COUNCIL. continued from Page A1

specific aspect of the discussion was Keizer resident Richard Walsh, himself a former city councilor. He contended Measure 105 fell squarely within the narrow parameters in which the council is allowed to take a position.

"We have been trying to get the Hispanic community to engage with the city, to report when they are victims and when they witness crime. I spend a great deal of time as an attorney trying to help clients understand that they can't be deported in Oregon if their only violation is being undocumented. 105 will take that protection away and it will set us back decades," Walsh said.

Councilor Laura Reid said the numerous residents who offered testimony supporting the resolution made it clear that 105 would affect the city.

"We've heard very clearly tonight that this does affect our residents and 105 addresses whether the city's law enforcement officers should be in the business of enforcing immigration law." Reid said.

Freeman and Councilor

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Amy Ryan both opposed taking up the resolution when it came to a vote.

"When we assert ourselves as a body it should represent all residents and we need to trust our citizens to vote according to their opinions and values. I don't think we should move forward because it's divisive," Ryan said.

A motion to take up the resolution passed in a 5-2 vote, Freeman and Ryan voted no.

When it came to deliberations, Councilor Marlene Parsons said she'd spent many of her waking moments pondering her stance even though she was one of the councilors to bring the issue forward.

"I was on the bubble, but this will affect all citizens and especially the undocumented residents. We have to protect our residents. Thank you for coming tonight because you helped me figure this out," she told the large audience in attendance.

Prior to making the change from urging residents to vote "no" to simply opposing Measure 105, Freeman appeared to be leaning against the resolu-

"I don't believe it's my role to tell people how to vote. I think it's a bigger conversation

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and should include more than just the residents here tonight," Freeman said.

Reid said opposing 105 created a space for a larger conversation for all Keizer residents.

"I believe that this is the beginning of the conversation, and if we don't stand up to protect our citizens we can't have that conversation. This ensures that both sides will have a place in that conversation," she said.

"Over many months, many years, we've seen a need to engage in this conversation and [this discussion] has opened the first step in affirming that we want to have it, and to be clear that we value and respect every resident of this city," Clark added.

Ryan suggested that there was a lot of misinformation in the testimony provided to the council, but did not call out specifics

"Measure 105 is [on the ballot] because 109,000 Oregonians said it should be there. A conversation has two sides and goes both ways, but this is not a balanced conversation," she said, referencing the lack of testimony opposing the resolution. Only one person spoke against the council taking a stance on the issue.

RALLY: 'Our membership dropped by 30 percent'

(Continued from Page A1)

Testimony on the matter lasted almost 90 minutes, with all but one individual urging the council to adopt the resolution. In the end, rather than urging members of the community to vote against the measure, the council adopted a resolution stating only that the council opposes Measure 105 in a 6-1 vote. Councilor Amy Ryan was the only holdout.

Rev. Jose Dominguez, of Keizer's Ingelsia La Luz del Valle, said that his church has had an active role in helping local families that were once undocumented obtain residency and seen others go on to attain citizenship.

"I believe [Measure 105] would create fear, mistrust and division creating an 'us and them' mentality. I believe this law, if passed, would put a greater strain on our police resources," Dominguez said.

Sly Smith said participation in his church, Salem Mennonite Church in south Keizer, has dropped precipitously since the election of President Donald Trump.

"Our membership dropped by 30 percent. What we found was that a lot of those families walked to our church and suddenly they became afraid to come out period," Smith said. "There is a continual sense

of trying to build and hold together a community that is fractured and I hope you'll vote 'no' on 105."

Dennis Koho, a former Keizer mayor and city councilor, said taking a stand on this issue was a way to begin making amends for actions by previous city councils that added anti-LGBTQ language to Keizer's city charter.

"This is a chance to fix it. Good people have done good work to help people comply with law and adopting this resolution is another step forward to help them do that," Koho said.

Alex Sosa, a Keizer eighth grader, asked the council whether he seemed less important to them because of his brown skin.

"I hope not. I hope you see me and my family as important as any other other lives in Keizer. Help students stay focused in school and help us stay safe in our city and house," Alex said.

Another McNary graduate who offered testimony, Levi Herrera-Lopez, now runs Mano e Mano, a Salem-based organization offering a variety of local services to Latino families. More than 115 families assisted by Mano e Mano are located in Keizer.

"I feel that local law en-

forcement is committed to keeping us safe, but the only way to avoid racial profiling [if Measure 105 is successful] is if 100 percent of the people police run into are asked for their papers," Herrera-Lopez said.

Passage of Measure 105 would put its supporters one step closer "removing people like me and my family members," he added.

The city also received a handful of letters weighing in on the issue, including one from state Sen. Kim Thatcher, whose district includes Keizer.

"The attitudes of our law enforcement have changed dramatically from ... when the [original] law was passed. The statute that would be overturned ... has morphed into something well beyond its original intent and has become an excuse for state, county and local law enforcement to refuse to cooperate with federal immigration officials,"Thatcher wrote.

When asked what would happen at the Keizer Police Department if the Measure 105 is successful, Keizer Police Chief John Teague said, not much.

"It won't change what we do as a matter of policy and practice. We work with ICE within the parameters established by statute. We have great relationships with our community and, whether it passes or not, it's not going to change,"Teague said.

While that might reassure residents while Teague remains chief, departmental policies could change under different leadership.

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