

CITY OF WILLIAMS
City Council Special Meeting Minutes

810 E Street/P.O. Box 310, Williams, CA 95987

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLIAMS,
Williams Community Center
860 C Street, Williams CA. 95987

August 30, 2016 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Troughton Jr., called the special meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL: Council Members John Troughton, Jr., Alfred Sellers, Jr., Kent Boes and Charles Bergson were present. Council Member Santos Jauregui abstained himself from participating in the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Troughton Jr., invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING REMARKS – Mayor Troughton Jr., thanked everyone for attending and said the City decided to call this meeting because of the complaints that have been received regarding the odor coming from Morning Star.

DISCUSSION

Odor Complaints coming from Morning Star Packing Company

Mayor Troughton asked City Administrator to please begin interdictions. City Administrator Frank Kennedy said he will be introducing individuals who need to hear the public's complaints first hand.

Mr. Kennedy introduced Niraj Raj from Morning Star who has been the point of contact for quite a while now, but specifically for this issue. From the State Water Resource Quality Control board, he introduced Wendy Wyels, Guy Childs and Howard Hold. They are the people who have received the complaints that have come in to City Hall. Mr. Kennedy would like to have each one of them come to the front and talk a few minutes about the issue at hand. He stated he wanted to keep this discussion strictly about the odor complaints.

Wendy Wyels stated from the Water Board stand point, they regulate the waste water generated by Morning Star. She also said any odors that are associated with the waste water the Water Board is responsible. The Water Board issues permits to anyone that discharges waste water. She stated that any odors generated from the waste water is prohibited.

City Administrator Frank Kennedy invited Niraj Raj to the podium, Niraj said he would like to listen to complaints and then discuss.

At this time community Members expressed their concerns and shared how unhappy they were. They stated they could not enjoy being outside in their backyards because the smell would make them sick.

Business owners mentioned their clients complain about the smell, and they don't want this issue to be the cause of revenue loss.

Other community members said they understood the concerns the citizens of the City of Williams had, but wanted them to keep in mind that the City of Williams is an agricultural community. They said unfortunately there are unpleasant things we deal with being an Agricultural community. They stated Morning Star provides a lot of jobs for this community and are convinced that they will do whatever they can to solve the odor issue.

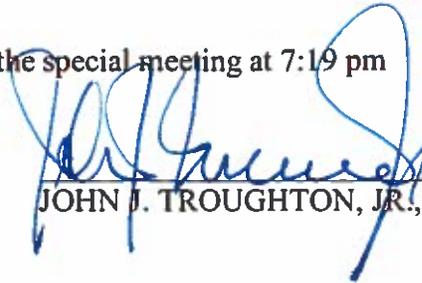
Owner of the Morning Star Packing Company, Chris Rufer apologized for the odors that are coming from his company. He explained the process and operations of the facility and said they are working hard to solve this issue.

After a lengthy discussion Mayor Troughton said we know what the problem is and asked Mr. Rufer if he knew how to fix it. Mr. Rufer responded yes, they would work on the issue and said he could not assure the problem would be solved immediately but they would certainly work on it. Mayor Troughton then asked if an update could be provided to Council with a report from the Water Quality Control board and comments from Morning Star at the next regular City Council Meeting on September 21, 2016. All parties agreed this would be done.

Mayor clarified that both the Water Quality Control and Morning Star would come before City Council and give an update on this issue.

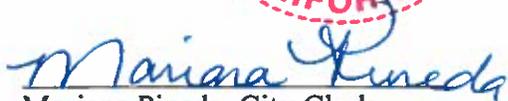
ADJOURNED: Mayor Troughton Jr. adjourned the special meeting at 7:19 pm





JOHN J. TROUGHTON, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:


Mariana Pineda, City Clerk