

**EATONVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

TIME: 7:00 PM

DATE: December 11, 2017

PLACE: Eatonville Community Center

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Schaub called the meeting of the Eatonville Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Town Clerk Kathy Linnemeyer called the roll. The following were:

Present: Councilmembers James Schrimpsheer, Bill Dunn, Bob Walter, Bob Thomas and Jennie Hannah.

Also Present: Town Administrator Abby Gribi, Town Clerk Kathy Linnemeyer, and Police Chief Brian Witt.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Schaub led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

The Town Clerk read the Mission Statement for the Town of Eatonville:

“The Town’s mission is to create, provide and administer municipal services while protecting the present and future health, safety, and general welfare of the community.”

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/SET TIME RESTRICTIONS

Councilmember Schrimpsheer moved approval with a three minute time restriction and was seconded by Councilmember Dunn. All were in favor.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Eatonville Municipal Court Judge, Ron Heslop, informed Council that the Courts have seen a drastic change in people and drug related DUI’s have become an epidemic. The major cause of death in people under 50 years old is drug overdose. He stated that they see an average of 2 people in court each day that are high on heroin and that heroin is not treatable without medical assistance. He also stated that the majority of heroin is coming into this country from China through Fed Ex.

Citizen Dennis Clevenger spoke against legalizing marijuana and stated that Federal law rules over state law. He feels that it would violate the Constitution of the United States and asked Council to reject any proposal.

Citizen Terry VanEaton asked Council if they will obey the laws that they took an oath to uphold. He stated that he feels that the only benefit of selling marijuana in Eatonville would be tax revenue and that he doesn't want to sell his soul to marijuana for taxes. He also commented that his relatives were persecuted over blackberries, when there is a huge lot in front of the Baptist Church that is covered with blackberries and brush, and he hasn't seen anything done about it. He also stated that there is an issue with the Airport, it was built by volunteers and entrusted to the Town's care and that he sees an attempt to use it for the Town's benefit to extend lots and receive tax and permit revenue. He feels that it is not acting in his best interest and the best interest of the Town.

Mayor Schaub responded to Mr. VanEaton's comments regarding the Airport and stated that the Council has never looked into closing the Airport or selling the lots and that there have not been any discussions about developing that land and that there are vicious rumors going around. He stated that the question that was brought up is whether the Airport should be a municipal run airport or a privately owned air strip and that there was no discussion to develop that land. He encouraged citizens who have questions to get facts, and to contact the Town if you have questions.

Citizen Thomas VanEaton spoke against allowing marijuana sales in the Town of Eatonville. He stated that marijuana is addictive and leads into other drug use. He also stated that 1 in 6 teens become addicted and do worse in school, 1 in 10 adults who smoke become dependent on it and it doubled the risk of car crashes. He said that a lot of people use it, grow it and think that it doesn't hurt them and that the health hazards exceed the benefits of what people get from it.

Citizen Louise VanEaton spoke against allowing marijuana and stated that the Attorney General has determined that local jurisdictions can ban it, sales produce revenues but cause large health problems and encouraged Council not to adopt the interim regulations.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the November 27, 2017 Council Meeting
- B. Payroll 26114 to 26120 \$ 74,545.38
- C. Claims 36898 to 36931 \$ 75,919.79

Councilmember Schrimpsheer moved approval and was seconded by Councilmember Hannah. All were in favor.

DEPARTMENT HEAD/COUNCIL COMMITTEE/BOARD/COMMISSION REPORT

- a. **Police Report-** Police Chief Witt reported that the Department has made additional juvenile arrests for crimes around town and will continue to arrest and transport them to Remann Hall as they are caught. He also reported that there were three officers helping with the parade in addition to the CERT Team and that there was a burglary in Town that was not processed like it should have been. He stated that the officers will be going to all of the businesses in Town to get owner information that will help in the future.
- b. **Fire Report-** Chief Galey asked if there were any questions regarding the November report that was included in packets. He also gave a report on the fire that was in the liquor store building and thanked Officer Wade for his assistance,

reported that they are revamping their volunteer program in Eatonville, announced that there will be a Santa Run in Eatonville on Wednesday and announced that the Police and Fire Chiefs will be hosting Coffee with the Chiefs Wednesday at 9am at Cottage Bakery.

- c. **Public Works Report-** Town Administrator Abby Gribi reported that the SR161 project had the winterization completed today, a new server was installed at Town Hall last week, the Planning Commission has reviewed the draft Comp Plan and that there will be a Town Hall meeting with South Pierce Fire and Rescue on December 20, 2017 at the Community Center.
- d. **Public Safety Committee-** Councilmember Schrimpsheer announced that the Public Safety Committee met on December 5th and received good input from the liquor store owner about the fire. He also commended the Chief for owning the mistake that was made by his department and stated that there is a vast improvement in the number of calls each month. The Committee discussed the Parade, CERT program, received input about the time that it took the Fire Fighters to get to the fire, discussed the Volunteer program, encouraged citizens to attend the Town Hall meeting on December 20th and discussed forming a Public Watch group.
- e. **Mayor Report-** Mayor Schaub thanked Officer Wade for his assistance in fighting the fire, announced that he received a card from the Mary Bridge Brigade and that they had a good year at their bazaar, thanked Town Staff for their efforts in keeping the roads free from ice, announced that the parade went well and announced that there will be a Town Hall meeting on December 20th at the Community Center to answer questions from the public regarding the Fire Dept.
- f. **Ad Hoc Sign Committee-** Councilmember Dunn announced that the Sign Committee met on December 4th, were provided a copy of the current code and will be meeting on the 3rd Monday each month.

ORDINANCE 2017-14 PUBLIC HEARING (Second Reading)

An Ordinance of the Town of Eatonville, Washington, adopting the budget for the Town of Eatonville, Washington for the calendar year 2018

Town Clerk Kathy Linnemeyer read the Ordinance by title into the record.

Mayor Schaub opened the Public Hearing at 7:50 pm. Citizen Len Throop asked if the contract for fire service is the same contract and what the cost would be to have 24/7 coverage. Mayor Schaub replied that it would take about 1 million dollars to run it with the proper equipment and a new aid van. Mr. Throop asked about running a Levy to fund Public Safety. Mayor Schaub explained that an Excess Levy is an annual renewal process and must be approved by 60% and that it is hard to run a department when it has to be approved by the voters yearly. Mr. Throop stated that it depends on the will of the people and wonders if it is time to bring it back to a vote. Hearing no further comment, Mayor Schaub closed the Public Hearing at 7:57 pm.

Councilmember Dunn made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2017-14 and was seconded by Councilmember Hannah. All were in favor.

ORDINANCE 2017-15 PUBLIC HEARING (Second Reading)

An Ordinance of the Town of Eatonville, Washington, adopting interim regulations concerning the production, processing, and retail sale of recreational marijuana and amending Title 18 of the Eatonville Municipal Code by amending Chapters 18.02 “Definitions,” 18.04 “District Regulations,” and adding a new chapter 18.12 “Recreational Marijuana”

Town Clerk Kathy Linnemeyer read the Ordinance by title into the record.

Councilmember Hannah made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2017-15 and was seconded by Councilmember Walter.

Mayor Schaub opened the Public Hearing at 7:59 pm.

Citizen Thomas VanEaton spoke against Ordinance 2017-15, stated that marijuana is dangerous to your health and illegal under Federal Law, it is a gateway drug, and that by allowing it, you are saying that it is ok. He feels that it undermines what government represents and that he never thought he would see the day when states would pass laws that are against Federal Law.

Citizen Louise VanEaton stated that she doesn't understand the hurry to pass interim regulations, which the Attorney General said that you can say no to it, it isn't right for the Town to allow marijuana and that TC VanEaton said that good schools and churches make a good community.

Citizen Colin Stephens said that marijuana doesn't belong in this town and feels that the people have spoken against it.

Citizen Len Throop informed Council that he doesn't see anything wrong with allowing marijuana and that if it is legal in Washington then it should be legal in Eatonville.

Citizen Dennis Clevenger stated that Federal law trumps state law.

Citizen Louise VanEaton said that if you want recreational or medical marijuana that you can get it in Yelm and that it isn't essential.

Hearing no further comment, Mayor Schaub closed the Public Hearing at 8:09 pm.

Councilmember Hannah made a motion to table Ordinance 2017-15 for further discussion at a later date and study session. There was no second and Councilmember Hannah withdrew her motion.

Councilmember Thomas spoke against allowing marijuana sales and stated that we don't have the ability to select the laws that we obey, that allowing marijuana is not consistent with the Town's Mission Statement and that he can't condone the retail sale of marijuana in Eatonville.

Councilmember Walter spoke in favor of allowing marijuana sales in Eatonville, stated that it is legal in Eatonville whether or not these regulations are approved, feels that we

desperately need jobs and businesses in Town and gave a summary of a Facebook poll on allowing marijuana sales in Eatonville.

Councilmember Dunn stated that it is not necessarily so cut and dry, that it has been 5 years since marijuana was made legal in Washington State and that the Federal Government has not taken any steps against it in that time.

Councilmember Schrimpsheer stated that there are plans to cut marijuana revenues by 2019, that the Town didn't have an advisory vote placed on the ballots as requested by Council and that property values drop near marijuana businesses. He also asked if anyone has approached the Town about opening a marijuana business and that someone bought the property at the end of Ohop Valley Extension Road and they told him that they were planning to open a marijuana shop and he isn't a fan of it. He also stated that he feels that allowing marijuana is not in the best interest of the people and that the interim regulations are not a good idea.

Councilmember Hannah stated that this is very tough for her and that she represents the citizens of the Town of Eatonville and not her personal opinions.

Councilmember Schrimpsheer asked for a roll call vote on the second reading of Ordinance 2017-15. The motion failed with Councilmembers Schrimpsheer, Thomas and Hannah voting no and Councilmembers Dunn and Walter voting in favor.

Councilmember Schrimpsheer made a motion to begin the process of banning marijuana in Eatonville to include the production, processing, sale, and all transactions including marijuana, until an advisory vote is in place and was seconded by Councilmember Thomas. The motion passed with Councilmember Walter voting no.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Schrimpsheer stated that it is great to see all the citizens here tonight.

Councilmember Dunn stated that he appreciates the public input and opinions and that as a parent he shares the concerns about the impacts marijuana has on youth. He also feels that it is his parental responsibility to teach his children to make good, healthy decisions when he isn't around. He also encouraged everyone to continue to educate themselves and that for every study that supports marijuana use, there are studies that don't and that it can be challenging.

Councilmember Walter thanked the citizens in the audience for coming to the meeting, felt that the Parade and the Visitor Center Santa and Caroling were the best and biggest ever and thanked everyone who was involved.

Councilmember Thomas thanked all the Citizens for coming to the Council meeting and stated that it was nice to have their participation.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Dunn moved to adjourn and was seconded by Councilmember Schrimpsheer. All were in favor. Mayor Schaub adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.

Mike Schaub, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathy Linnemeyer, Town Clerk