

City of Melbourne
Special City Council Meeting
August 6, 2020

Melbourne City Council met in special session on August 6, 2020 at 5 pm at the Melbourne Library basement. Members and Clerk were all seated a minimum of 6' apart per social distancing protocol. Council members present were David Gibbs, Vickie Stahl, Carrie White and Shawn Goodrich and Lucas Hauser. Also present were Clerk Mary Pothast, Mayor White, Chief Ball, PW Assistant Jim Pfantz, David Wermager, and Brandon Mitchell. Mayor White called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance. Motion to approve the agenda made by Hauser, 2nd by Stahl. Vote was all ayes.

Mayor White introduced Brandon Mitchell, who is in the process of purchasing Sedlacek's Meat Locker and would like to expand the business to include slaughter for local farmers, etc. He proposes to build a holding pen on the north side of the locker, with concrete base and surrounded by a privacy fence for an occasional animal that may have to be dropped off late in the day and stay overnight before being processed. Concerns and questions and answers are listed below:

Volume? Most likely less than 10 per week, All instate and local animals, including deer in-season.

Where would the slaughter take place? Indoors, likely early morning.

Smells and noise issues? There will be some odor, but it will hopefully be kept to a minimum. The holding area will be washed down after an animal has been contained, so manure smells will not be a problem. Any processing smells will also be kept to a minimum.

Sewer or water concerns? A lot of the blood will be caught in buckets and either picked up by a rendering truck, or maintained on premises in a secure, cooled trailer until it can be disposed of. There shouldn't be a lot of issues with the sewer system, but the city and Mitchell will work with the DNR if needed to avoid problems. Pfantz mentioned an aerator that could be installed at the lift station on Railroad Street that would assist breaking down any by-products, including those currently running through the system. That could be transferred to a new, larger pump later on. The city needs to address a new pump at this location in the future, as it is undersized. The amount of water used will possibly double from its current usage of around 1500 gallon, not a large amount.

Employees? The current employees will stay on.

When do you see this starting? It will be at least two weeks before it would start up with the processing. People can call and order currently.

Future plans? He would like to start offering bundles for retail hopefully in the first year. Down the road he would like to offer a retail area with other locally produced items, like honey, wine, cheese, vegetables, etc. They would also offer delivery for those who do not want to venture out.

Hauser asked Pothast what her opinion was, as it will directly affect their home next door. She stated she and her husband discussed it and feel if it is done properly there shouldn't be an issue. The council feels this is a very positive addition to the City of Melbourne and is excited to see some growth. Any issues would be discussed immediately with the owner as it occurred. Since concrete and fencing do not require a building permit, none was issued.

Motion made by Hauser to approve the new business growth in Melbourne by Sedlacek's Meat Locker and its new owner Brandon Mitchell. Second by Goodrich. Roll call vote was all ayes.

Motion to adjourn made by Stahl, 2nd by White. Vote was all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.
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