

**Minutes of the Blythe City Council**  
**July 25, 2017**

The July 25, 2017 Special Meeting of the Blythe City Council was called to order at 1:00pm in the Council Chamber by Mayor DeConinck. Also in attendance were Vice Mayor Wade and Council Member Reynolds, Galvan and Egan. Staff in attendance included: Interim City Manager and City Clerk Crecelius, City Treasurer and Interim Finance Director Elms, Police Chief Wade, Planner Burrow, Public Works Director Baldizzone and Deputy City Attorney Collins.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor DeConinck.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

Mayor DeConinck stated we are going to enter Closed Session, but before we do I would like to discuss the other items on the Agenda. The Consent Calendar and Continued Business were moved to the top of the Agenda.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** *Items on the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted with one motion of the Council. If any item requires individual consideration, it will be removed from the consent calendar and acted upon separately.*

**1. Posting of the Agenda.**

The summary of agenda items were posted on the bulletin boards on the outside of the public entrance to the Council Chamber and near the inside entrance of the Council Chamber on Friday, July 21, 2017.

No public comment. Councilman Galvan moved approval of the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Wade with a unanimous aye vote.

**CONTINUED BUSINESS:**

**Commercial Cannabis Business Application Process.** Interim City Manager Crecelius stated this item is informational only. It was highly publicized that we were going to start our cannabis application process on August 2<sup>nd</sup> but Council has not yet adopted that process. The earliest you would be able to do so is August 8<sup>th</sup>. I wanted to bring it to your attention that we will not meet the August 2<sup>nd</sup> date, but staff continues to work on it and will have something to propose to you on August 8<sup>th</sup>. It will be recommended that we do the Ordinance Amendments to coincide with the application process.

No public comment. The item was received and filed.

Council recessed into closed session.

**REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION:** City Attorney Collins stated direction was given, no action was taken.

**ORAL REPORTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jettie Townsend of 870 E. 1th Ave. stated my family came here in the 40's. It's extremely insulting and painful for me listening to you make these ordinances and rules keeping me from doing what I enjoy doing, growing vegetables, cannabis in this case. When I see you are

depriving us of having businesses on our own properties it pains me. You are proposing something that is not going to benefit our community. We don't want jobs; we want businesses, to be the employers. There is no reason why we should be kept out. The cons include an increase in law enforcement presence on the South Side of town, decline in property values, high speed police chases, increase in the homeless population, increased foot and vehicle traffic and road conditions. We need something done about the park. There will be an increase in property taxes. The only good I can see is if you give us an incentive to have this in our neighborhood.

Luther Holley of Lido Ln. asked why on the South side of town, why not on the North side of town? Why not a mile outside of the City limits? Something like that being brought to the South side of town is not going to benefit us. It's going to bring more traffic and we don't get adequate representation as it is. We feel left out of the loop. The last time I was here was for street repaving of Bell Ln. This should be done on property outside of the City limits and other than issuing permits and collecting sales tax you should have nothing to do with it. It's still illegal at the federal level. You are prostituting yourselves out for money that will help a few make big dollars and won't help anyone on the South side. This town is dying. I don't have a problem with marijuana businesses coming in but they should lease the land from farmers outside of the City limits.

Sandy Hudson of 9646 4<sup>th</sup> Ave stated I live on the North side and I would welcome it. I believe if it's done properly it will benefit all of us. If it doesn't benefit all of us you guys have to answer for it. I envision it to be fenced warehouses that anyone driving by wouldn't be able to tell the difference between a cooler or grow site. We all live here together and we have to make this work. There is nobody else coming to help us and we are looking to you guys to make sure the process is done properly and I believe you are doing that diligently. I am sorry we sat here today without any resolve, but we have to do something. It wouldn't be my first choice, but it is a choice.

Vivian Scott of 565 Gateway stated it doesn't matter where it goes as long as it's not in the City area. When it comes down to it we can see Blythe is dying out. We need to bring something in, but you want to bring in marijuana. If you bring that in all of Blythe should have a hand in this with dividends. We should make the City work. All of the homeless are on the South side of town. Everything that gets built for the parks is in the north side and then comes to the South side. The roads don't get done but you want to bring us the mess. I had to hear about cannabis coming to Blythe at church. These businesses that come in for cannabis should be willing to invest in Blythe to make it grow in other areas.

**MEMBER COMMENT: None**

**ADJOURN:**

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 2:38pm.

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Joseph DeConinck, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Mallory Crecelius, City Clerk