



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL

City Council Chambers
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, California 93555

September 29, 2006
6:00 p.m.

Tape Recorded
Tape 06-23

This meeting was tape recorded and will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk for a certain period of time from date of approval by City Council/Redevelopment Agency. Meetings are recorded solely for the purpose of preparation of minutes.

CALL TO ORDER – 4:34 .M.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall Holloway, Mayor Pro Tem Richard Martin, Vice Mayor Daniel Clark, Council Members Steven Morgan and Ronald Carter

STAFF: Harvey Rose, City Manager; Rita Gable, City Clerk; Michael Avery, Chief of Police; and other personnel

1. **Ordinance No. 06-11, An Interim Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Prohibiting The Issuance Of Business Licenses For The Operation Of Medical**
Rose

City Manager Rose stated this interim ordinance extends the moratorium prohibiting licensing an addition 5 months 15 days. Our attorneys have prepared a draft regulatory ordinance that has been given to Council for review and will be placed on the Agenda for the regular Council meeting of October 4, 2006.

Moved by Council Member Martin, second Council Member Morgan TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 06-11, AN INTERIM ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST PROHIBITING THE ISSUANCE OF BUSINESS LICENSES FOR THE OPERATION OF MEDICAL. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

Discussion of proposed draft regulatory ordinance:

Carter

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- #2 not sure limiting dispensaries to 2 is right
- The hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. will not fit into the schedules of some people – they may have day time jobs
- #5 250 patients a month – it is a business and shouldn't be limited

Martin

- Questioned why attorney have 2, 4, and 5
 - Mr. Rose stated the attorney gathered ordinances from various other cities and compiled some options for consideration
 - He considers this one middle of the road

Holloway

- Has a number of concerns
- Almost ready to say no

Public comment

Stanley Harrington, partner in Epicurean Delights

- He is a business partner with Jeff Clark
- Stated that Mr. Clark's arrest has hurt the business
- Wants exemption to moratorium to allow him to assume the business license
- He read an statement to the Council (a copy is part of the Clerk's file)

Dorothy Brown, 221 N. Gold Canyon Drive

- Has given Council packets of information regarding dispensaries in Oregon
- Oregon is a true coop
- The dollar sign is eliminated in a coop operation
- Check out the website - Greenfree.org
- There is definitely a need for this type of business in Ridgecrest
- Familiar with the need in her own family – her brother has need for medical marijuana – her holds a good job and he is productive
- Relieves the pain so that it is bearable
- Objects to only one business in town

Mr. Rose

- Mr. Harrington has raised an issue regarding the business license
- Normally a license is usually issued to one person
- The interim ordinance places a moratorium on issuance of any additional licenses

Chief Avery

- Believed only a minimum of a background check was done before issuing a license

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Morgan

- Moratorium was done until we had a good regulatory ordinance in place
- Believes the license is still in place
- Extend the moratorium

Holloway

- Having this business in town has elicited strong feelings throughout the community - it is controversial
- Directed to Mr. Harrington - you got in and you failed
- He doesn't blame him – but it has been badly handled
- Convinced there is a need for this business
- Concerned that there is so many problems so soon in this business
- Not willing to offer an exemption at this time

Clark

- He visited the shop when it first opened
- Noticed a lack of professionalism displayed
- Went to San Diego to check on doctor that Jeff Clark mentioned at the first meeting
- Could have gotten a referral on an prescription that was over a year old
- Wants the business to be totally profession and has not seen that yet

Martin

- Did not realize that there were so many people using medical marijuana in the community
- We represent the whole community and have to take that into consideration
- Was not totally aware of the laws in place
- Was not impressed with Jeff Clark's demeanor or business plan
- Asked if any checks were done on the other partners
- Pharmacists in town are livid they cannot dispense marijuana and cannot get certified to do so
- San Francisco is trying to ban dispensaries
- We have a responsibility to the community to make sure this is a valid need and business is run properly
- Cannot support this exemption

Carter

- Need to have an ordinance to see that this is regulated for the safety of the community and the patients

Harrington

- Originally Jeff Clark wanted a coop
- That way people could have a check on each other

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- Would like to get professional assistance to help set this business up
- Would like to do this properly

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Holloway adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Rita Gable, City Clerk