

**CITY OF LATHROP  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 12, 2011**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER** at 7:00 P.M.

**2. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Freeman, Gatto, Elliott, Hernandez, Perez.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Salvador Navarrete, City Attorney; Glenn Gebhardt, Community Development Director/City Engineer and Charlie Mullen, Principal Planner.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**5. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

7.1 Approval of the minutes of the regular Planning Commission meeting of September 14, 2011.

(M) Gatto (S) Freeman carried that the minutes be approved:

AYES: Freeman, Gatto, Elliott, Hernandez, Perez.

NOES: None.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

None.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### **10.1 MEDICAL MARIJUANA - INFORMATIONAL REPORT AND PRESENTATION; (FILE NO.-11-0022).**

#### **Planning Commission to Receive Informational Report and Presentation.**

Mullen made the staff report presentation. A copy of a recent news release was also provided as additional information.

Hernandez: Asked for clarification on Title 21 Sec. 846, on possible conspiracy charges against groups discussing the possibility of allowing the use of medical marijuana. Navarette replied that the Federal government could look at these discussions as conspiring to provide illegal drugs but so far, this has not happened yet.

Gatto: Commended the staff on the thoroughness of the report.

Perez: Reminded everyone that this is an informational meeting and no decisions will be made; opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. James Anthony, Land Use Lawyer, spoke in favor of medical marijuana. A booklet was distributed. He gave a brief overview on Federal regulation of medical marijuana.

Mr. Nick Irvine, Executive Director of Cencal Meds, suggested that the City will benefit from allowing medical marijuana by providing patients a safe place and for both city officials and police to control/regulate sales.

Mr. Michael Horland, Med Ex Collective, spoke in support of medical marijuana collectives and how they help seriously-ill patients.

Mr. Steve Dresser, resident, spoke against medical marijuana and the lack of regulating bodies that could monitor and audit the activities. He thinks that the financial benefit outweighs the risks if we decide to allow the dispensaries.

Mr. Tosh Ishihara, resident, urged the Commission to follow federal laws. He also wants to see the people vote regarding the matter.

Mr. Dana Stokes, resident of Manteca, thinks that marijuana should not be allowed and is concerned about the negative effect of marijuana to the community.

Mr. Grant Cook, resident, pointed out that statistics and studies support the negative effect of use of marijuana.

Mr. Eric Baca, Pastor of Lathrop Christian Center, urged the Commission to protect the youth and write into the municipal code not to allow them in the City.

Mr. Tyler Silva, resident, thought we are wasting our time researching and discussing a subject that the Federal government has already deemed illegal.

Mr. Bob Klingman, resident, warned about what the Department of Justice might do. He pointed out that cardholders can grow their own plants.

Mr. Abe Gardner, resident, pointed out that contrary to the claim that they are non-profit, dispensaries are run as profitable merchandise and they do not benefit or support the community.

Ms. Dawn Contreras, resident, urged the Commission to protect the reputation of the City and look at other businesses that are more profitable for both the city and community.

Perez: Hearing no other speakers brought the item back to the Commission.

The Commissioners collectively commented that they are not against the compassionate use of medical marijuana however; the risk coming from the issues of allowing the dispensaries appears to far outweigh the reward. From the public, they heard that the people do not want the dispensaries as well. They are also wary about going against the Federal Government and are concerned about who will regulate the industry.

#### **11. ITEMS FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

None.

#### **12. ITEMS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

Freeman: Referring to a previous concern on gravel fill on Thomsen Rd, Gebhardt informed them that the gravel was replaced by pavers.

Perez: On south side of Thomsen Road and west side of the school, there is a need to revisit the “no parking” area, it created confusion and is a safety issue. He was also happy about noticed improvements on the upkeep of abandoned properties.

Gebhardt: Gave an update on streetlights on Christopher Way.

#### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Perez adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM.