

PRESENT: Councilmembers Mendoza, Ortiz, Lopez & Martinez

OTHERS: Lara, Marquez, Waters, Diaz & Zacarias

ABSENT: G. Gonzalez Jr.

FLAG SALUTE

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR –ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Request Approval of the Consent Calendar Action Items (IV. A-G)

- A. Action: Approval of Minutes of the regular meeting held on June 12, 2017
- B. Action: Approval of Warrants
- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of the City of Woodlake Dial-A-Ride Title VI

ON A MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY LOPEZ, IT WAS VOTED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Information: Swearing In of New Police Officer by Police Chief Marquez
Chief Marquez was happy to introduce the newest member to the police department, Officer Francisco Garcia. Officer Garcia is very passionate about his work and also obtains the integrity needed for this job. City Clerk Zacarias administered the Oath of Office to Officer Garcia. Vice-Mayor Ortiz thanked him for choosing to work in Woodlake and hopes he is happy here. Mayor Mendoza asked Officer Garcia to always do his job with integrity and always go home at night.

B. Action: Potential Sales Tax Measure in the City of Woodlake

PUBLIC HEARING

City Administrator Lara gave a presentation regarding a potential sales tax measure in the City of Woodlake

Mayor Mendoza opened the meeting for public comments as a continuance from the last meeting on June 12, 2017

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED: 6:48 PM – No Comments to Report

Vice-Mayor Ortiz believes the sales tax measure is necessary.

PUBLIC HEARING EXTENDED TO NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

C. Information: Potential Cannabis Tax Measure in the City of Woodlake

City Employee Waters gave a presentation regarding a potential cannabis tax measure in the City of Woodlake

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED: 7:05 PM

Michael Dunaway, 808 S. Church, Visalia – Mr. Dunaway is the president of a local cannabis non-profit organization and has been operating in Tulare County for the last 4 years. Their mission is to provide high quality cannabis and a knowledgeable staff. Their goal today is to propose an alternative to the traditional store front dispensary. Using the guidelines of SB94 a lot of changes were introduced regarding adult use. Section 59 mentions that a retailer must have a license premise which states they must have a physical location where cannabis activities are conducted. They reason he brings this up is because of the concerns with safety issues most people seem to have. They would have a physical building that everything is done on in and would not be open to the public and reduce the need for safety concern. One of the largest benefits would it would

reduce the risk of individuals consuming it in the parking lot or out in public because it would deliver directly to their home. This reduces the black-market influence in the community. Mr. Dunaway hopes that maybe council would consider this avenue instead of the traditional dispensary.

Maribel Rodriguez, 321 Cypress, Woodlake – Mrs. Rodriguez stated both measures have been introduced to generate revenue for the community. We are a small community and having 2 measures at once may seem overwhelming to some residents. As a resident, Mrs. Rodriguez is trying to see which is the primary focus. To have both measures seems excessive to Mrs. Rodriguez. She states the City should take smaller steps towards the measures and that may be more appropriate for the residents. Although marijuana has been legalized, it is still very new for some residents. She understands there is still more research to be done by city staff and asks that it be thorough and also that the residents are educated extensively. She would like to know if the cannabis measure was introduced because of interest by someone to open a dispensary here in Woodlake or is the city trying to prepare in case someone does show interest in the future. Mrs. Rodriguez stated the community may be more comfortable to allow Budweiser to come in to our town with an interest to open a business here because we have become more comfortable with alcohol but we do not have the same comfort level for cannabis. City Attorney Diaz stated one issue to consider is that come January 1, 2018, the state will begin to issue commercial licenses and the city does not have any regulations in place, the business can come in to our town and set up a business without any regulations from the city. This is why it is very important for cities to have something in the books before January 1st. Mrs. Rodriguez understood that the city is doing this now to be proactive. Mrs. Rodriguez would also like to see that in the event this business comes to our town, she would like for full access to transactions and financial statements to be made public and who would oversee that part. City Administrator Lara stated both city administration (City Administrator and Community Development Director) and police personnel would have unlimited access to all records. City Administrator Lara stated all transactions will be transparent. Mrs. Rodriguez asked if at any time could a license be revoked. City Staff Waters stated if at any time there is a violation the city may revoke a license. Mayor Mendoza stated Mrs. Rodriguez does bring up a lot of good points and questions and invites her and any member of the public to attend the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings and the city council meetings to participate in public hearings when available.

Michael Sibe, 625 Redwood, Visalia – Mr. Sibe asked how Fresno's cannabis policy would affect the City of Woodlake. City Administrator Lara stated it would have no impact.

Helen Chavez, 102 Hermosa, Woodlake – Ms. Chavez thanked Chief Marquez for sending an officer (Officer Hinz) to her residence the week of June 12th to explain the rules and regulations of growing Marijuana. Although Ms. Chavez is still having a hard time understanding some of the things that were explained, she appreciates Officer Hinz's professionalism and answers regarding her questions. Ms. Chavez stated she is not concerned about a business coming into town and operating by the rules. Her concern is for those who try and run an illegal operation. She is also concerned about water usage, since we are in a drought, will the water usage also be monitored. City Administrator Lara stated they will be on their own well.

Juan Zisumbo, 393 W. Lakeview, Woodlake – Mr. Zisumbo asked council to reject the cannabis business in the City of Woodlake and stated he would not like to see this type of business operating within the City of Woodlake. He feels this would upset many residents and bring a bad name to the town. This business would bring disgrace to our town and ruin our current morals. Mr. Zisumbo stated he has talked to many members of the community and they are all against

this type of business in the City of Woodlake. For those who may be in favor of this business are probably doing it for the wrong reasons. He stated he feels this type of business a vile, immoral intoxication into our town. He stated he is here to speak on behalf of his family and all those who would not come and voice their own opinions. Many of these people of your neighbors, friends and co-workers and some are even your family members. He states these people will not come and speak for themselves because they do not want to disrupt the city council. He hopes council will keep an open mind and take into consideration the concerns of the community regarding this issue and not allow it on the ballot. Mr. Zisumbo asked, what kind of people will these dispensaries attract to our town; church people, respectable citizens, productive citizens, business owners or would it attract drifters, drug addicts, criminals? The population of Woodlake has been growing slowly and this is the way most people prefer it. Mr. Zisumbo stated the citizens of Woodlake do not want the dispensaries in this town.

Juan Lopez, 20536 Avenue 332, Woodlake – Mr. Lopez asked if there will be a way to control the order of cannabis and the use of water. City Administrator Lara stated the dispensaries will only be allowed in the industrial zoned area and they will need their own well for their water use.

Sal Garcia, 210 S. Valencia, Woodlake – Mr. Garcia stated he doesn't care too much out the cannabis dispensary if they abide by the law. Also, will they allowed to sell food? City Staff Waters stated cannabis food may be sold only from the dispensaries and not a local grocery store.

PUBLIC HEARING EXTENDED TO NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING AT 7:39 PM

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Information: Items from Staff

City Employee Waters – Reported the City is now accepting bids for the construction of the Community Center. The period to submit bids will be open for 30 days.

City Administrator Lara – Reported the South and North Valencia project will go out to bid this summer.

Chief Marquez – Reported the police department is getting ready for the upcoming July 3rd Blast celebration at Miller Brown park.

B. Information: Items from Council

Councilmember Ortiz – Asked if the road work on West Naranjo was complete. City Administrator Lara stated no, slurry seal will be applied next week.

Councilmember Martinez – Asked if it was ok for anyone to take their own BBQ grill to the either park for parties. City Administrator Lara stated yes.

Mayor Mendoza – Reported he had attended a TCAG meeting and a subcommittee was created to deal with water issues and projects.

C. Request from Council Members for Future Agenda Items

VII. CLOSED SESSION

1. **PENDING LITIGATION** (Government Code § 54956.9). It is the intention of this governing body to meet in closed-session concerning:

Conference with legal counsel – **EXISTING LITIGATION** (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1)).

Parties, case/claim no. City of Woodlake v. Garibay, Tulare County Case No. VCU263067

Case name unspecified because of jeopardy to settlement negotiations or service of process.

2. **PENDING LITIGATION** (Government Code § 54956.9). It is the intention of this governing body to meet in closed-session concerning:

Conference with legal counsel – **EXISTING LITIGATION** (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1)).

Parties, case/claim no. City of Woodlake v. Woodlake Public Cemetery District, Tulare County Case No. VCU 267523

Case name unspecified because of jeopardy to settlement negotiations or service of process.

3. **PENDING LITIGATION** (Government Code § 54956.9). It is the intention of this governing body to meet in closed-session concerning:

Conference with legal counsel – **ANTICIPATED LITIGATION** (Government Code § 54956.9(d)).

Initiation of litigation (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(4)).

Number of potential cases is: 1 .

MEETING MOVED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 7:45 PM

MEETING RECONVENED AT 8:15 PM

Mayor Mendoza reported no action was taken and there was nothing to report.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

As provided in the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code sections 54950 et seq., the Governing Board may meet in closed session with members of its staff and its attorneys. These sessions are not open to the public and may not be attended by members of the public. The matters the Council will meet on in closed session are identified below or are those matters appropriately identified in open session as requiring immediate attention and arising after the posting of the agenda. Any public reports of action taken in the closed session will be made in accordance with Government Code sections 54957.1 “Documents: If distributed to the Council less than 72 hours before a regular meeting, any public records which are subject to public inspection and pertain to an open-session item on the regular meeting agenda shall be available at the following address at the time they are distributed to a majority of the Council: 350 North Valencia Boulevard, Woodlake, California 93286. Public records distributed to the Council at a public meeting will be available to the public at such meeting if they were prepared by the City. Exemptions and details in Government Code § 54957.5 (a) shall apply.”

VIII. ADJOURN

The next scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Monday, July 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at City Council Chambers located at 350 North Valencia Boulevard, Woodlake, CA 93286.

City Council:

Rudy Mendoza - Mayor

Frances Ortiz - Vice Mayor

Louie Lopez - Councilmember

Greg Gonzalez Jr. - Councilmember

Jose L. Martinez - Councilmember

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Submitted by,

Irene Zacarias

City Clerk