

CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCILWORK SESSION  
Council Chambers  
Monday, July 25, 2016  
5:10 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sharon Konopa called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilors present: Councilors Bill Coburn, Floyd Collins, Bessie Johnson, Rich Kellum, Ray Kopczynski, and Dick Olsen

Councilors absent: None.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

Rhea Graham, Albany's Canna Kitchen & Research LLC, said that those who think recreational cannabis isn't being sold in Albany are fooling themselves; the untaxed, unregulated market is thriving in homes and cars, and deliveries to Albany are advertised daily online. Residents are being punished because some decision-makers lack education about cannabis and hemp and why they were made legal. Cannabis and hemp have what is needed for superior health and to bring our bodies to homeostasis, regulating blood pressure, blood sugar and more. Community members need and deserve access to clean cannabis. Motives are being questioned, with millions of dollars of tax money being pushed away while taxes are increased on items such as electricity and gasoline. She said, the city's streets and roads are a disaster; in a few short years, the streets could all be resurfaced using money from cannabis sales tax and, in time, we wouldn't need a levy or bond for public improvements. If the City is going to follow the state's recommendation for time, place, and manner restrictions on alcohol, it must do the same with recreational cannabis. They are regulated by the same entity and failure to do so is building more evidence for a case of discrimination against lawful cannabis users.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE

Imposing a three percent tax on the sale of marijuana items by a marijuana retailer and referring ordinance

City Attorney Sean Kidd read the ordinance for a first time in title only: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IMPOSING A THREE PERCENT TAX ON THE SALE OF MARIJUANA ITEMS BY A MARIJUANA RETAILER AND REFERRING ORDINANCE.

Konopa said that City Council will have a second reading of the ordinance on Wednesday, July 27, 2016, Regular Session, and that there will be an opportunity for public comment prior to that action.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Teresa Nix  
Administrative Assistant

Jorge Salinas  
Assistant City Manager/Chief Information Officer