

Santee Sioux Nation

SSN Council Headquarters

Chairman: Alonzo Denney
Vice-Chairman: Kameron Runnels
Treasurer: David Henry
Secretary: Andrea McBride

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Special Council Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2024

SSN Headquarters

9:00 am

1. Call to order – Chairman Denney called meeting to order at 9:04 am
2. Opening prayer – Ron Thomas
3. Roll Call
 - a. Present – Chairman Alonzo Denney, Vice-Chairman Kameron Runnels, Treasurer David Henry, Secretary Andrea McBride, Hobu Creek District Rep Byron Tuttle, Howe Creek District Rep Carrie Rouillard, and Bazile Creek District Rep Sandy Henry. Quorum established.
 - b. Absent – Santee District Rep Linda Whipple, excused medical
 - c. Guests present – Lola Medina, Shane Avery, Eugene Saul, Ron Thomas, Martha Campbell, Toni Kyriss, Misty Flowers
4. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Chairman asked for motion to approve agenda
 - i. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - ii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iii. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, and Chairman not voting, motion passes
5. The floor was given to the Avery family
 - a. Toni Kyriss wanted to speak in support of brother Shane and her mother Lola. Toni stated that the council fails to remember that the constitution is in our people's best interest and that she believes amendments need to be tweaked. When the amendment was taken into place in 2002, there was no understanding of the amendment and it was misunderstood where the money was coming from. She also thinks this amendment was an error.

Eugene Saul says he is on the enrollment committee and says that different issues have been brought up regarding the enrollment office. One of the issues is that different families have said that there are differences in blood degree within the same family. Eugene thinks that there has to be some fixes within enrollment and that the blood degrees may not be calculated correctly.

Lola talked of her mom fighting for her enrollment for 10 years and then having to fight another 3 years with Toni. She doesn't understand why they have to pay for the mistake

that was made in enrollment years ago. She said they will accept what happens today and will have to take the next steps needed.

Shane stated that he didn't know any of this was going on while he was in prison. His plan was to come home and help the community and get enrolled. But he has been fighting to get enrolled since 2018 and he believes he's fighting for his constitutional right just like everybody else.

Alonzo stated that in the current constitution it prohibits Shane's enrollment. And that the tribe can also consider the amendment mentioned, however, it takes the people's vote to make this change. With the prior council they went back and forth with this specific enrollment issue, and they ultimately came to the conclusion to stand on the current constitution and not allow Shane's enrollment. He also said he understands the blood quantum is present, but the fact is that their names are on the list of the members who accepted the Mississippi claims which doesn't allow these individuals the opportunity to enroll.

Toni stated that there are other tribes that received the judgement fund and questioned why Santee decided to add this amendment to the constitution.

Kameron says it was added in 2002, and he's not sure why it was added. What he does know, he goes back to the enrollment survey, is that he asked in the survey if this amendment should remain or be eliminated. 82% of the individuals who took the survey agreed that this amendment should be removed.

Shane says he's confused about the whole thing. He has no problem with the constitution being passed in 2002. But he questions what constitution should he be protected under. All of the events that happened before 2002 are being ignored and everybody is looking past the problem. The whole reason that he was enrolled was because of his grandma's fight. Why wasn't he protected when he needed to be protected?

Dave agrees that Shane should be enrolled but because of the constitution it states that because of claiming the Mississippi funds, it eliminates him from the current constitution. Ron thinks this all comes down to the 80/20 percent. 80 percent got the funds in 1982. There are options to change parts of the constitution but not all of it.

Shane believes that enrollment needs to be held accountable, he believes he is being punished. The problem is that the person didn't do their job correctly in 1993. When the enrollment committee passed his enrollment, the enrollment office didn't follow through with his paperwork.

Carrie mentioned that if minutes are found from November 17, 1993 or a resolution, then it seems that there would be no argument. She advised the family check their files to try to find something that says he was enrolled in 1993.

Alonzo said that this current council can't account for past councils decisions, but we do have a letter stating that no further action will be taken in regards to this issue. Today he has to abide by the constitution and not allow Shane's enrollment. Chairman now left the floor open for the rest of the council to state their opinions.

Sandy also agreed with Alonzo and believes that this issue should be taken to court.

Byron agreed that we can't go against the constitution, but if we had the minutes from 1993, his vote would be different.

Kameron stated that there should be additions to the constitution and that there should be an amendment in regards to the Mississippi claims section at least. Kameron said that he dislikes this whole situation, but until we come up with amendments to the constitution, he has to stand by the current constitution.

Andrea also said that we took an oath to this current constitution and we have to abide by that by not allowing Shane to be enrolled at this time.

Alonzo doesn't want to entertain a motion to say yes or no to Shane being enrolled, he wants to give Shane the opportunity to go to court.

Lola mentioned that they will go to court. She will get a copy of whatever is left in their enrollment files, but when Toni had asked for her file in the past, there were only two documents in there.

6. Adjourn

- a. All agenda items have been addressed
 - i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to adjourn at 11:04 am
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, and Chairman not voting, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea McBride
Santee Sioux Nation Council Secretary

