

City Council Meeting - 3/19/08

Nathan Leon - @ 15:30 – 17:45

My name is Nathan Leon, I am a City of Los Banos resident. I have three issues I would like to talk about. My first issue is on item 8 item B, minutes for the February 20<sup>th</sup>. I was reading the minutes online and I noticed that some of the comments I made on February 20<sup>th</sup> weren't included, and I wondered if that is something that is amendable before it is approved.

Secondly, I would like to talk about this article I found at Roonie's. By a Gene Forte is the author. I understand that in this article he makes some pretty heavy accusations against the Mayor. Of which he's saying the mayor has received money from a Greg Hostetler in the form of loans and he has the public records printed in here and that this information should have been disclosed prior to him running to mayor. And the City Attorney's also mentioned in here that he was informed of this and it seems like nobody was talking about they had to like they just said it was nothing so I would like to give the Mayor an opportunity to explain uhh what those loans were about from Greg Hostetler and especially in light of the fact that Greg Hostetler is trying to get uhhh land annexed in the (ward/place)sp? Area. I am concerned that if Mr. Faria or Counsel Member Faria has to recues himself cause his wife used to work for Greg Hostetler. I think the fact that the Mayor has dealings with Greg Hostetler that aren't publicly known but were done privately and have not been revealed till now I think that has an impact on whether he should be present during these votes and he should also have to recuse him from anything to do with Greg Hostetler ummm. And there are also some other things that once I spoke last February 20<sup>th</sup> people have been coming up to me and I hear a lot of rumors and I don't know how much of this is true or not and I would like to get it out in the open because it would benefit everybody to get this dirt cleaned up if that's what this is and I have people telling me that they saw the mayor in Reno uhh at the Peppermill with Mr. Hostetler at a bar and I would like to give the mayor an opportunity to clear that up after the public comment tonight. Thank you.

Gene Forte - @17:56 – 21:57

Counsel, my name is Gene Forte, I am a resident of Los Banos. I wanted to look around to make sure the girl scouts still weren't inside of this meeting. It doesn't do my heart good to have to bring to the City Counsels knowledge before the public what every single one of you city council members knows the undisclosed loans of Mayor Jones from Greg Hostetler. Mrs. Faria presented this information to Mr. Vaughn. Mr. Vaughn the City Attorney I think it is required of you to present it to all the city council members I asked you point blank in a letter if you did so you claimed the attorney client privilege even though I am not an attorney Mr. Vaughn no privilege applies in that situation at all. It's embarrassing to be able to have to stand here and again bring these things to the attentions of this counsel especially before the children of our city. The mayor and I'll tell you this Mayor the children of the high school say you are a wonderful teacher and a great guy don't wreck your reputation any farther I am suggesting that you for the sake of the city tender your resignation immediately I've asked you to do that inside of correspondence you haven't responded if all of you individuals standing up here think you're going to

clam up and play the old we're just going to ignore the 5,000 elephant or in this case maybe the 5,000 pound badger staying inside of this room it is not going to happen therefore the things that have taken place so far as I put in the last e-mail to all of you I suggest each of you seek independent legal counsel because a man Mayor Jones that signed documents to the FPPC (the fair political practices commission) under penalty of perjury on four separate occasions not disclosing the loan from Mr. Hostetler has committed perjury if you individuals know about it as I told Mr. Vaughn it's called privities, knowledge of aiding abetting after the fact whatever you'd like to call it that public officials are not allowed to do that and trust me I will push this to the limit to make sure you are not going to go ahead and degrade our public and our judicial system and the faith of what our public should have inside of each one of you so no one should be voting on this annexation issue not any one of you. You betrayed us I am sorry and until somebody presents evidence otherwise that you haven't I am afraid just like buck weaver of a 1919 black socks he was thrown out of the world series and out of the game for life not because he involved himself in the fix but because he didn't report it that's what you're all involved in now. So with that said let your conscience be your guide but I expect... let me ask you of coarse this is one of those things where if I ask a question no one's going to respond.. right... not even a nod.... Are you going to tender your resignation mayor? The silence is deafening and the red lights going off but it's not going to be there to save you afterwards..... Thank you....

Mayor Jones: Thank you very much for your comments.

Greg Hostetler - @ 26:17 – 28:23

For the record my name is Greg Hostetler and I am here to address some of the rumors that have circulated through the community and get some of the facts out and I have an abundance of the facts here and they will be available to the City Attorney and to the FPPC if needed. On November 14, 2002 I made a loan to Mr. Tommy Jones, who was a private citizen at the time, he was not in office. On January 14<sup>th</sup> of 2003 I made a \$10,000 loan to Mr. Jones that paid off the \$5,000 loan and expanded the overall loan to \$10,000. On August 4<sup>th</sup> 2003 I made an additional loan of \$3,538.00 to Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones paid all of these loans off on May 12, 2004 as a private citizen. I guess that as the term goes that no good deed goes unpunished. I am here before you tonight, because subsequent to the loans being made and then paid off Mr. Jones ran for elected office and was elected. All of these loans were secured by his home or real estate and all are of public record including interest and was all paid back including interest and I have those documents here also. So that's uhh my position on it and any facts that the City Attorney would like or the FPPC needs I have available. I checked with my attorney and our review of it that all of these documents have been legal and there have been no wrongdoing in the way I made these loans, they are all of public record and they have all been paid back and no money is owed. Thank you.

Mayor Jones: Thank you very much for your comment.

Mayor Jones - @ 2:35:18 – 2:40:23

Tonight I need to go over something that has been out and I would like to clear it up. As a private citizen I secured a home equity loan in 2002 which I repaid in 2002. I received another home equity loan in 2003 I repaid it back before I even considered running for the council and being elected. If there is someone who knew in 2002 when I got a loan that I was going to be the Mayor today they probably need to be sitting up next to Jesus Christ right now, because I had no idea. That actually terminated when I paid back that loan that terminated my financial relationship with Greg and Cathy Hostetler. I want to just thank my wife for putting up with this, this is twice you know that the newspaper has went and did this, and I shouldn't be.... I got angry and God told me why are you getting angry? there were times if you tried to do certain things you would have been lynched with a rope, this time I got lynched with words but that's okay you know and I think sometimes we have to talk real. I remember being a kid and looking at society and I never saw a person of color sometime doing anything but sweeping floors or cutting the grass and I asked myself as a kid why?.. What kind of God is this that would create a society like this and I promised my wife I said I am only doing this because there needs to be a role model of color and I know it's not going to be easy because there is always going to be a small... a very small percentage that is going to hate the change but I said I am going to do it because there needs to be a role model for every kid... so they don't have to look at well say there's gangs, you turn away because you are so angry. They need to see that there's a possibility for anyone, if you just work hard and do the right thing you can be anything you want to be. Sometimes we need to have real conversations like this and I am going to keep doing it. I told Joe Gutierrez one time I was going to beat him up if he didn't buy a house inside of the community, because I don't plan on hanging around forever. I continue to do that because I think it is the right thing to do. As I said I have always tried to do things that were right for this community and if anyone will look past anything else and just look at the accomplishments you will see that our fees are raised higher in the last few years than anyone ever dreamed that they would get raised to I don't know anyone in the development community that's happy with the price that we've raised our fees I have insisted that if we didn't have land for schools and schools were not built no matter what Bill told me I was never voting for anything that didn't pay the fees for schools maybe I would be in trouble about that but it was clear it was understood I have always tried to do what is right and I will continue to try to do what is right and for the people the small percentage that did these things I forgive them already, because I realized when I was watching a movie with the kids and this movie was about four or five black kids that were integrating a university in Mississippi and the kids were telling me about the black kids and what they were going through and God showed me something else he said do you know how hard it is for the white society there that has to except this too their hurting too so I realize maybe that small percentage their hurting too I forgive them even for that and their pain cause I realize maybe we were just both in pain and I will continue to try to do the right thing for the town that I love and the county that I love. I traced my family back past the civil war all the way to the docking of the first May flower, I can trace my family all the way back and as we looked through the family every war we ever had in America I had a family member that fought in that war and as we've looked through that history I never found a single one that was a convict or a criminal they are whatever times and whatever they had to live through they were decent people is what we found in family history I continue to try to be that kind of person I get up every morning at six

o'clock I'm at school on the weekends I'm at church or I'm working at another function that's what I chose to do while I am running my race and finances can't have very much to do with it because I quit a very lucrative job to come back to teach because that is what I wanted to do, my reward I am looking for is not financially we have been blessed that we sent our kids through college the one reward I'm looking for it don't come down here I try to do the best I can to be a decent person everyday and I said I am doing the best I can.

**End of - City Council Meeting - 3/19/08**