

**CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS CALIFORNIA
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, October 13, 2015
2:00 P.M.
City Council Chambers
24264 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, California 92637**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Conners called the Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Laguna Woods to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBER: PRESENT: Hack, Horne, Moore, Hatch, Conners
 ABSENT: -

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Macon, City Attorney Cosgrove, Assistant City
 Manager Reilly, Deputy City Clerk Trippy

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Horne led the flag salute.

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND CEREMONIAL MATTERS – None

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR – None

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7.1 Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Ordinance

City Manager Macon noted that the following individuals submitted comments prior to the City Council meeting, which will be made a part of the record of proceedings:

1. Diane M. Goldstein, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition
2. Leslie Palm, dated October 13, 2015
3. Eric S. Chan, dated October 13, 2015

City Attorney Cosgrove summarized the agenda report and made a presentation.

Councilmembers discussed the item and staff answered related questions.

Mayor Conners opened the public hearing.

The following individuals expressed their support for medical marijuana dispensaries:

1. Lonnie Painter, Village Cannabis Club
2. Ginny Rettig, member of the public
3. Richard Thomas, resident
4. Jeff Akers, resident
5. Erik S. Chan, member of the public
6. Aaron Herzberg, OC3 Dispensary
7. Barbara Ayala, Orange County NORML
8. Jeri Painter, resident
9. Kevin Prior, resident

Jim Ferguson, GdB Ferguson, expressed his support for the passing of a moratorium and encouraged the City to take their time before making any long-term decisions.

Jerry Painter, resident, discussed the importance of mandatory testing of medical marijuana.

Charles Green, GdB Ferguson, discussed potential operational issues related to medical marijuana dispensaries and regulatory issues related to medical marijuana cultivation.

With there being no more requests to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Councilmembers discussed the item and staff answered related questions.

City Manager Macon recommended the following amendments to the ordinance titled:

AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS, CALIFORNIA PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 36934, 36937, AND 65858, EXTENDING A MORATORIUM ON ESTABLISHING, LOCATING, OR OPERATING MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF FURTHER STUDY AND ANALYSIS

1. The “fourth whereas” on page 2, is amended to state, “Whereas, the Governor of California recently signed three bills into law (collectively titled the “Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act”) that will substantially rework existing State Laws relating to medical marijuana (i.e. The Compassionate Use Act [Health and Safety Code Section 11362.5] and the Medical Marijuana Program, [Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7]); and”
2. “Section J” is amended to state, “The fact the Governor has signed the Medical

Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act into law, will substantially rework existing State laws relating to medical marijuana (i.e., The Compassionate Use Act [Health and Safety Code Section 11362.5] and the Medical Marijuana Program, [Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7]).”

Mayor Pro Tem Hatch suggested that the following language be added to the “seventh whereas” on page 3, “and considering and weighing the propriety and impact of prohibiting the operation of medical marijuana dispensaries within the city of Laguna Woods.”

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Hatch, seconded by Councilmember Horne, and carried unanimously on a 5-0 vote, to adopt an ordinance – read by title with further reading waived, as amended – entitled:

AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS, CALIFORNIA, PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 36934, 36937, AND 65858, EXTENDING A MORATORIUM ON ESTABLISHING, LOCATING, OR OPERATING MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF FURTHER STUDY AND ANALYSIS

Mayor Connors called for a brief recess.

The meeting was called back to order at 4:17 p.m.

VIII. CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS

8.1 North Orange County Groundwater Basin Contamination

Councilmember Moore summarized the agenda report.

Councilmembers discussed the item and staff answered related questions.

By consensus, the City Council authorized Councilmember Moore to prepare and submit a letter to the Orange County Water District and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) supporting the EPA’s role as the lead agency responsible for investing North Orange County Groundwater Basin regional groundwater contamination under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or, Superfund).

8.2 General Plan Comprehensive Update Project

City Manager Macon requested that this item be considered at a future City Council meeting. There were no objections.

IX. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

9.1 Comments and Reports

Mayor Conners and Mayor Pro Tem Hatch reported on the California Joint Powers Authority's Annual Risk Management Educational Forum.

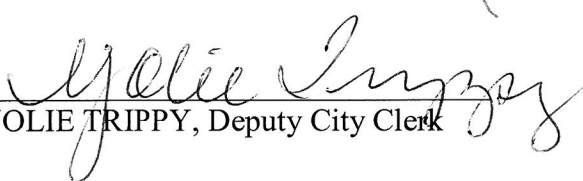
Councilmember Horne reported on a Senior Citizens Advisory Committee meeting.

X. CLOSED SESSION – None

XI. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m. The next adjourned regular meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at Laguna Woods City Hall, 24264 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637.


YOLIE TRIPPY, Deputy City Clerk

Adopted: November 18, 2015


CYNTHIA S. CONNERS, Mayor