

S. Scott McDowell

From: S. Scott McDowell <admin@ci.brownsville.or.us>
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:14 PM
To: 'Sunset Lane Farm'
Subject: RE: Dollar General

Good Afternoon Marco,

The City of Brownsville did not recruit Dollar General. The Dollar General Corporation made a decision to build stores in Oregon. Brownsville was a community they targeted based on their independent market research. They have put stores in Philomath, Harrisburg, Oakridge, Bandon among other Oregon communities and are currently under construction in Sweet Home.

Private land is held by private property owners who can choose to sell to any private interest or individual of their personal choosing. The City cannot legally prevent any such transaction. The zoning laws allow Dollar General or any other business of a similar nature to locate within that zone, Volume Commercial, as an outright permitted use. The City has sent their construction information to appropriate reviewing agencies at the County and the State. The City is also ensuring that they comply with all local laws and public construction standards.

Cities the size of Brownsville do not build houses, stores, adult care facilities or any other private or non-profit endeavors.

I certainly understand your concern. I have heard the opinions of many on this issue. I think it is important to know that the City is legally powerless in this or any other kind of situation that the City or citizens view as harmful to local charm and character of Brownsville. The City worked through a three-year process on a medical and now soon to be recreational marijuana shop that most people in town did not want.

I understand the impacts to the downtown core. I lived through this 22 years ago when Wal-Mart located in Ottawa, Ohio. Just like then, the City does not have any legal ability to prevent such an endeavor.

The Dollar General and other outside interests will continue to be interested in towns such as Brownsville only if they can make a profit. Brownsville's proximity to I-5 is a major selling point. I truly hope the look and feel to Brownsville will not change. I appreciate your concerns and please contact if you would like to discuss this further. Thank you!



S. Scott McDowell

255 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 188
Brownsville, OR 97327
541.466.5880
admin@ci.brownsville.or.us

From: Sunset Lane Farm [mailto:sunsetlanefarm@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 3:47 PM

To: admin@ci.brownsville.or.us

Subject: Dollar General

Hello Scott,

I read the article in last weeks The Times about the Dollar General store coming to Brownsville. My heart sunk. Towns like Brownsville are one in a million. We all want to see Brownsville grow and prosper, but this is not the way to go. As an owner of a business on Main Street we have customers come into our shop on a daily basis, shocked at the charm and authenticity of our little town. People come in every week asking about moving to Brownsville. With the popularity of Portland and the continued influx of people into our state, we are starting to see a movement of people looking for a rural lifestyle.

The Brownsville storefronts are full and business has been picking up. Many of the business owners feel that we may be approaching a tipping point in the next few years and Brownsville could become a destination. However, we are all mom and pop operations and need as much support in the short term as possible. Having a one stop corporate shopping center like dollar general on the outskirts of town is a terrible idea. Not only will it be an aesthetic nightmare and will eliminate the untarnished feel of our community, but it will pull customers away from downtown by offering cheap alternatives to the offerings in our independently owned stores.

I have spoken to many people about the Dollar General, particularly business owners on Main St, and there seems to be a consensus that it is a bad idea. I don't know if anything can be done to stop Dollar General from coming to our town. I think it is the worst possible plan, especially for that particular location. I expect Brownsville to grow and change, but I hope that you can see my perspective about growing Brownsville for a future that will not want low quality products at cheap prices. A few years down the line we will all realize this terrible mistake. I am convinced that this can be a prosperous town. Let's keep the charm and build on that.

Thank you,

Marco

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Sunset Lane Farm
Brownsville, Oregon