

City of Connell, Town Hall Meeting, January 11, 2016

Opened at 6:08 p.m. by Mayor Bruce Blackwell.

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 95.

SIGNED IN: Bob Misener, Jody Barker, Roy Kirkpatrick, Eddy Ochoa, Shilo Morgan, Christy McNeely, Ross Crawford, Karen Crawford, Javier A. Velázquez, Leticia Velázquez, Maria B. Quiroz, Marin Quiroz, Regina Grassl, Brandi Fox, Dayna Ochoa, Jonathan Fox, Kaniththa Oudomvong, John White, Jeff Uttecht, Jim Crawford, Barclay Filan, Burl Booker, Kara Booker, Elida Fernandez, Belen Hathaway, Karen Huebert, Hortencia Castillo, Eladio Castillo, Laurie Mandler, Consuelo Rivera, Martha Corona, Rogelio Zaragoza, Justin Taylor, Rachel Cisneros, Alicia Amezola, Ambar Amezola, Gary Walton, Molly Kunkel, Maria Tejada, Rose Coronado, Servando Coronado, Schuylena Kinne, St D. Kinne, Maria Peña, Abel Peña, Estevan Peña, Helen Tobin, Katherine Bingham, Shelly Chouinard, Rebecca Jones, Desiree McCombs, Michelle Gardner, John Lindner, Mary Hall, Melissa Kelly, Pam Moon, Alma Angélica Chávez, Hubert Rigor, Eliseo Castillo V., Dora e Valdovinos, Antonia Alemán, Maria Huerta, Maria Elena Viveros, Beatriz Villagómez, Gregg Taylor, Maria Belen Nuñez, Margarita Sanchez, Sergio Marroquin, Miguel Lazaro P., Silvia Román, Pedro Román, Sharon Sellereite, Claudia Bingham, Alleda Arnold, Maria Corona, Jessica Fiorini, Carolina Perez, Rafael Alvarado, Alma Alvarado, David Hathaway.

Marijuana Discussion

Eddy Ochoa presented a slide show titled “Repealing Ord 951-2015” and stated his interest to lift the ban on retail outlets for marijuana in Connell; he gave his perspective on potential revenue, taxes, and jobs.

David & Shilo Morgan, Lucky Leaf LLC, gave presentation segments; Retail Operations & Safety Procedures, Public Health & Safety, Packaging & Labeling, Traceability, and Potential Tax Revenue.

Questions/Feedback was received from 25 or more individuals regarding: Medical vs Recreational rules, Federal Law, Jobs, Child overdoses, Safety & Security measures, Grant eligibility, Tax-base & State revenue-sharing, Health, Children, Increased access/danger, Addiction, Rehabilitation, Pending legislation to require a ban by vote of citizens (Connell legally enacted a ban by established land-use process). Strong family values, Quality of life, Safety, Heritage.

Maria Peña said that actual tax revenue by the State would bring in much less revenue than projected. She said: “No amount of money is worth jeopardizing the safety of our children”. She had researched nearby cities with much larger population centers: Prosser projected \$39,000 tax revenue (2016); and Moses Lake projected \$12,000 in tax revenue (2016). By comparison, Connell would see lower revenue.

Elida Fernandez provided Spanish translation for many questions and statements.

Closed at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

City Council Meeting – Tuesday, January 19 at 6 p.m. at Connell Community Center.