September 21 thru October 11, 2019 Check Register
- C. City of King Successor Agency September 21 thru October 11, 2019 Check Register
- D. Consideration: Award of Bid for the 2019 King City Sediment Removal Project

Action: Motion to approve consent agenda items A- D by Victoria and seconded by Cullen.

AYES: Council Members: Mayor LeBarre, Acosta, Cullen, DeLeon and Mayor Pro Tem Victoria

NOES: Council Members:

ABSENT: Council Members:

ABSTAIN: Council Members:

## **10. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None

## **11. REGULAR BUSINESS:**

- A Consideration: Potential Changes to Cannabis Regulations

City Manager Adams introduced this item with a PowerPoint.

Principal Planner Scott Bruce and City Attorney Roy Santos are available for questions.

Dispensaries – Cannot be within 600 ft. of a school or daycare.

Dispensary Locations –

- Industrial Area – not recommended by staff

- First Street Corridor- limited spaces due to 600 ft. rule

- Highway Service Areas

- Zoning Overlay

Restriction of Dispensaries Adjacent to Residential  
Process for Issuing Permits

- Limit to 2
- Require Ownership or Lese of Property
- Rank Based on Criteria
- First Come First Served or Lottery
- Hybrid Approach
  - Strict Standards
  - Performance Criteria
  - Contract Scoring
  - Applicants Above Minimum Score Enter Lottery
- Reimburse Cost of 18,000 through application fee

Tax Rates

- Reduce Cultivation to \$10 per square foot
- Apply CPI Increase to Manufacturing Rate January 2020
- Ballot Measure in November 2020
  - Increase Manufacturing Rate
  - Add Dispensary Tax of 5% of Gross Receipts
  - Add Tax on Distribution
  - Add Tax on Hemp Manufacturing

Hemp Manufacturing in C-2 Zone

- Concerns
  - Costs of Process and Environmental Review
  - Impact on Space for other light industrial uses
  - Potential Impact on Residential Areas
  - Change to First Street Corridor Plan w/o Analysis
- Costs of Processing Zone Change \$23,500 - \$28,500
- Options

Council gave staff direction on drafting changes to the City's cannabis ordinance to address issues related to allowing for cannabis dispensaries, changes to tax rates, expanding zones where hemp manufacturing is allowed, and other proposed Code changes.

Maricela Lopez doesn't feel that dispensaries are going to help our community.

Dorothy Errea congratulated the City on the Helen Putnam Award, but she does not approve of dispensaries of Marijuana in the City of King. She feels it is morally wrong. She spends a lot of money here and would hate to come and not be able to spend her money in King City.

Maricela Herrera stated that she is concerned that a dispensary is not the right thing for King City. She feels that this comes from the economic side, but she doesn't know if it is good for the youth with the items that will be sold. They have chemicals and we do not know the long-term effect. She feels that this is going to affect the youth of the City.

Brandon Gesicki thanked the staff for their report. He doesn't live in King City however he lives in Carmel and there is a dispensary and there has been no incident with youth or crime as there is no way to get

into the building without passing the security. The dispensary also tests the product and it is tracked and traced back to where it came from. Having dispensaries will draw the right kind of people to town.

Anna Quintana she is in favor of dispensaries because she needs it for her health condition, and she doesn't want to have to drive to Salinas or Grover Beach.

True leaf is in favor of a dispensary.

Cory a resident of King City wants to keep the taxes at a good rate. She is in favor of it. There is a lot of money to be made.

Ron Glantz owner of MD BioDesign. He has never had any problems in any of his dispensaries. He feels that they are better than pharmacies. He is in favor.

Carol Umbarger is for dispensaries and it is used for medical use and she feels it is a benefit for the community.

Kevin Malcolm is in favor of dispensaries it has helped him stay off of heroin for the last 20 years and he would like to not have to do the drive for marijuana.

Joselyn Spears she is in favor of dispensaries and education on cannabis.

City Attorney Santos clarified that the age limit for medical cannabis dispensaries is 18. Dispensaries would be subject to the same requirements as other cannabis businesses in the City.

Council Member Cullen urged some of the community to get informed on medical cannabis and its uses. Medical Cannabis being sold in King City is collecting the tax on the deliveries being made to homes in King City. He feels we would capture the tax dollars. Quality of the product in a dispensary is not dangerous. This is a mechanism to bring tax dollars in and he supports dispensaries. He likes the hybrid approach.

Council Member Acosta stated that she has years of experiences with drugs and alcohol. She asked how much tax has brought in. Scott Bruce stated about \$60,000. She feels that we have not gotten as much as we have thought we would. She feels that safety is an issue. She has seen that this council move forward with items and not listen to the concern. She brought items from Butler school that were confiscated from students. There is an epidemic of drugs and marijuana in school. She cannot allow more accessibility. She read a letter into the record from the school district that there is a problem in middle school and high school. She is not in favor of dispensaries.

Mayor Pro Tem Victoria is listening to everyone talking. He said that we do have a big problem at the middle school. His passion is working with the youth.

Council member DeLeon stated that as a former addict he said that it is easy to get alcohol and at a dispensary it is safer because the security is tight. He knows what it is like to have to go to Salinas for treatment. He is in favor of dispensaries because people need it for medical purposes, and we can get money from the taxes to do more with. If we follow staff's recommendation of high standards. He wants us to be a head of the game.

Mayor LeBarre stated that the State is putting things in place that he would like to see the City get a head of. He feels what is best for our residents and our City is to have a mechanism in place that makes our City better. He would like to see a portion of the general fund money be used for education and youth treatment. He is concerned about the youth; however, he has visited many dispensaries and there are many safeguards put in place. He leans towards strict standards. He is in favor of moving this forward.

Direction from Council is to come back with a draft ordinance with options.

5-minute break 8:17p.m.

8:22pm back in session.

#### 600 ft. Buffer

Comment on location – Brandon Gesicki feels that these are good locations. Not isolated.

Mayor would like to see the dispensary stay in the Forum Area and Chevron off of 1<sup>st</sup> street.

City Manager stated that the applicant would need to put in cameras.

Council member DeLeon likes the Forum Area because no one is there, and it wouldn't displace anyone.

Council member Acosta is not in favor of First Street because she doesn't want to change the cosmetics of the area.

Council member Cullen feels that we need to be careful of where we limit putting a dispensary.

Staff has direction.

#### Process for Issuing Permits

Hybrid Approach is what the Council would like to see. Limit of 2 dispensaries.

#### Taxes

Cultivation - \$10 per square foot with an CPI increase in January 2020

Ballot Measure November 2020 –

Increase Manufacturing Rate- Council would like to have more information on this item.

Add Dispensary Tax of 5% of Gross Receipts – council yes

Add Tax on Distribution- leave this alone

Add Tax on Hemp Manufacturing- council would like more information.

Frank Gallagher is in favor of \$9 per square ft. and Brandon Gesicki is in favor of doing \$10 per square ft.

Hemp Manufacturing in C-2

Wait for Applicant to Request Zone Change

Maintain Current M-1 Zone on First Street

Interpretation that clarifies the City Manager is the Appeals officer motion by Cullen, Seconded by Victoria. Motion carried 5-0.

Consensus to change the code to allow it in the future.

**12. CITY COUNCIL CLOSED SESSION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 9:18p.m. on motion by Cullen second by Victoria. Motion carried 5-0.

**Approved Signatures:**



**Mayor, Michael LeBarre  
City of King**



**City Clerk, Steven Adams  
City of King**