

**CITY OF MERCED**  
**Planning Commission**

**MINUTES**

Merced City Council Chambers  
Wednesday, October 11, 2017

[\*\*Secretary's Note: Sonia Alshami's appointment to the Planning Commission was not valid due to not meeting the requirements of the City Charter. However, since she did not make any motions or seconds, except for the agenda, and the main item was only a study session, her attendance did not affect the outcomes of the meeting.]

Chairperson Dylina called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Sonia Alshami\*\*, Mary Camper, Travis Colby, Robert Dylina, Jeremy Martinez, Peter Padilla, and \*Kevin Smith

\*Commissioner Smith arrived at 7:43 p.m.

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Carrigan, Director of Development Services McBride, Planning Manager Espinosa, Attorney Flores, and Recording Secretary Davis

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

M/S COLBY-ALSHAMI\*\*, and carried by unanimous voice vote (one absent), to approve the Agenda as submitted.

2. **MINUTES**

M/S COLBY-CAMPER, and carried by unanimous voice vote (one absent), to approve the Minutes of September 20, 2017, as submitted.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

4. **ITEMS**

- 4.1 Study Session on Cannabis Businesses in Merced and the Upcoming Ordinance, initiated by the City of Merced, to give the Planning Commission an opportunity to ask questions about the Draft Zoning Ordinance regarding Commercial Cannabis Businesses before action at their regularly scheduled meeting of October 18, 2017.

City Manager CARRIGAN welcomed members of the public to the meeting and gave a brief background of the topic being discussed.

Development Services Director McBRIDE addressed the Commission and explained the reason for the meeting. Mr. McBRIDE then addressed the members of the public and gave an overview of the timeline in place for the Draft Ordinance. In closing, Mr. McBRIDE addressed City staff and acknowledged the hard work involved in bringing the Draft Ordinance together.

Planning Manager ESPINOSA gave a presentation regarding the Draft Ordinance on Cannabis Businesses in Merced and answered questions asked by the Commission.

The Commission discussed several concerns that included applicants with prior criminal convictions, regulations on delivery, the possibility of conjoined dispensaries (classified as both medicinal marijuana and recreational marijuana dispensaries), regulations on personal and commercial cultivation, hours of operation for dispensaries in certain zone designations, and commercial cultivation permits.

At the discretion of Chairperson DYLINA, the floor was opened for public comment at 8:50 p.m.

Speakers from the Audience in Favor:

JESSE KRAFT, Advantage Healing, Inc., Sonora, CA  
SETH SMITH, Santa Cruz Veterans Alliance, Santa Cruz, CA  
SUSAN BOUSCAREN, Merced  
ZACH DRIVAN, Drivan Consulting, Stockton, CA  
JOHN P. MURRAY, California Health & Safety, Merced  
BEN HARRIS, Merced

No one spoke in opposition to the project.

Public testimony was completed at 9:12 p.m.

5. **INFORMATION ITEMS**


5.1 Calendar of Meetings/Events

Planning Manager ESPINOSA briefed the Planning Commission on items for the next few Planning Commission meetings.

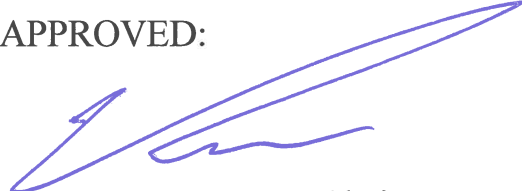
6. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairperson DYLINA adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
KIM ESPINOSA, Secretary  
Merced City Planning Commission

APPROVED:

  
ROBERT DYLINA, Chairperson  
Merced City Planning Commission