



CITY COUNCIL

Work Session Meeting Minutes March 25, 2024

Mayor Drotzmann called the work session meeting to order at 6:00pm. Present were Councilors Hardin, Primmer, Duron, Linton, McCarthy, Peterson, and Myers. Councilor Barron was not present. Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Chief Edmiston, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Finance Director Ignacio Palacios, HES General Manager Nate Rivera, Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

Discussion of Naming Rights for City Facilities

City Manager Smith gave information (PowerPoint Presentation attached), as well as presented an updated proposed policy (attached) that had been previously emailed to the City Council with language revisions from when it was published in the agenda packet regarding possibly allowing donors to have naming rights for certain city facilities that they contribute to. City Manager Smith stated this discussion recently resurfaced as a potential donor has had conversations with the HEROS Fundraising Committee to possibly donate \$1 million to complete their lighting system and other possible misc. items in exchange for their name on the facility. The HEROS Fundraising Committee is in support of this proposal as well.

The Council reviewed and discussed the updated proposed policy and asked for further updates to include items such as addressing the separation of Facilities and Parks and Non-Facilities. City Manager Smith addressed concerns regarding the possible risk of inappropriate or offensive naming possibilities regarding donors, including businesses or products that do not align with the values of the City, stating all proposed renaming contract will ultimately be the discretion of the Council as the City Council will vote to approve or deny each proposal, and addressed other questions from the Council.

City Manager Smith stated suggested changes to the proposed policy received from this work session meeting will be promptly made and presented during the regular city council meeting under item 14,B- Possible Action to Adopt a Facility Naming Righty Policy.

Adjournment

Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the work session meeting at 6:27pm and stated the Council will take a short recess before starting the special council meeting at 7:00pm.

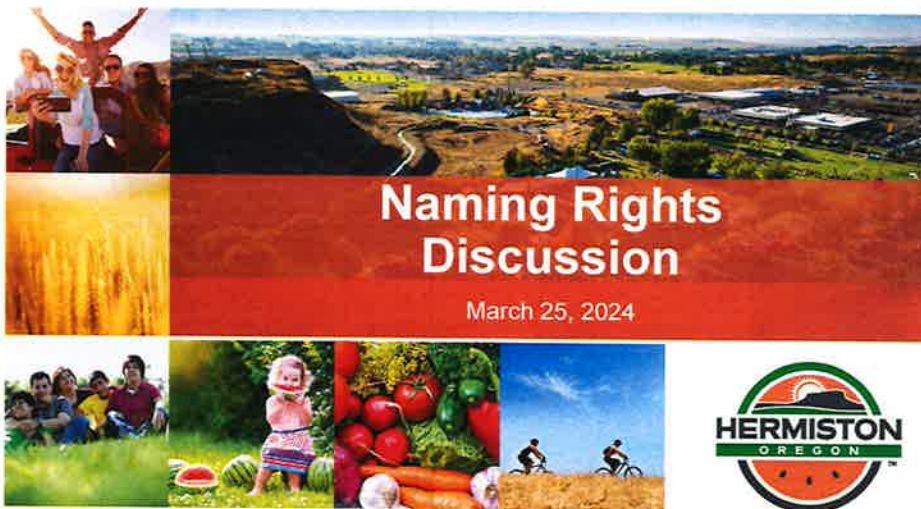
A POLICY FOR NAMING/RENAMING CITY FACILITIES AND PARKS INCLUDING COMMERCIAL NAMING RIGHTS

1. Definition: A facility refers to any structure or designated area that supports recreational/educational activities and amenities for public use. These can include buildings (including community centers), rooms in buildings, parks, garden areas, playgrounds, sports fields (like soccer, baseball, or football fields), courts, picnic areas, shelters or pavilions, walking or cycling paths, restrooms, and swimming pools. The purpose of facilities is to enhance the recreation, provide spaces for physical activity and community gatherings, and promote the overall well-being of community members.

Items or features within an area or park that do not fall under the definition of a facility typically include natural features and landscaping elements such as trees, lawns, natural bodies of water (lakes, rivers, ponds), undeveloped land, and general open space areas. Additionally, small, non-structural amenities like park benches, signage, waste receptacles, and minor decorative elements are not considered facilities.

2. Policies and procedures for naming parks/facilities operated by the City.
 - a. Naming Objectives:
 - i. Identify the site/facility/area and create a site image.
 - ii. Provide a geographic location for the site/facility that could assist the public in easily locating a specific site within a park.
 - iii. Recognize those individuals/organizations that develop facilities/areas for public use.
 - iv. Honor a person for historical or commemorative reasons.
 - v. Carry current values into the future.
 - vi. Provide for added or enhanced development through the purchase of naming rights by commercial businesses, private individuals, or civic groups.
 - b. Procedure for naming new facilities/parks/areas or renaming existing facilities/parks/areas:
 - i. Staff or community member(s) propose name or new name.
 - ii. Appropriate city committee with jurisdiction uses guidelines provided in section c below to evaluate proposals for facility/park naming/renaming.
 - iii. Appropriate city committee recommends a name for park/facility.
 - iv. City Council approves name and any naming rights agreement.
 - c. Guidelines and/or considerations to be used for naming or renaming facilities/parks:
 - i. Be imaginative and creative.
 - ii. Utilize names of cultural places or features, i.e. streets, schools.
 - iii. Name after historic sites, events, or persons.
 - iv. Geographic or natural features, i.e. creeks, hills, or vegetation.

- v. Names should express appreciation, educate, or convey historical significance.
 - 1. Living People:
 - a. When 50 percent of the value of the park land, facility, or area is donated, or
 - b. When "substantially all" of the development is donated, or
 - c. When public individuals have made a significant contribution over a long period of time to, or
 - d. When public individuals have special interest in the park and/or other facility.
 - e. When a person is determined to have played an essential role in the evolution of the facility or area.
 - 2. Deceased People:
 - a. When it is appropriate to name a facility/park in honor of a deceased person, it may be a war or civilian hero or a person who has made a major contribution to the community and/or who has been instrumental in acquiring or developing the facility/park area. The name of a deceased person for a facility/park should not be considered until 6 months after the date of the death of that person and should be considered only if deemed appropriate.
 - 3. Organizations:
 - a. When 50 percent of the value of the parkland, facility or area is donated, or
 - b. When substantially all the development is donated.
 - c. When a donation has been "deemed significant" in the development of a facility or area.
- vi. Commercial Naming Rights:
 - 1. When a negotiated percent of the facility/park/area is donated, or
 - 2. When a negotiated amount of funding is provided for the development or enhancement of the park/facility/area.
- vii. Naming rights to facilities and programs will not be allowed for alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and other businesses that do not reflect the wholesome nature of the facility and services provided and do not represent the mission and values of the City of Hermiston.
- viii. Length of rights will be determined through a negotiated contract, which will be approved by the City Council.
- ix. Avoid duplication with other names in the state and surrounding areas.
- x. The City of Hermiston reserves the right to refuse contributions.



Naming Rights Discussion

- Review the History
- Review Draft Policy



Why Naming Rights?

- Maybe started in the U.S. in 1912 with Fenway Park in Boston
- New Trend/Option for City Revenue
- A form of advertising or memorialization



Why Naming Rights?

- Started talking about this a couple of years ago
- EOTEC was probably the beginning of discussion
- Possible HEROS donor brought this to a point



Draft Review

- Started with a focus on parks, etc.
- Worked to broaden to include all types of city facilities
- Used Klamath Falls as primary model but reviewed many others from around the country
- Naming/Renaming



Draft Review

- What's in? (flexible)
 - Buildings
 - Rooms in buildings
 - Parks
 - Garden areas
 - Playgrounds
 - Sports fields
 - Courts
 - Picnic areas, shelters or pavilions
 - Paths
 - Restrooms
 - Swimming pools



Draft Review

- What's out? (Typically)
 - Natural features and landscaping elements
 - Trees
 - Lawns
 - Natural bodies of water (lakes, rivers, ponds)
 - Undeveloped land
 - General open space areas
 - Small, non-structural amenities
 - Benches
 - Signage
 - Waste receptacles
 - Minor decorative elements



Draft Review

- Objectives
 - Identify the site/facility/area and create a site image.
 - Provide a geographic location for the site/facility that could assist the public in easily locating a specific site within a park.
 - Recognize those individuals/organizations that develop facilities/areas for public use.
 - Honor a person for historical or commemorative reasons.
 - Carry current values into the future.
 - Provide for added or enhanced development through the purchase of naming rights by commercial businesses, private individuals, or civic groups.



Draft Review

• Process

- Staff or community member(s) propose name or new name.
- Appropriate city committee with jurisdiction uses guidelines provided in section c below to evaluate proposals for facility/park naming/renaming.
- Appropriate city committee recommends a name for park/facility.
- City Council approves name and any naming rights agreement.



Draft Review

• Guidelines/Considerations

- Be imaginative and creative.
- Utilize names of cultural places or features, i.e. streets, schools.
- Name after historic sites, events, or persons.
- Geographic or natural features, i.e. creeks, hills, or vegetation.



Draft Review

• Guidelines/Considerations pt. 2

- Names should express appreciation, educate, or convey historical significance.
 - **Living People:**
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 - **Organizations:**
 - When 50 percent of the value of the parkland, facility or area is donated, or
 - When substantially all the development is donated.
 - When a donation has been "deemed significant" in the development of a facility or area.



Draft Review

• Guidelines/Considerations pt. 2

- **Commercial Naming Rights:**
 - When a negotiated percent of the facility/park/area is donated, or
 - When a negotiated amount of funding is provided for the development or enhancement of the park/facility/area.
- Naming rights to facilities and programs will not be allowed for alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and other businesses that do not reflect the wholesome nature of the facility and services provided and do not represent the mission and values of the City of Hermiston.
- Length of rights will be determined through a negotiated contract, which will be approved by the City Council.
- Avoid duplication with other names in the state and surrounding areas.
- The City of Hermiston reserves the right to refuse contribution.





Discussion

Where Life is Sweet



Where Life is Sweet

CITY COUNCIL

Special Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2024

Mayor Drotzmann called the special meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Councilors McCarthy, Barron, Linton, Primmer, Hardin, Myers, Duron, and Peterson. City Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Chief Edmiston, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Finance Director Ignacio Palacios, HES General Manager Nate Rivera, Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

Public Hearing- 2024 Community Development Block Grant from Business Oregon

Hearing no conflicts of interest from the Council, City Manager Smith read the hearing guidelines and Mayor Drotzmann opened the hearing at 7:00pm.

City Manager Smith read aloud the Public Notice and Notice of Public Hearing information.

City Recorder Alarcon-Strong read aloud the Public Notice and Notice of Public Hearing information in Spanish.

City Manager Smith gave information regarding the proposed Community Development Block Grant from Business Oregon for the construction of a building addition at Agape which will increase their furniture, clothing, and food store capacity to be able to distribute items to low-income individuals and families in and around the City of Hermiston.

Public Testimony

Mark Gomolski, Executive Director of Agape House, stated approval of this grant would help all area residents as the current buildings size is not adequate. Thanked the Council for the opportunity to work on this grant.

Karen Jones (1010 W Hermiston Ave)- Stated she hopes the City will approve this asset to the community.

There were no others present who wished to give public testimony and the hearing was closed at 7:13pm.

Adjournment

Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the Special City Council meeting at 7:14pm and stated the Council will take a short recess before convening the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:20pm.



SIGNED:

Dr. David Drotzmann, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes March 25, 2024

Mayor Drotzmann called the regular meeting to order at 7:20pm. Present were Councilors McCarthy, Barron, Linton, Primmer, Hardin, Myers, Duron, and Peterson. City Staff in attendance included: City Manager Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Chief Edmiston, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Finance Director Ignacio Palacios, Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, HES General Manager Nate Rivera, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Mayor Drotzmann asked that the Council consider moving item 14A to be heard after item 12 to accommodate for the majority of the public present who he believes are interested specifically in this topic. The Council agreed.

Presentation- Audit Report

Dennis Barnett with Barnett and Moro, P.C. apologized for the late report stating staffing changes and shortages in the last year have caused delays in the audit which is usually presented in October or November and thanked the City for their patience. Mr. Barnett stated the audit findings came back as Unmodified; meaning, the City has received a clean audit report indicating city staff are doing their job as there are no reportable issues with compliance or internal controls, all federal awards have passed review, as well as no out of compliance issues.

After addressing Council questions, the Mayor thanked Mr. Barnett for all the work his firm performed during this audit process.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

None given.

Consent Agenda Items

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- B. Liquor License Application- Mainstreet Keg & Kork located at 395 E Main Street
- C. Public Notice of the May 21, 2024 Primary Election- Candidate Listing
- D. Minutes of the March 25th, 2024 Special City Council Meeting (attached)
- E. Minutes of the March 11th, City Council Regular Meeting

Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Duron seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-E. Motion carried unanimously.

Possible Action to Place a Question on the November 2024 Ballot related to the sale/taxation of Cannabis

City Manager Smith presented information (PowerPoint Presentation attached) regarding the events and discussions that took place leading up to this action item as outlined in the agenda packet and PowerPoint Presentation and recommended that the Council take no action on repealing the current ban on the sales of cannabis within city limits.

Councilors Barron and Peterson spoke regarding why they felt voters should be given another opportunity to vote on this issue citing responses received from the survey, being able to capture revenue from the taxes on



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sales, those in the community who are already partaking in the use but traveling elsewhere to purchase it, the coming of age of many individuals who were unable to vote prior but can now, receiving no negative feedback from Council members in Pendleton and other cities who allow cannabis sales, and more. Councilor Linton expressed her support in allowing the question to be presented to voters due to medicinal reasons and being safer to consume if sold in legal shops instead of being sold elsewhere then possibly laced with other illegal substances that could have negative impacts and cause death when consumed.

Councilors Primmer, Myers, Hardin, and Duron disagreed stating voters have already chosen not to allow the sales of marijuana inside the City and the Council should respect this decision, as well as voiced their concerns regarding the negative impacts this would have on youth, families, and the overall community. If there is an individual or group who feel strong enough to want to see it on the ballot, they have the right to file an initiative.

City Manager Smith outlined the Initiative Petition for those interested in starting this process, as well as addressed questions from the Council regarding the City's role and other options the City has with the Initiative Petition process.

Public Comment

James Hurst (Representing the Hermiston School District Board of Directors- letter attached), Manuel Gutierrez (750 E Quince Ave), Josh Roberts (1709 NE 6th Pl), Jon Lorence and Dean Fialka (Representing Good Shephard Health Care System Board of Trustees and Good Shephard Community Health Foundation Board- letter attached), Josiah Barron (Representing the Umatilla School District Board Members and Board Advisors- letter attached), Jenny Galloway (4607 SW Perkins Ave, Pendleton), Irma De Anda (750 E Quince Ave), Liz Marvin (1725 E Highland Ave- signatures attached from Dawn Bissinger), and Mark McPherson (email attached)- Asked that the Council vote no in allowing a ballot vote of cannabis sales within City Limits due to various reasons including: the negative impacts it will have on youth, families, and the overall community now and in the future, declining school attendance, increased crime, negative health implications, being mindful of the message this gives Hermiston, the large percentage of Pendleton residents who wish they would have never voted in favor of cannabis sales, although additional revenues are needed the community does not need drug money and gave comparisons to Mexican cartels who only care about money and profiting from those who are addicted, cannabis being a gateway drug, respecting the vote of the people who have already voted no on this issue, 99% of children in foster care are there due to parents involvement in drugs, allowing sales will make it easier for children to have access, and more.

Alberto Munoz (1480 NE Kenna Dr), Donna Mathis (PO Box 825), Scott Wadekamper (1530 SW Riverhill Dr) Miranda Hainsworth (521 NE Aspen Dr), and Jody Miller (email attached)- Asked that the Council vote in favor allowing a ballot vote of cannabis sales within City Limits due to various reasons including: capturing cannabis sales that are leaving the City from residents going to Pendleton and Tri-Cities, allowing cannabis sales will decrease the illegal sales from drug dealers profiting from youth, medicinal reasons, responses from the survey were in favor of this, cannabis being similar to alcohol, not being a gateway drug, safer to sell inside of City limits as people can't wait to get home to use it when they drive to other cities, Oregon has already legalized it, and more.



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Karen Jones (1010 W Hermiston Ave)- stated she has mixed feelings about this issue as she knows there are benefits for those struggling with pain and the like, but has also had circumstances where two drug houses have been in her neighborhood and the burden that was for all neighbors. Although it would be a benefit to have less drug houses and legal dispensaries, she has concerns on how this will impact the youth. Ms. Jones stated she values the opinion of the Police Department and asked that the police be involved in this decision to give information about how they believe this will impact our community.

Councilor Duron asked Chief Edmiston and Court Administrator Viles to speak about their professional opinions regarding dealing with impacts from the sales and use of cannabis.

Chief Edmiston stated since the passage of Measure 110 there has been an 59% increase of property crime and does not feel the Council should vote in favor of possibly allowing sales inside city limits.

Court Administrator Viles stated prior to her employment with the City, she was working for the Umatilla County Drug Court Program for 4.5 years; most of individuals in this program started using cannabis and then fell into use of meth, heroine, and/or fentanyl as they weren't able to get a good enough high from cannabis. Court Administrator Viles stated she has seen a surprisingly large number of minors-in-possession charges coming from cannabis sales that are mostly happening at school or at properties near school.

After further comments from the Council, Councilor Hardin moved and Councilor Primmer seconded to follow Option #1 as recommended by city staff and take no action on repealing the current ban on the sale of cannabis within the City of Hermiston. Councilors McCarthy, Barron, Linton, Primmer, Myers, Hardin, and Duron voted in favor; Councilor Peterson voted against. Motion carried 7-1.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked all those who attended and commented on this issue stating our youth is the most important thing to consider when deliberating on issues and he is happy that the Council made this decision.

Resolution No. 2318 – Gladys & Main Water Line Replacement

Assistant City Manager Morgan gave information (PowerPoint Presentation attached) regarding awarding a construction contract to Culbert Construction, Inc for water main line and roadway replacements in various locations on Gladys and Hurlburt Ave. and Main St.

After further discussion, Councilor McCarthy moved and Councilor Primmer seconded to approve Resolution No. 2318 and lay upon the record. Motion carried unanimously.

Possible Action to Adopt a Facility Naming Rights Policy - See Work Session Information

City Manager Smith presented and reviewed the newest revised proposed policy with suggested updates from the City Council as addressed in the work session meeting (attached).

Public Comment

Karen Jones (1010 W. Hermiston Ave)- Asked that the Council consider how parks received their name, stating parks were named in dedication of individuals who made significant contributions to the community, like Dr. Belt and Pastor Greenwood and would hate to see this go away. Ms. Jones stated she understands that



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additional revenue is needed but suggested naming be something like, Belt Park Sponsored by _____. And suggested that placards be placed at each park with information about how and why the park came to be along with information about the park naming to embrace and celebrate those people who contributed to our community.

After further discussion, Councilor Linton moved, and Councilor Peterson seconded to table this decision to a future meeting. Councilors Barron, Linton, and Peterson voted in favor; Councilors McCarthy, Primmer, Myers, Hardin, and Duron voted against. Motion failed 5-3. Councilor McCarthy moved, and Councilor Myers seconded to approve the newest version of the proposed policy as amended and emailed to the Council. Councilors McCarthy, Primmer, Myers, Hardin, Duron, and Peterson voted in favor; Councilors Barron and Linton voted against. Motion carried 6-2.

Adoption of 2024 Council Goal Setting Report

City Manager Smith gave a brief overview of the Council Goal Setting Report as presented by SSW Consulting in the agenda packet and established during the Council retreat held earlier this year in January to direct staff on Council priorities for the coming years.

After Council discussion, Councilor Hardin moved and Councilor Primmer seconded to adopt the 2024 Council Goal Setting Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Councilor Linton stated she wanted to make a motion to rescind Ordinance No. 2352 entitled Business License.

After some Council and staff discussion, it was decided that staff would research this issue due to Ordinance noticing requirements and return to the Council at the next meeting with more information regarding this matter.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee- Councilor Myers and Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz stated the Committee received information and updates regarding: possible Pickleball Courts at Theater Sports Park, May 11th Skate Park Ribbon Cutting, HEROS Tournament this weekend, and Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Butte Park.

Hispanic Advisory Committee (HAC)- Councilor Duron stated the Committee heard updates from Stepping Stones Alliance including the need for volunteers and fundraising efforts, as well as updates from the Cinco de Mayo 501c3 Committee (not a City Committee) regarding their planning efforts, and HAC's decision to host a first annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration later this year.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Drotzmann spoke regarding the successful ribbon cutting event at River's Edge Acute Center for Healing (REACH) from Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) and the wonderful resource this is for the community and thanked CCS, Representative Greg Smith, and all those involved in making this happen.



Where Life is Sweet

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Regular Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2024

Council Reports

Councilor Linton asked if the Council could hear about reserving a jail bed with Umatilla County from Municipal Judge Bendixsen at an upcoming meeting and briefly spoke regarding her attendance at the National League of Cities (NLC) Conference.

Staff stated they would work to schedule a presentation regarding the jail bed subject.

Councilor McCarthy stated he also attended the NLC Conference and was thankful for all that he learned, as well as encouraged the public to tune into the Candidate Forum on April 4th at 6pm in Council Chambers in Hermiston City Hall.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked Councilors Linton, McCarthy, and City Manager Smith for their attendance and representation at the NLC Conference.

Councilor Barron echoed Mayor Drotzmann sentiments regarding the REACH Center.

Youth Advisory Report

None present.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Smith suggested motorists avoid the intersection of 4th and Main due to restriping and stated the 2nd St Gateway Project is expected to be under construction for the next 90 days.

Adjournment

Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the City Council meeting at 9:57pm as there was no other business.



SIGNED:

Dr. David Drotzmann, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder



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Karen Jones (1010 W Hermiston Ave)- Stated she hopes the City will approve this asset to the community.

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ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, City Recorder



Cannabis Tax Review

- Review the History
- Review Ballot Process/Requirements



WHY?

- June 2023
 - City Council/Staff began a detailed review of City's General Fund Budget including possible revenue sources.
 - City staff did not consider a cannabis tax a viable potential revenue source and so gave minimal discussion time to it.
- Fall 2023
 - Multi-subject survey focused on budget issues (425)
 - 75% said that a cannabis tax should be considered



History

- Recreational marijuana was adopted by approval of Measure 91 in 2014.
 - Adopted a 17% State Tax
- A local tax of up to 3% is authorized
 - 92 cities/counties have a local tax (276)
- In 2015, Hermiston City Council referred to the 2016 ballot the question of Hermiston allowing marijuana businesses and taxing them.
 - Failed by 442 votes (2,786 to 2,344)



Ballot

- Initiative/Referendum
 - **Balance between direct democracy and representative democracy**
- Only primary/general elections in even numbered years
- Requires (currently) 1,625 signatures
 - **Based on current number of registered voters within the city limits**
- Tentative deadline for November 2024 would be June 7, 2024



Ballot

- If Council referred decision to the ballot
 - **What would be allowed?**
 - **Taxation?**
 - **Create ballot measure language.**
 - **Prepare ordinances to set any restrictions (time, place, manner)**
 - **Set business license fee amounts?**



Impact Research

- A scoping review of school-level risk and protective factors of youth cannabis use: An application of the socio-ecological model
- Effects of Cannabis Legalization on Adolescent Cannabis Use Across 3 Studies
- Legalization and retail availability of recreational marijuana and adolescent use in schools



Impact Research

- All three of the studies
 - **Correlation**
 - **Need more study**



Recommendation

- This issue came as part of a discussion on budget issues.
- Council has taken another route on the current additional general fund revenue needs.
- Staff recommends no change to city ordinances without a submitted petition.



Discussion

Where Life is Sweet™



Future Focused: *Building Knowledge and Skills for Tomorrow*

March 25, 2024

Dear Members of the Hermiston City Council:

As the Hermiston School District board of directors, and on behalf of the over 5,000 students we serve, we are unanimously against any action which facilitates increased access to cannabis in our community. We want to be very clear. We understand you are not voting to permit dispensaries. You are voting to use taxpayer dollars to put the question to the voters a third time.

As our state continues to reel from the impact of Measure 110 and the overwhelming harm it has caused, and as a bill sits on the Governor's desk right now to repeal that failed drug experiment, this body is considering sending the question of cannabis sales back to the voters for another try.

We are against any action that could result in getting pot shops closer to our kids.

An October 2023 study of Oregon's marijuana legalization experiment shows that students, particularly in middle school, are profoundly affected by the proximity of dispensaries within a mile of a school. It shows a 30% increase "...in discipline referrals for substance use offenses... not related to alcohol or tobacco." If you were to draw a one-mile radius circle around each of our schools, you will find there is no space for a dispensary that will not harm our kids.

Data shows increased legal access leads to increased illegal use by kids, increased behavior problems in schools, decreased attendance, and lower graduation rates. The CDC warns about the harm to teen brains, mental health problems like depression, social anxiety and temporary psychosis as well as more serious and permanent problems like schizophrenia.

Increased access and use will lead to increased instances of impaired driving. The CDC goes on to warn against the impact in reaction times, coordination and concentration while driving. Dispensaries today are not popular for their joints or weed. The THC content in a marijuana leaf is about 15%. The dispensary's attract users with flavored gummies and jolly rancher-like candies especially attractive to kids. They have "Watermelon Whip" cannabis oil with THC content approaching 90%. This data comes from the Seattle Times' editorial board as they try to sound the alarm.

If you choose to invite a vote to bring cannabis into our town, bringing it closer to our kids, you need to know the product you are inviting in. According to a Washington State report, "They don't resemble the plant — they are as close to the cannabis plant as strawberries are to frosted strawberry pop tarts,"

Superintendent Tricia Mooney, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent Jake Bacon

Address
305 SW 11th St
Hermiston, OR 97838

Office 541-667-6000
Fax 541-667-6050
Website hermiston.k12.or.us/



Future Focused: *Building Knowledge and Skills for Tomorrow*

Dr. Leslie Walker-Harding of Seattle Children's says, "It's just getting worse in terms of the number of kids who are being impacted by cannabis because the potency is so high. We're now seeing many more mental health issues — schizophrenia, psychosis, depression, anxiety. I've seen it and it's scary."

Our teachers and staff are already working through dysregulated student behaviors, disrupted learning events, and chronic absenteeism.

Remember our students and our community when you vote. A vote to move this forward is a vote against our kids and our future.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Hermiston School District 8R

Karen Sherman
Bonnie Luisi
Dain Gardner
Sally Hansell
Teri Vanderstelt
James Hurst
Liliana Gomez

Superintendent Tricia Mooney, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent Jake Bacon

Address
305 SW 11th St
Hermiston, OR 97838

Office 541-667-6000
Fax 541-667-6050
Website hermiston.k12.or.us/

March 20, 2024

Dear Hermiston City Council Members,

The Boards of Good Shepherd Health Care System (GSHCS) and Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation (GSCHF) strongly oppose legalizing commercial cannabis sales in Hermiston.

Both Boards had discussions about this potential ballot item and have approached this issue from a health outcomes and safety standpoint. The consensus from both Boards is that the legalization of commercial cannabis sales will further perpetuate its use, thus negatively impacting the health of our community and patients. It would undoubtedly be counterproductive to our mission, which is to improve the health of the communities we serve.

The legalization of commercial cannabis sales within Hermiston would be harmful to the health and well-being of its citizens for the following health and safety reasons, as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Driving within 24-hours of marijuana use has an immediate impact on thinking, attention, memory, coordination, movement and time-perception, all impacting the ability to drive safely
- Increased risk of developing Marijuana Use Disorder (Addiction)
- Delivers harmful substances, including many of the same toxins and carcinogens (cancer-causing chemicals) found in tobacco smoke
- Negatively impacts lung health including harm to lung tissues, scarring and damage to small blood vessels which leads to greater risk for bronchitis, cough, and mucus production
- Increased risk of stroke, heart disease, and other vascular diseases
- Long-term effects on the brain, especially if use began at a young age which impacts attention, concentration, the ability to learn, and decreases memory function
- Pregnant mother's use can cause health problems in newborns including lower birth weight and abnormal neurological development
- Marijuana/THC can be passed to infants and children through secondhand smoke. Children exposed to THC are potentially at risk for negative health effects

In Good Shepherd's Emergency Department (ED), our providers have seen Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome (CHS) in patients presenting to our ED that may be caused by prolonged marijuana use where they experienced repeated and severe bouts of nausea, vomiting, dehydration and stomach pain.

According to our most recent 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) representing Umatilla and part of Morrow County (<https://www.gshealth.org/communitybenefit>), 17.3% of those 500 individuals surveyed reported using marijuana/Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Increasing access by commercial cannabis sales could dramatically increase this number and thereby the risks of short-term and long-term negative health effects.

Due to these compelling health outcomes, risks, and safety concerns, we feel it is our duty to urge you as our City Council members to prevent the addition of commercial cannabis sales on the upcoming ballot. We feel that any revenue generated from legalization is far outweighed by the negative ramifications to our patients, their families and our community's health and safety.

Sincerely,



Jon Lorence
Chair,
Good Shepherd Health
Care System Board of Trustees



Dean Fialka
Chair,
Good Shepherd Community
Health Foundation Board



Superintendent
Heidi Sipe

Business Manager
Kim Gilsdorf

Board Members Lesly Claustro-Sanguino *Chair*, Toby Cranston *Vice-Chair*,
Travis Eynon, Steve Warr, Jon Lorence, Josiah Barron, Jorge Meza

March 14th, 2024

Hermiston City Council
180 NE 2nd St.
Hermiston, OR 97838

Dear Hermiston City Council Members,

We are writing to you in our capacity as Board Members of the Umatilla School District regarding a matter of significant concern to our schools, students, and the broader community we serve. It has come to our attention that there are discussions and potential plans to permit marijuana dispensaries within city limits. While we understand the complexities and various perspectives surrounding this issue, we feel compelled to share our experiences and the impacts we have observed following the legalization and local availability of drugs, including marijuana, on the young people in our community.

We have noted a discernible decline in student attendance rates since the decriminalization of drugs. This trend is alarming, not only because it disrupts the educational process but also because it often signifies broader issues in students' lives, including increased exposure to and use of marijuana and other drugs. Attendance is a foundational element of academic success, and its decline signals a distressing shift in priorities away from education.

The safety of our students is paramount, and we have observed situations that compromise this safety directly related to the increased availability of drugs. This includes incidents on school grounds and the broader community, where students have been found in possession of or under the influence of drugs, including marijuana. Parental attention has also suffered in some situations, further risking student safety. We have encountered an increasing number of situations where parental use of marijuana, normalized by its legal status, has led to diminished engagement in their children's education and reduced supervision in the home.

In light of these concerns, we strongly believe that allowing marijuana dispensaries within Hermiston city limits would exacerbate these issues. The proximity of dispensaries to schools, even if technically outside the minimum distance required by law, reduces the perceived severity and potential risks of marijuana use among young people. It subtly shifts community norms and attitudes toward acceptance and normalization of drug use, which is not in the best interest of our students or the community and region at large.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this crucial matter. We know you are committed to the well-being of all in your community and appreciate your dedication and service to Hermiston.

Sincerely,

Lesly Claustro-Sanguino *Jon Lorence* *Jorge Meza* *Toby Cranston*
Josiah Barron
Umatilla School Board Members and Board Advisors *Toby D Cranston* *Josiah Barron*

I am opposed to allowing legalized commercial cannabis dispensaries within the Hermiston city limits.

- Brian K. Bissinger 610 SE 9th Dr Hermiston Or 3/13/24
- Dawn A. Bissinger 610 SE 9th Dr Hermiston, OR 3/13/24
- Cindy Middleton 930 E Pine Ave Hermiston OR 3/13/24
- Jason Middleton
M M 930 E Pine Ave Hermiston OR 3/13/24
- Louise Sundvall 984 E Main St " " 3/13/24
- Reagan Buch 650 SE 9th Dr. Hermiston 3-13-24
- Barla C. Buch 650 SE 9th Dr. Hermiston, OR. 3-13-24
- Scott G. Nevil 910 E Pine St Hermiston OR 3/13/24
- Lynnea Sargent 915 E. Pine Ave Hermiston 3/13/24
- Dick Sargent 915 E. Pine Ave Hermiston 3/13/24
- ED PEDRO 925 E, PINE AVE. HERMISTON 3/13/24
- Debbie Pedro 925 Pine Ave, Hermiston 3/13/24
- JO FAUX (J Faux) 1 SW ALDERBROOKE PL, HERMISTON 3/14/24
- Lois Cram 2979 NW Overlook Dr Hermiston 3/14/24
- Clare ⁶⁴⁵ Pettersen W Madrona Ave Hermiston 3/14/24
- Carrie Spalione 2248 NW Eucalyptus Dr. Hermiston 3/14/24
- Phyllis Hensell 2010 NW Eucalyptus Hermiston 3/14/24
- Loretta Schab 620 SE 9th Dr Hermiston, OR 3/14/24

I am opposed to allowing legalized commercial cannabis dispensaries within the Hermiston city limits.

Pam Bissonette 440 SE 9th Dr, Hermiston, OR 3/14/2024

Jesse Adams 475 SE 9th Dr Hermiston OR 3/14/2024

Cindy Schaan 905 E. Pine Ave 3/14/2024

Jodi Wrathall 940 E Pine Ave 3.16.24

CHRIS WRATHALL 940 E PINE AVE HERMISTON OR 3.16.24

Anna Rademacher 1445 McConnell Lane, Hermiston, OR 3-16-24

Dave Rademacher 1445 McConnell Lane Hermiston OR 3-16-24

Liz Marvin 1725 E Highland Ave. Hermiston, OR 3-17-24

Phil Hamm 32738 Diagonal Rd Hermiston OR 97838

Linda Hamm 32738 Diagonal Rd Hermiston OR 97838

Kari Christiansen 470 Christiansen Ln. Hermiston OR 97838

Zeno Mannin 1725 East Highland OR 97838

Ami Little 2409 NE 8th St Hermiston OR 97838

I am opposed to allowing legalized commercial cannabis dispensaries within the Hermiston city limits.

Gary Wood 929 EPINE AVE
P.O. BOX 1232 HERMISTON

Kyllian Wood 935 E Pine Ave
Hermiston, OR 97838

HUNTER TIBBALS 390 E. CARTER DR. 97838

Despina BUTI 655 SE 9TH DR HERMISTON 97838

Lee Bissinger 905 E Highland Ave Hermiston OR 97838

Brittany Bissinger 905 E Highland Ave Hermiston, OR 97838

Kim Smith 1000 SW 19th CT Hermiston, OR 97838

Jennifer Miller 445 SE 9th Dr. Hermiston OR 97838

Pam Merritt 425 SE 9th Dr. Hermiston, OR 97838

Dr. Timothy Merritt ~~309 4th Dr~~ 425 SE 9th Dr Hermiston 97838

Kateigh Bowen same ↗

475 SE 9th Dr. Hermiston OR 97838

Gary Miller 445 SE 9th Dr. Herm. OR 97838

From: Mark Mcpherson <markemcp@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2024 8:36 PM
To: City of Hermiston Meetings <meetings@hermiston.gov>
Subject: Cannabis

[You don't often get email from markemcp@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] - STOP and VERIFY - This message came from outside of the City of Hermiston

Please do not bring in a dispensary. Despite what many think, recreational cannabis is not healthy. I provide anesthesia at Good Shepherd and this drug makes it much more difficult to provide adequate anesthesia to patients. I believe it will also result in more minors being exposed to this drug earlier on while they are still developing their brains. Please vote no.

Mark McPherson, CRNA
Hermiston, Oregon Resident and tax payer.
Sent from my iPhone

From: Jody Miller <jmiller30@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 12:34 AM
To: City of Hermiston Meetings <meetings@hermiston.gov>
Subject: Commercial Cannabis Ballet

You don't often get email from jmiller30@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] - STOP and VERIFY - This message came from outside of the City of Hermiston

I am unable to attend this meeting due to my physical limitations. It would be very painful to sit through the meeting so I am writing instead.

Dear City Council,

Please re consider cannabis sales in Hermiston. Here are a few personal reasons I would like to see this happen.

1. I suffer from chronic pain. I have fibromyalgia, herniated discs in my neck, chronic knee pain syringomyelia (fluid filled cyst) inside my spinal cord from T5-T9 approximately 5 inches long and degenerative disc disease.

Getting a pain pill is impossible . The nearest pain clinic my insurance will cover is in Hood River 122 miles away. Traveling that far is not only expensive but very painful for me. Here locally the doctors only offer gabapentin or similar drugs that Im allergic to. This leaves me very limited options for pain control. I currently travel to Pendleton to purchase my cbd/the tinctures. It would be nice to be able to purchase them locally.

Other reasons to allow a dispensary locally would be the jobs it would create, revenue and taxes for our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration
Jody Miller

Resolution 2318
Gladys/Main/Hurlburt W-Main
 City Council: March 25, 2024

HERMISTON Overview

- Water Main Replacement
- ~5,000' (1 mile) Old/UnderSized Main Replacement
 - 77 Miles City-wide (= 77 Year Replacement Rate)
- Overlay ~1,000' of Roadway
- Fully Reconstruct ~1,400' of Roadway



HERMISTON W. Ridgeway Experience



HERMISTON W. Ridgeway Experience



 **W. Ridgeway Experience**



 **W. Ridgeway Experience**



 **W. Ridgeway Experience**



 **SE 7th Experience**





SE 7th Experience



Google Earth



Gladys/Main/Hurlburt



Gladys/Main/Hurlburt



Gladys/5th: Looking West



Google Earth





Gladys/Main/Hurlburt



Main/5th: Looking East



Main/5th: Looking East



Bids

| Contractor | Bid |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Culbert Construction | \$1,856,174.58 |
| Eastern Oregon Contracting | \$1,897,300.15 |
| Bolen Construction | \$1,976,730.00 |
| C&E Trenching | \$2,010,406.97 |
| Premier Excavation | \$2,018,615.65 |
| Titan Utilities | \$2,165,268.00 |





Recommendation

- Award to Culbert Construction



QUESTIONS?

Where Life is Sweet

A POLICY FOR NAMING/RENAMING CITY FACILITIES AND PARKS INCLUDING COMMERCIAL NAMING RIGHTS

1. Definition:

~~4.~~ a. Facilities and Parks. A facility refers to any structure or designated area that supports recreational/educational activities and amenities for public use. These can include buildings (including community centers), rooms in buildings, parks, garden areas, playgrounds, sports fields (like soccer, baseball, or football fields), courts, picnic areas, shelters or pavilions, walking or cycling paths, restrooms, and swimming pools. The purpose of facilities is to enhance the recreation, provide spaces for physical activity and community gatherings, and promote the overall well-being of community members.

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b. Non-facilities. Items or features within an area or park that do not fall under the definition of a facility typically include natural features and landscaping elements such as trees, lawns, ~~natural bodies of water (lakes, rivers, ponds)~~, undeveloped land, and general open space areas. Additionally, small, non-structural amenities like park benches, signage, waste receptacles, and minor decorative elements are not considered facilities and fall under City Manager policy.

2. Policies and procedures for naming parks/facilities operated by the City.

a. Naming Objectives:

- i. Identify the site/facility/area and create a site image.
- ii. Provide a geographic location for the site/facility that could assist the public in easily locating a specific site within a park.
- iii. Recognize those individuals/organizations that develop facilities/areas for public use.
- iv. Honor a person for historical or commemorative reasons.
- v. Carry current values into the future.
- vi. Provide for added or enhanced development through the purchase of naming rights by commercial businesses, private individuals, or civic groups.

b. Procedure for naming new facilities/parks/areas or renaming existing facilities/parks/areas:

- i. Staff or community member(s) propose name or new name.
- ii. Appropriate city committee with jurisdiction uses guidelines provided in section c below to evaluate proposals for facility/park naming/renaming.
- iii. Appropriate city committee recommends a name for park/facility.
- iv. City Council approves name and any naming rights agreement.

c. Guidelines and/or considerations to be used for naming or renaming facilities/parks:

- i. Be imaginative and creative.
- ii. Utilize names of cultural places or features, i.e. streets, schools.

Effective March 25, 2024a

- iii. Name after historic sites, events, or persons.
- iv. Geographic or natural features, i.e. creeks, hills, or vegetation.
- v. Names should express appreciation, educate, or convey historical significance.
 - 1. Living People:
 - a. When 50 percent of the value of the park land, facility, or area is donated, or
 - b. When "substantially all" of the development is donated, or
 - c. When public individuals have made a significant contribution over a long period of time to, or
 - d. When public individuals have special interest in the park and/or other facility.
 - e. When a person is determined to have played an essential role in the evolution of the facility or area.
 - 2. Deceased People:
 - a. When it is appropriate to name a facility/park in honor of a deceased person, it may be a war or civilian hero or a person who has made a major contribution to the community and/or who has been instrumental in acquiring or developing the facility/park area. The name of a deceased person for a facility/park should not be considered until 6 months after the date of the death of that person and should be considered only if deemed appropriate.
 - 3. Organizations:
 - a. When 50 percent of the value of the parkland, facility or area is donated, or
 - b. When substantially all the development is donated.
 - c. When a donation has been "deemed significant" in the development of a facility or area.
- vi. Commercial Naming Rights:
 - 1. When a negotiated percent of the facility/park/area is donated, or
 - 2. When a negotiated amount of funding is provided for the development or enhancement of the park/facility/area.
- vii. Naming rights to facilities and programs will not be allowed for alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and other businesses that do not reflect the wholesome nature of the facility and services provided and do not represent the mission and values of the City of Hermiston.
- viii. Length of rights will be determined through a negotiated contract, which will be approved by the City Council.
- ix. Avoid duplication with other names in the state and surrounding areas.
- x. The City of Hermiston reserves the right to refuse contributions.

Effective March 25, 2024a