WORK SESSION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
14010 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2011

Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lana Mook at 5:00 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Lana Mook, Vice Mayor David Shapera, Councilor Roy Delgado, Councilor Jim McPhetres, Councilor Joe Ramirez, Councilor Lynn Selby.

Excused: Councilor Jack Palladino.

III. WORK SESSION

All items listed under the Work Session will be only discussed, there will be no action (or vote) taken. The Council may provide direction to City Staff on how to proceed.

Council recessed at 5:03.

Council reconvened at 5:07.

Bill Pupo read a statement from Dave Moss, Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce supporting the changes.

Mark Smith, Senior Planner made a brief presentation regarding both the Sign Ordinance and Medical Marijuana Ordinance.

1. Sign Ordinance – Ordinance Discussion.

   Discussion – animated sign definition – general consensus as long the sign doesn't make sound, movement is fine. Strike the animated sign prohibition.

   Discussion – billboard/off premise sign – size was a concern. Staff will further discuss with Planning & Zoning, various size factors.

   Discussion – portable/sandwich – maintenance was a concern.

   Promotional sign options were not a concern, appears to be very flexible.

2. Medical Marijuana – Ordinance Discussion.

   Proposition 203 passed 50.1% to 49.9%. The City's Ordinance is based on the Arizona League of Cities and Towns model.

The facility would be subject to a conditional use and in the I-2 zoning district.

Discussion – concerns that we are being more restrictive 1,320 feet vs 500 feet since the sale is now legal as prescription medicine. The sexual orientate business, tattoo/piercing parlor, and check cashing stores have a similar restrictive locations requirements. The loss of Federal funding may be a concern.

Discussion – concerns of being restricted to the I-2 zoning district and not being allowed in a store front in the general business area.

Robert Hall, City Attorney, marijuana Federal code is considered a controlled substance but if State Law is being followed there will be no repercussions.

The difference between a permitted use and a conditional use: a permitted use must follow the City Code, and if a conditional use each application would come before the Council. Possible to begin with a conditional use and then switch to a permitted use after there was been some experience with the dispensaries.

IV. ADJOURNMENT.

Mayor Mook adjourned the meeting at 6:10 P.M.

Lana Mook, Mayor

ATTEST:

Richard Saathoff, City Clerk

I hereby certify the foregoing minutes are a true and accurate record of the City of El Mirage Council Work Session held March 25, 2011 and a quorum was present.

Richard Saathoff, City Clerk