



## MINUTES OF MENDOTA SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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**Special Meeting**

**January 14, 2020**

**Meeting called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Castro at 5:00 p.m.**

**Roll Call**

**Council Members Present:** Mayor Pro Tem Rolando Castro, Councilors Victor Martinez, Jesse Mendoza, and Oscar Rosales

**Council Members Absent:** None

**Flag salute led by Mayor Pro Tem Castro**

### **FINALIZE THE AGENDA**

1. Adjustments to Agenda.
2. Adoption of final Agenda.

A motion was made by Councilor Rosales to adopt the agenda, seconded by Councilor Mendoza; unanimously approved (4 ayes).

### **CITIZENS ORAL AND WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS**

None offered.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Public hearing regarding Raymond Snowden, Sr.'s appeal of the City Manager's October 3, 2019, Final Order to Abate, 630 Kate Street, Mendota, CA 93640, APN: 013-102-02.

Mayor Pro Tem Castro introduced the item. Assistant City Attorney Castro introduced himself and his role for the hearing. Attorney Castro commented on the previous hearing; on the letter Snowden provided shortly before the start of the meeting; that

Snowden has received the record packets before the City Council; and that all public records requests submitted by Snowden have been answered.

Attorney Castro summarized the order in which the hearing will take place.

Attorney Castro opened the floor to Snowden.

Snowden commented on the description of the fence on his property in Code Enforcement's report; on his previous violations; on the photos taken from Kate Street versus the photos taken on his property; on the excessive cars on the property behind his; on the various mobile trailers throughout the City; on the trailer he previously owned that was abated by the City; on his living situations after that abatement; on how he feels other trailers in violation are not addressed; and that he has someone with him who would like to speak on the matter.

Mayor Pro Tem Castro commented on the list of violations that are available each month at City Council meetings; on homelessness and efforts personally made; and how there are various issues throughout the City that are being addressed; on the storage shed built on Snowden's property;

Snowden commented on his neighbor who submitted the complaint and initiated a petition to remove Snowden from his property; how that neighbors have various violations in his backyard; how it cannot be a public nuisance because only the trailer and storage shed can be seen from the street; on the cars that were previously on the property; and on his uncertainty of what the violations are since nothing can be seen from the street.

Councilor Mendoza asked what the violations and remedies are and City Manager Gonzalez suggested to first ask Snowden if he was done with his presentation.

Assistant Attorney Castro stated Snowden can present anyone.

Derek Lee Short commented on the storage shed; on the three outbuildings that have been removed.

Discussion was held on the lack of electricity and running water due to the services being denied and the reasoning why the electricity was denied.

Derek Lee Short commented on Snowmen's being aware of the guidelines for the trailer and the desire to address the violations to stay in the trailer.

Chief Andreotti provided the timeline of the events that have taken place to date starting with the investigation initiation on April 3, 2019 in which there was a travel trailer on the property with no water, no sewer and no electricity on the property. Chief Andreotti commented on the six (6) other like investigations at the attorney's office; and on the ownership of the property and its status; and that

Snowden commented on the property going through probate.

Chief Andreotti reiterated this is not a personal vendetta and that these are the conditions of the property including a public nuisance to health and safety; and the illegal living conditions.

Derek Lee Short commented that the trailer is not a motor home as defined in the report; Chief Andreotti confirmed that it is not a motor home as stated in the report and in fact is a travel trailer. Derek Lee Short commented that the van mentioned in the report is no longer on the property and does not belong to Snowden.

City Manager Gonzalez clarified that what is allowed as per standard as a living quarters is a mobile home, not a motor home or travel trailer and that utilities are not accessible due to the trailer not meeting the standard.

Jose Rangel commented on his experience when visiting the property.

Mayor Pro Tem Castro asked what complaints are being received; CSO Navarro stated the neighbors are complaining about the trash, the smell of urine coming from the property and the traffic.

Councilor Mendoza commented that Council does not want to displace Snowden; and that they want to reach resolution to gain compliance.

Councilor Mendoza turned to the Assistant City Attorney for the list of violations and remedies.

Assistant Attorney Hunter asked for a list of the violations from the CSO or City Manager; and reminded the Council that the City Manager had previously issued his determination based on the violations.

Snowden mentioned some violations has been addressed as there are no cars there now.

Councilor Mendoza stated they want to work with Snowden by giving a reasonable amount of time to correct the violations and come to compliance.

Chief Andreotti stated CSO Navarro is prepared to present a list of violations and that the travel trailer is not allowable as a living headquarters.

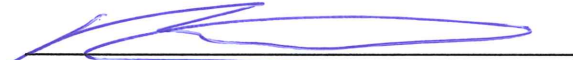
CSO Navarro referred the packet dated January 6, 2020 with recent picture of trash on the property including a motorcycle, the dilapidated fence and the structure next to the trailer.

Discussion was held on the violations including the trailer that is not acceptable as a living headquarter and on determining a timeframe for Snowden to comply.

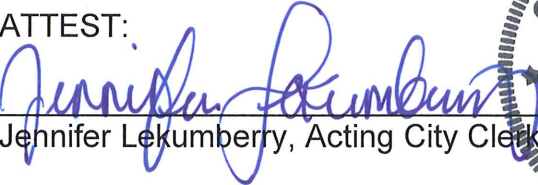
A motion was made by Councilor Rosales, affirming the finding made by City Manager Gonzalez that there were violations of the municipal code and granted a stay and enforcement for sixty (60) days to correct his violations and that enforcement will proceed if Snowden is not in compliance at the end of the 60 days, seconded by Councilor Mendoza; unanimously approved (4 ayes).

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to be brought before the Council, a motion for adjournment was made at 5:56 p.m. by Councilor Mendoza, seconded by Councilor Rosales; unanimously approved (4 ayes).

  
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Rolando Castro, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Jennifer Lekumberry, Acting City Clerk

