

**NEW BUSINESS**

3. Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution R-15-12, A Resolution of the Mayor and Council, City of Bisbee, Cochise County, State of Arizona, Recognizing the Practice of Aid in Dying as a Desirable Medical Choice for many Terminally Ill, Mentally Competent Adults.

Joan Hansen, Ward II Councilmember

Councilmember Hansen hoped that everyone had a chance to read the resolution. She thought that it put into perspective what we are asking for. She stated that this was simply a symbolic resolution this was not any legal law it was simply stating that we believe that people with a terminal illness and were mentally competent should have that choice as to when they finally do die. It was not a choice between life and death because they already had a death sentence. It's simply when was it the best time for them. This really does promote a conversation on this particular subject on a larger scale.

Regina Drybread, Bisbee resident spoke against the Aid in Dying resolution. She said that it was up to God when our lives ended.

Oliver Searchfield, Bisbee resident spoke in support of Aid in Dying resolution. He gave his story regarding his father's death.

Bennie Scott, Bisbee resident spoke about his mother and father's death process. He asked what the cause of death would be on a death certificate. He asked what happen if someone changes their mind after taking the pills. He also asked what happen if a child got a hold of the pills.

Susan Blackford, Bisbee resident said that she was the only one who spoke against this Resolution at the Work Session. She said that it was not a job for the Council to decide. She also said it was easier for the Council to make these decisions instead of making tough decisions. She spoke to the presenter Mr. Halpern on Aid in Dying to clarify issues she was not sure of.

Cynthia Conroy, Bisbee resident said that by bringing this up at least people start to talk, they get to hear and feel what other people think and have experienced. Each one of us will make this decision for ourselves. She said that there are worse things than dying.

Cinda Combs, Bisbee resident spoke in support of the resolution and hopes that the Council would support the Aid in Dying resolution.

Teri Nuti, Bisbee resident spoke against the resolution. We didn't create ourselves therefore we have no right to kill ourselves. Every life has a purpose we are not God we can't make that decision. She shared her story of taking care of her mother-in law. She asked Council to stop wasting time and resources on things that are dividing our City. Council should work on bringing this City together instead of eliminating people.

Sharon Rock, Bisbee resident said that we live in an extraordinary time of technology and the one area in which technology shines was in healthcare. Even so with many illnesses there was little modern medicine can do except to attempt comfort. She stated that the people sitting at the front of the room tonight have the power to begin to move the possibility of that freedom forward in Arizona everything begins at the ground level; the local level. We elected our officials to be the voice of the people and she respectfully request that each of the councilmember's vote in favor of the Aid in Dying resolution.

Sharon Strum, Bisbee resident spoke about her personal story of her mother. We do not have the right to tell people what to do with their lives.

Juan Carlos, Bisbee resident said that to him it was very simple the role of government big or small was not to legislate the moral or the religious compass of this country it was to guide the secular aspects of our country. He stated that he supported this.

Councilmember Dunn said that he was moved with the personal stories that were shared. He believes that it was a question of personal choice and was supportive of this resolution. He acknowledge a typo on the resolution on the third therefore should read Bisbee not Cochise County on Resolution. If a motion was made we do need to make that modification.

Mayor Oertle said that he had, had a private conversation with Ms. Rock and stated that this needed to be dealt with on a state level. He didn't feel it was in the purview of municipal government but rather it should be dealt with on a state level so that both sides would be heard. Only one side was presented at the work session. Mayor Oertle reiterated that this needed to be decided on a state level not on a municipal level.

Councilmember Hansen said she understood what the Mayor was saying however, if the state was going to take on this she thinks they need to know what the people are thinking. It was symbolic it doesn't bind anybody we are not telling anything to them. She doesn't agree with the Mayor's points that he had made.

Councilmember Cline said she agreed with Dunn and Hansen that we have all been moved by the personal stories. She thanked Ms. Rock for bringing this up it was about time to have this conversation. She said that it was strictly symbolic and thinks that regardless of how the vote goes tonight the state will take notice which gets the conversation going.

Councilmember Connors said this was exactly the place where these things happen, take root, push back and without a little deviation from the norm there was no progress in anything.

Councilmember Hansen said that this was not taking the place of hospice or of family taking care of family this was something for people who have already been determined that they are going to die within six (6) months. So it was not between life and death it's about when am I going to die and how that was going to feel. This was a choice it was not forcing anybody to do this it was not assistant suicide it was simply allowing the individual the chance for dignity in death.

MOTION: Councilmember Dunn moved to approve Resolution R-15-12, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council, City of Bisbee, Cochise County, State of Arizona, recognizing the practice of aid in dying as a desirable medical choice for many terminally ill, mentally competent adults and that we change the word Cochise County after the third therefore to Bisbee.

SECOND: Councilmember Hansen

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Councilmember Connors, Hansen, Dunn, and Sullivan. NAYS: Councilmember Doughty, Cline and Mayor Oertle. MOTION PASSED: AYES-4; NAYS-3