

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, in Council Chambers and via electronic meeting, starting at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were as follows:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: President Richard Johnson, Chairman; Dr. Michelle Aldrich, Bryan Cook, Ken Esquibel, Pete Laybourn, Scott Roybal, Tom Segrave and Jeff White. Absent: Dr. Mark Rinne.

AGENDA ITEMS

14. **ORDINANCE –2nd READING** – Repealing and recreating code provisions prohibiting drug paraphernalia as specified, and amending Section 9.20.020, Narcotics and Drugs, of Chapter 9.20, Controlled Substances, of Title 9, Public Peace and Welfare, of the Municipal Code of the City of Cheyenne, Wyoming, to eliminate municipal prohibitions governing marijuana. (SPONSORS – MR. JOHNSON AND MR. ROYBAL)

Mr. Roybal moved to approve on 2nd reading, seconded by Mr. Esquibel. Motion failed with Dr. Aldrich, Mr. Cook, Mr. Laybourn, Mr. Segrave, and Mr. White voting “NO”, and Mr. Esquibel and Mr. Roybal voting “YES”.

Mr. Laybourn joined the meeting at 6:12 p.m. and Mr. Cook joined the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

President Johnson called the meeting to order and following the clerk reading the item into the record, he relinquished the chair to Vice President Esquibel. President Johnson provided an overview of the proposed ordinance noting the evenings discussion is not a debate about legalization of marijuana, it is instead about the decriminalization of marijuana in the city limits. President Johnson clarified that both state and federal laws will still apply in the city limits as they relate to marijuana should the ordinance be approved. Following President Johnson’s overview Vice President Esquibel relinquished the duties of the chair back to President Johnson. Stefanie Boster, City Attorney, provided information as to the Constitutionality of the ordinance and the effect on the case load at Municipal Court. Chief Mark Francisco, Police Department, provided information related to tickets issued over the last year and noted that this ordinance does not relieve the police department from the oath each officer takes to up hold the US Constitution and Wyoming State Constitution. All committee members present commented on the item. Public comment was made by: Treyshawn Allen; Jeff Barnes; Dr. Jason Bloomberg (via Zoom); James Byrd; Gary Brown; Brian Crozier; Joe Dulemba; James Drapper (spoke for a group of attendees); Matt Freeman (via Zoom); Max Esdale; AJ Gold; Ben Hornok, WY State Representative House District 42; Dena Inglett, WY Norml; Sandra Johnson; Richard Jones (via Zoom); Dominique Lyon, Legalize Wyoming; Jeff McVay; Shawn Murphy, founder and former publisher of The Hemp Business Journal; Jeff Olson; Kathleen Peterson; Jim Ridgeway; Tom Palluck; Matthew Ringo; Carrie Satterwhite (via Zoom), WY Norml; Peter Seekell; Staci Shultz (via Zoom), Platte Hemp Company; Daniel Singh, WY State Representative House District 61; Jen Solis; Jacqueline

Suntrup; Jeremiah Suntrup; Brittany Thorpe, WY Norml; Jacob Thorpe; Matt Warner; and Matthew Zaczek.

There being no further items for the agenda to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. McClelland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jennifer McClelland
Executive Assistant to the City Council