

APPROVED

**CITY OF MONROE
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 2015**

The meeting of the Monroe Planning Commission Public Hearing was scheduled for **February 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 806 West Main Street, Monroe, WA 98272.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Kristiansen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Christina Lavelle called the roll. The following were:

Present: Commissioner Jensen, Commissioner Tuttle, Commissioner Rodland, Commissioner Kristiansen, Commissioner Stanger, Commissioner Sherwood, and Commissioner Duerksen

Staff Present: Public Works Director Brad Feilberg and Planning Commission Secretary Christina Lavelle.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Marijuana Related Land Uses

An opportunity for the public to provide input on the proposed changes in buffer requirements for the production, processing, and retail sales of recreational marijuana.

Director Feilberg summarized the proposed development of an ordinance by the Monroe City Council that would add certain uses to the list of buffered property adopted by RCW69.50.331 (8) and Monroe Municipal Code (MMC) Chapter 18.70. These include the Evergreen State Fairgrounds, private parks, and religious institutions.

Commissioner Kristiansen opened the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Michael Hanford

19832 143rd St. SE. Monroe, Washington 98272

Mr. Hanford, Pastor and Fire Chaplin, came out in strong support of the proposed changes that would add certain uses to the list of buffer zones for cannabis processing and sales. He noted that even though Washington State I-502 had provisions for marijuana buffer zones, the City Council ordinance would provide added protection for Monroe youth.

Bob Abbott

608 Powell Street. Monroe, WA 98272

Mr. Abbott was in strong support of the City Council proposed changes. He did however express

concern that restricting sales and production within the city core could increase illegal activity and push drug activity into the surrounding rural areas.

Dale Taylor for Joy Taylor

17922 131st Place S.E., Snohomish, WA 98290

Mr. Taylor entered into the record a copy of Joy Taylor's comments on the proposed City Council ordinance. She commented that she was in favor of the City Council's proposal and that increasing buffer zones could potentially reduce drug related crime and car accidents on SR2.

Carl Spencer

Co-owner Cabinet Business

17381 Tye Street, Monroe, WA 98272

Mr. Spencer, a local business owner, expressed strong support of the City Council proposed buffer zones. Owning a cabinet business, Mr. Spencer chose Monroe because of an already well established supply chain for his business, making Monroe a desirable choice to establish a business. Since the adoption of I-502, Mr. Spencer has been concerned about how cannabis sales and production will affect current and future employee and their productivity.

Bob McGowen

17404 137th St S.E. Fryelands Blvd., Monroe, WA 98272

Mr. McGowen stated that as a concerned business owner, he was in strong support of the proposed buffer zones increase. Mr. McGowen stated as an employer of day laborers that he has witnessed a rise in drug use and this has affected the quality of work that his employees produce.

Eric Swenson

16600 163rd Ave. S.E. Snohomish, WA 98290

Mr. Swenson was in support of the City Council proposed buffer zones.

Commissioner Kristiansen closed the public testimony portion of the public hearing.

The Commission discussion is summarized below:

- The Commission took no action for forwarding recommendations to the City Council on the proposed changes in buffer requirements for the production, processing, and retail sales of recreational marijuana.

Commissioner Sherwood moved to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by **Commissioner Stanger**. The motion carried 7/0.

WORKSHOP

A. 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update

Continued review of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update Goals & Policies.

Commission discussion is summarized below:

- The Commission discussed the policies related to Goal 6.

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSION AND STAFF

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sherwood made a motion to adjourn the February 9, 2015 Planning Commission meeting. Motion seconded by **Commissioner Duerksen**. Motion carried 7/0 and the meeting was adjourned at **9:00 p.m.**



Bill Kristiansen
Chairman



Christina LaVelle
Planning Commission Secretary