

**CITY OF NORTHGLENN
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 27, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dodge called a regular meeting of the Northglenn City Council to order on Monday, August 27, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 11701 Community Center Drive, Northglenn.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Mayor Dodge, Mayor Pro Tem Esquibel, Council members Sauers, Leighty, Downing, Whitman, and Willford.

ABSENT

Council members Brown and Duran Mullica.

STAFF PRESENT

City Manager Geyer, City Attorney Hoffmann, and City Clerk Small.

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS
AND DELETIONS:**

Mayor Dodge announced the following addition:

- Proclamations: Women's Equality Day – August 26, 2018

PROCLAMATIONS:

Women's Equality Day

Mayor Dodge read the proclamation proclaiming August 26, 2018 as Women's Equality Day in the City of Northglenn.

PRESENTATIONS:

August Neighborhood
Beautification Awards

Ms. Jenni Murphy, Community Outreach Coordinator, provided information about the Northglenn Neighborhood Beautification Program and stated the awards being presented are for the Water Wise Yard of the Month, Yard of the Month, and Long Term Home Beautiful categories. Council joined Ms. Murphy in congratulating those receiving awards for the month of August.

The residents recognized were: Natascha and Tim Myer, Gary and Linda Patterson, Jevin and Vince Noda, Lori Meis, Shannon Ready, Gene and Shawn Jacobson, Randy and Kelly Geers, Ruby Vega, Tracey Sires, Wayne and Delores Huss, Bob and Judy Huddleston, Gregory and Bobbi Kyle, Rick Hays, Duane and Marion Harris, Janine Lee, Frank McCormick, Steve and Susan Cumpton, Betty and Don Anderson, Barbara and Joe Butler, Mark and Denise Jaramillo, Joseph and Debra Lopez, Russ and Kelly Johnson, Joan and Stephani Lipinski, Tim Gutierrez, and Norman and Nancy Terry.

Magnificent Tree Award

Ms. Jenni Murphy announced that Kim and Sheryl Skattum were the winners of the 2018 Magnificent Tree Award for the Slippery Elm tree located in the front of their residence at 9980 Clark Drive. Mayor and Council congratulated the Skattums and presented Ms. Sheryl Skattum with the 2018 Magnificent Tree Award.

PUBLIC INVITED
TO BE HEARD

Mayor Dodge called for any person wishing to address City Council on matters of community interest related to City business not set for public hearing to come forward.

Mr. Eddie Rodriguez, Doc's Apothecary, spoke to Council about the proposed marijuana tax increase. Mr. Rodriguez spoke about customers price shopping products throughout the metro area and stated he believes increasing the tax will drive customers out of the community.

Mr. Joseph Ramos, Physician Preferred Products, LLC dba Doc's Apothecary, spoke to Council about the proposed marijuana tax increase. Mr. Ramos asked Council to consider how marijuana is currently taxed and stated he believes a tax increase will drive customers away. Mr. Ramos stated he believes a decrease in sales will hurt the marijuana businesses and the City's residents, and discouraged any tax rate in excess of 30%.

Mr. Salim Sacre, The Green Solution, spoke about the landscape, façade, and parking lot improvements The Green Solution has made at the Malley Center and stated they have worked well with the City Council. Mr. Sacre spoke about the proposed marijuana tax increase and stated they understand the idea of taxing marijuana sales. Mr. Sacre stated he is concerned about how future City Councils will implement annual tax increases and asked Council to consider capping the increase at five percent instead of ten percent.

Ms. Allyson Feiler, Green Tree Medicinals, spoke about the proposed marijuana tax increase and stated other municipalities who have increased their marijuana taxes are experiencing declining revenues. Ms. Feiler spoke about how marijuana businesses are taxed on expenses differently than other businesses, and stated an increase will affect their practice of tax-included pricing for customers. Ms. Feiler stated they are barely breaking even each year and asked Council to consider not taxing medical marijuana in Northglenn. Ms. Feiler expressed concern about allowing the City's marijuana tax to be increased up to ten percent and stated marijuana revenue should not be the primary funding source for the City's capital improvements.

Mr. Richard Pfeffer, BGood, spoke to Council about how the federal government taxes marijuana businesses and stated they are losing money each year. Mr. Pfeffer stated he understands taxing vices such as alcohol and marijuana, and asked why the City is not taxing alcohol sales the same as marijuana. Mr. Pfeffer stated he is glad that marijuana revenue funded the new Justice Center and expressed concern about the fairness of the proposed tax increase.

Ms. Lynne Carroll, Green Tree Medicinals, spoke about medical marijuana customers and stated many of their medical marijuana patients have stated that a tax increase will create a hardship for them. Ms. Carroll asked City Council to reconsider the proposed marijuana sales tax increase.

Mr. Steve O'Dorisio, Adams County Commissioner, spoke briefly about the issue of marijuana taxation, and commended the City on its Neighborhood Beautification Program.

Mr. Brian Downing, Green Tree Medicinals, spoke about the proposed marijuana sales tax increase and stated he believes businesses will shut down if punitive tax measures are enforced on single businesses. Mr. Downing stated he believes an increase will have the opposite effect for the City and stated there is no reason to punish one industry that is already overtaxed.

Ms. Emily Peters, Green Tree Medicinals, stated she uses cannabis for a medical condition to avoid using opioids, and spoke about customers being able to afford medical marijuana. Ms. Peters asked City Council to not increase the marijuana sales tax and to consider other options for funding City projects.

Mr. Tim Morgen, BGood, spoke against the proposed marijuana sales tax increase. Mr. Morgen stated Northglenn is the only City he is aware of that imposes a special tax on medical marijuana, and spoke about tax rates in neighboring cities such as Thornton and Federal Heights. Mr. Morgen asked Council to reconsider referring the tax question to the ballot and stated customers will shop elsewhere if the tax is increased. Mr. Morgen spoke about potential federal legislation affecting the marijuana industry and asked Council to help marijuana businesses be successful.

Mr. Zachary Katz, Green Tree Medicinals, stated they have customers from cities such as Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, and mountain communities who shop at their store because the current tax rate is low. Mr. Katz stated he believes a tax increase will drive customers away from Northglenn businesses.

Ms. Cassandra Gregg, BGood, asked Council to reconsider the proposed marijuana sales tax increase.

Mr. Hill Ellerbe, Green Tree Medicinals, spoke about his work at Green Tree Medicinals to improve the quality of life of customers and stated he believes many people will be affected if the marijuana sales tax is increased.

Ms. Chrissy Schein, Green Tree Medicinals, stated she believes customers will shop elsewhere if Northglenn's marijuana sales tax is increased. Ms. Schein stated insurance does not cover medical marijuana for patients and she believes a tax increase will drive customers away from Northglenn.

**LEGISLATIVE POLICY
COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

Council member Sauers provided information about the upcoming Legislative Tour on September 27, 2018 and stated a reception for the event will be held at the Stonehocker Farmhouse.

**CONSENT AGENDA
MOTION TO PASS**

Council member Sauers **MOVED** and it was **SECONDED** by Council member Downing to approve the consent agenda.

MOTION PASSED

There was no discussion and the motion **PASSED**.

IN FAVOR - Dodge, Esquibel, Sauers, Leighty, Downing,
Whitman, Willford.

OPPOSED - None.

ABSENT - Brown, Duran Mullica.

The following item was approved on the consent agenda:

- Minutes of the August 13, 2018 Regular Meeting

RESOLUTIONS:

CR-101 – School
Resource Officer IGA

City Clerk Small read the title.

MOTION TO PASS

Council member Downing **MOVED** and it was **SECONDED** by Council member Sauers to approve CR-101.

City Manager Geyer provided a summary of CR-101.

MOTION PASSED

There was no discussion and the motion **PASSED**.

IN FAVOR - Dodge, Esquibel, Sauers, Leighty, Downing,
Whitman, Willford.

OPPOSED - None.

ABSENT - Brown, Duran Mullica.

CR-102 – November 6,
2018 Ballot Question –
Marijuana Sales Tax

City Clerk Small read the title.

MOTION TO PASS

Council member Sauers **MOVED** and it was **SECONDED** by Council member Willford to approve CR-102.

City Manager Geyer provided a summary of CR-102.

MOTION PASSED

There was discussion and the motion **PASSED**.
IN FAVOR - Esquibel, Sauers, Leighty, Willford.
OPPOSED - Dodge, Downing, Whitman.
ABSENT - Brown, Duran Mullica.

CR-103 – Support for
Rangeview Library
District Anythink
Libraries Ballot Proposal

City Clerk Small read the title.

MOTION TO PASS

Council member Sauers **MOVED** and it was **SECONDED** by Council member Downing to approve CR-103.

City Manager Geyer provided a summary of CR-103.

MOTION PASSED

There was no discussion and the motion **PASSED**.
IN FAVOR - Dodge, Esquibel, Sauers, Leighty, Downing,
Whitman, Willford.
OPPOSED - None.
ABSENT - Brown, Duran Mullica.

CR-104 – Support
for the Land and
Water Conservation
Fund Reauthorization

City Clerk Small read the title.

MOTION TO PASS

Council member Downing **MOVED** and it was **SECONDED** by Council member Sauers to approve CR-104.

City Manager Geyer provided a summary of CR-104.

MOTION PASSED

There was no discussion and the motion **PASSED**.
IN FAVOR - Dodge, Esquibel, Sauers, Leighty, Downing,
Whitman, Willford.
OPPOSED - None.
ABSENT - Brown, Duran Mullica.

CR-105 – Support for
Urban Drainage and
Flood Control District
Ballot Issue

City Clerk Small read the title.

MOTION TO PASS

Council member Downing **MOVED** and it was **SECONDED** by Council member Sauers to approve CR-105.

City Manager Geyer provided a summary of CR-105.

MOTION PASSED

There was no discussion and the motion **PASSED**.

IN FAVOR - Dodge, Esquibel, Sauers, Leighty, Downing,
Whitman, Willford.

OPPOSED - None.

ABSENT - Brown, Duran Mullica.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Ralston House Update

Mr. Nate Haasis, Acting Operations Manager, provided an update on the Ralston House project. Mr. Haasis spoke about the construction, site grading, and utilities for the facility.

Northglenn Justice
Center Construction
Update

Mr. Nate Haasis, Acting Operations Manager, provided an update on the Northglenn Justice Center. Mr. Haasis stated everything is going well and noted this is the last update on the project as the facility is scheduled to be open in September.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Council

Council member Willford welcomed City Manager Geyer to Northglenn. Council member Willford reported she and Council member Esquibel will host a Ward 4 meeting on September 18, 2018 at Vantage Point High School. She stated the meeting topics will include a welcome from City Manager Geyer, opportunity to hear from State candidates for House District 34 and Senate District 24, and the City's Zoning Code Project. Council member Willford announced that child care will be available at the ward meeting. Council member Willford commended the Historic Preservation Commission and Member Lauren Weatherly on the recent Deza Estates Home Talk and Tour event that was held during Denver Modernism Week. Council member Willford reported she participated in the Technology Enabled Girl Ambassador (TEGA) interviews, and spoke about her one-on-one interview with a recent graduate from Northglenn High School.

Council member Whitman reported she attended the Mingle with the Mayor event and inquired about the budget impact and decision to provide child care at ward meetings.

Mayor Dodge thanked staff for the recent Magic Festival and stated it was a successful event. Mayor Dodge reported on the Northglenn Senior Organization (NSO) and stated the group amended their bylaws to allow seniors from other cities to participate as officers on the board. Mayor Dodge spoke about the Right On Learning mobile preschool program and stated she would like information about the program to be presented to the entire Council at a future meeting.

Council member Downing reported on the Historic Preservation Commission and recognized Commission Member Lauren Weatherly for her work on the Deza Estates Talk and Tour event. Council member Downing thanked all of the volunteers who helped the Historic Preservation Foundation at the Magic Festival, and reported on the North Area Transportation Alliance (NATA) meeting. Council member Downing announced a hard hat tour will be held at the Ralston House on September 13, 2018, and spoke about a forum on September 25 for the Let's Go Colorado campaign.

Council member Leighty spoke about the Youth Commission and reported she joined the members to participate in the Relay For Life fundraising event for the American Cancer Society on August 18. Council member Leighty welcomed all of the students going back to school, and spoke about the issue of school safety. Council member Leighty acknowledged that this year is the 20th anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting, and stated she would like to open a conversation about prioritizing school safety.

Staff

City Clerk Small reported September is Passport Awareness Month and stated the City Clerk's Office will be offering extended passport hours on Tuesday, September 11 and Saturday, September 15 to celebrate the month.

City Manager Geyer updated Council on the closure of the Recreation Center for annual maintenance and extended an invitation to the public to attend a community grand opening event at the new Justice Center on September 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. City Manager Geyer provided information about the cost and logistics of providing child care at public meetings and stated funding is available to absorb the cost of providing child care at meetings for the remainder of 2018.

There was discussion about how the decision was made to provide child care at public meetings, providing care for other persons,

increasing citizen engagement, utilizing Council travel funds to cover the costs of providing child care, expectations related to licensed child care, and how other cities are managing the service. It was the consensus of Council that child care will not be mandatory at public meetings, Council members may request child care be arranged for meetings for the remainder of 2018, and to discuss including an expenditure in the 2019 budget for child care at the study session on September 17.

**PUBLIC INVITED
TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Dodge invited any member of the public wishing to speak on items previously addressed by Council to come forward. There was no response.

ADJOURNMENT

The City Council meeting adjourned 8:57 at p.m.

JOHANNA SMALL, CMC
City Clerk

CAROL A. DODGE
Mayor