

Falls City takes no action on legal marijuana

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — The city of Falls City took a practical approach to dealing with legal marijuana and the possibility a dispensary opening.

The Falls City City Council decided to do nothing Thursday night at its meeting.

Most councilors wouldn't support a dispensary opening, but by not moving to



ban marijuana, the city will be able to receive tax revenue from sales of the drug. If the council put the issue

before voters in 2016 — the only legal way to ban marijuana — it would lose tax money for that year. The council decided not to risk that on the slim chance a shop would open in Falls City.

"I don't see a dispensary coming in here because we are the end of the road," said Mayor Terry Ungricht.

Councilor Tony Meier said after talking with dispensary operators in other cities, he agreed the chances are low

that someone would want to open a dispensary.

"The cost of putting one in is prohibitive," he said.

Ungricht said House Bill 3400, the legislation administering marijuana, offers two options for banning the drug. The first applies to cities in counties that voted at 55 percent or higher against allowing recreational marijuana. That doesn't include Polk County, which voted against Measure 91 at a 52.25 percent rate.

That leaves only giving voters the final say on a ban.

In Falls City's precinct, the vote was 58.2 percent in favor of legalization.

Ungricht offered four options for the city to proceed: following state law; sending the issue to voters; using zoning and development codes to limit where operations can be located; or using provisions within the city development code to ban marijuana, a move that

the city's attorney said could result in lawsuits.

Councilor Dennis Sickles proposed a different option: taking no action. By doing that, the city would receive tax revenue and wouldn't have to cast a vote in favor of marijuana, he said.

"If we do nothing, then we are following state law, then that's what I think we do," Sickles said. "Because I'm not voting for it."



Children's Christmas Program will be held Sunday, Dec. 20 during the 10:30 am service.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will start at 7:00 pm

The New Year's Eve Party will be at 7:00 pm.
Bring your favorite games and snacks.

Dallas First Christian Church
1079 SE Jefferson St., Dallas
503-623-2569

Christmas Kids Program
SUNDAY, DEC. 20TH, 11 am

Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve
THURSDAY, DEC. 24TH, 6 - 6:30 pm

Praise. praiseonline.net

Come Join Us!

Christmas Eve Mass
4:00 pm & 10:00 pm

Christmas Day Mass 9:00 am

St. Philip Catholic Church
825 SW Mill, Dallas • 503-623-2440

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DEC 19 7:00 PM
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faithfreechurch.org

ON THE AIR

Dallas United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
6:15 pm • December 24

Please note the time change is earlier than last year.
We are inviting James2 participants to join us.

A traditional service of carols, special music and candle light for the whole family!
565 SE LaCreole Drive • 503-623-2481
dallasumc@questoffice.net • www.umcdallas.com

Christmas Eve
Add meaning to your Christmas season by celebrating the birth of Jesus in worship.

7 p.m.
Candlelight Service

10 p.m.
Candlelight Service with Communion

Hot Cider & Cookies after each service

All are welcome.
Come as you are.

Trinity Lutheran Church
320 SE Fir Villa Rd, Dallas
(across from the drive-in movie theater)
503-623-2233
www.dallastlc.org

St. Hilda's Episcopal

4:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Carols and Eucharist

Everyone is welcome!

245 W. Main St. • Monmouth
503-838-6087

ONE Silent NIGHT

Presented by
Dallas Alliance Church Choir
Light supper following

Sun., Dec. 20, 2015 • 6 pm

Dallas Alliance Church
775 E Ellendale Ave • 503.623.2265
A CHRISTMAS BALLAD OF LOVE & JOY

Evangelical Bible Church invites you to Celebrate the True Meaning of Christmas

Dec. 19th • 6:00 pm
and
Dec. 20th • 4:00 pm

A Musical Christmas Program

1175 SE Howe St., Dallas • 503-623-2331