



CITY OF MENDOTA PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Luna at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Juan Luna, Vice-Chairperson Carlos Quintanar, Commissioners Albert Escobedo, Ramiro Espinoza (at 6:37 p.m.), and Martin Gamez.

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Joshua Garcia.

Staff Present: John Kinsey, City Attorney; Matt Flood, Economic Development Manager; and Celeste Cabrera, Deputy City Clerk.

Flag Salute led by resident John Flores.

FINALIZE THE AGENDA

1. Adoption of final Agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Escobedo to adopt the agenda, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Quintanar; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Garcia).

MINUTES AND NOTICE OF WAIVING OF READING

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 16, 2016.
2. Notice of waiving the reading of all resolutions introduced and/or adopted under this agenda.

A motion to approve items 1 and 2 was made by Commissioner Escobedo, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Quintanar; unanimously approved (4 ayes, absent: Garcia).

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Proposed Adoption of **Resolution No. PC 16-02**: Recommending that the City Council of the City of Mendota Adopt an Ordinance Amending Chapter 8.36 of the Mendota Municipal Code Relating to the Establishment and Operation of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries, the Indoor and Outdoor Cultivation of Medical Marijuana, and the Delivery of Medical Marijuana.

Chairperson Luna introduced the item and City Attorney Kinsey introduced himself to the Planning Commission and summarized the report including that the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act provides a statewide program for the licensing and regulation of commercial cannabis activity; the extended deadline for local governments to either issue regulations in regards to medical marijuana businesses or to prohibit such operations; the resolution of intent that Council adopted which aims towards the prohibition of the establishment and operation of medical marijuana businesses within the City (6:37 p.m. Commissioner Espinoza entered the Council Chambers); and the proposed ordinance that staff created regarding the prohibition of the establishment and operation of medical marijuana businesses within the City.

Discussion was held on whether individuals who currently possess medical marijuana cards will be in violation of the ordinance; Council's ability to limit the use of medical marijuana within City limits; ways to enforce the ordinance; and the prohibition of cultivation of medical marijuana within the City.

At 6:40 p.m. Chairperson Luna opened the hearing to the public.

John Flores (615 J Street) – explained that he supports the proposed ordinance; concerns regarding Coalinga's position on the issue; and the importance of not relying on medical marijuana to bring better economic opportunities to the City.

Discussion was held on the different positions that cities are taking in regards to the issue; the benefits of allowing medical marijuana dispensaries in the City; the negative impact that drugs has on the community; medical marijuana being illegal under federal law; and safety concerns that arise regarding medical marijuana businesses.

At 6:56 p.m. Chairperson Luna closed the hearing to the public.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution No. PC 16-02 by Vice-Chairperson Quintanar, seconded by Commissioner Escobedo; unanimously approved (5 ayes, absent: Garcia).

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS THAT ARE NOT ON THE AGENDA

None offered.

PLANNING DIRECTOR UPDATE

Economic Development Manager Flood reported on the status of the construction of McDonald's and Autozone.

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Vice-Chairperson Quintanar reported on the upcoming youth football camp.

Commissioner Gamez inquired as to the possibility of the police department to acquire a helicopter and reported on a neighborhood watch program that the police department wants to establish.

ADJOURNMENT

At the hour of 7:08 p.m. with no more business to be brought before the Planning Commission, a motion for adjournment was made by Vice-Chairperson Quintanar, seconded by Commissioner Escobedo; unanimously approved (5 ayes, absent: Garcia).



Juan Luna, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Matt Flood, City Clerk

