

City Council Meeting – 5/7/08

Gene Forte @ 51:25 – 55:38

Gene Forte, Birch Court, Los Banos. Before I make the statements I wanted... or had planned to make I have to make a comment regarding Mr. Donovan assaulting Mr. Vialta like he did and the only thing I would go ahead and say regarding Mr. Donovan's statements is he should heed the warning and wise advise "better to remain silent and only thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt." I apologize Mr. Vialta that you had to sit there and get assailed by Mr. Donovan, which moves me to my next statement I am going to move it a little bit faster, as you know Mayor there has been certified a recall to go ahead and be circulated for the recall of you as Mayor of Los Banos. The proponents of it include myself, Mr. Gallichio, Mr. Tony Dutra, Robert "Corky" Sherwood, Michelle owner of the wool growers, Mary Ann Santos, Joe Ennis retired police, Anthony Rodriguez, Charlie Sawyer curator, both new residents and old residents. Now let me tell you what the grounds for the recall are Mayor Jones while under investigation by the Fair Political Practices Commission for not disclosing personal loans he received from Greg Hostetler of Ranchwood Homes has refused to disqualify himself from voting upon the annexation of approximately 1,000 acres owned by Hostetler and has publically stated he intends to vote in favor of the Hostetler annexation. The FPPC does not have the legal authority to have Jones removed from office only we citizens can demand that Jones be removed by the recall process. Newspapers across the nation reported that Jones broke conflict of interest laws. Jones' actions have brought attention and humiliation to the citizens and local government of Los Banos. To ensure that public's trust and restore the public reputation of the City and citizens of Los Banos Jones must be removed from office. An example must be made that any public official that breaches the duty and trust bestowed upon them by citizens will be removed from office by Los Banos citizens there after other public officials taking the oath of office in the City of Los Banos will understand and that they will be vigilantly kept to a high standard of accountability to citizens, by citizens or meet the same fate as Jones. Now you reply which you filed as you were required to on May 2nd states this: "this recall is motivated by politics not ethics the proponents distort the facts and seek to distract the public from the important issues that are affecting our city their scheme will not deter me from making decisions based upon what is best for all....

*******This portion of the tape is a little difficult to transcribe as there is a lot of talking over one another and Mr. Forte's microphone has been turned off...*******

Mayor Jones – Thank you very much for your comments....

Mr. Forte – Pardon me...

Mayor Jones – Thank you very much for your comments

Mr. Forte – Excuse me.... That wasn't even close to 5 minutes.... The light was blinking

Mayor Jones – Is there anyone else who would like to speak at the public forum...

Mr. Forte – Pardon me sir... this isn't fair the light was blinking...

Mayor Jones – Is there anyone else who would like to speak at the public forum...

Mr. Forte - Attorney Vaughn... make sure...

(Mr. Vaughn speaking to Mayor Jones – **can't make out what he says..**)

Mayor Jones to Mr. Vaughn – No he had his 5 minutes.. I didn't let anyone else have it and he isn't gonna have it...

Mr. Forte – Mayor you lied when you said..... **cant make out....** Trust deed...

Mayor Jones – Is there anyone else who would like to speak at the public forum?...

Mr. Forte – **Can't make out.....** Deputy Chief director Tony Hamilton...**can't make out.....** . That there was not clarification..**cant make out....**

Mayor Jones – On to the next item number 7

And you've alleged they... didn't... you said when you were arrested for crack cocaine you alleged the drugs were planted on you sir... So now this recall is going to take place... **can't make out....**

Audience applauds.....

..... can still hear Mr. Forte shouting over people.... (I believe he is being removed from the room – and audience applauds...)....

Mayor Jones - We will take a five minute recess...

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Mayor Jones @ 01:01:51 – Meeting called back from recess...

Public forum opened back up.... Discussion regarding the Rescue Mission.... Various items being discussed.... Police department presented power point presentation....

Discussion regarding the Rescue Mission proposed site...

Mayor Jones @04:38:43 –

But one thing I did need to cover tonight... and I don't want to bore anyone.. But there has been some information that is constantly being put out to the public... So I had my attorney to call the Fair Political Practice Commission in Sacramento so that they would look completely at the situation that happened with me and was there any conflict I wanted that clear. They sent a letter back and I am not going to bore you with all the pages but I am going to read the final paragraph "basically... Mr. Jones, Mayor

Jones does not have an economic interest in the individual or his company and is not precluded under the act from participating in any government decision involving this company there are no conflicts concerning Mayor Jones. Okay so I went to the ninth degree to make sure I can still deal with all the other stuff I found out that whatever we have to deal with in life I think God prepares us for it so as long as this were moving this City in the right direction, we're all making the votes to do what we think is best for this community I can deal with everything else.

So thank you so much and tonight we want to adjourn until let me get it right the 19th right...

Meeting Adjourn

End of 5/7/08 City Council Meeting