

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 1, 2011**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p. m.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Aguayo, Darling, & Simonian

Councilmembers Absent: Parra

City Staff Present: City Manager Elias, City Clerk Davis, Community Development Director Deaver, Public Works Director Weisser, Acting Police Chief Snow, City Attorney Wolfe, Acting Fire Chief Lopez

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by an invocation given by Reverend Jim Kennon. Roll call was taken. There were no public presentations.

PRESENTATION BY THE FOWLER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: ADOPTION OF A CITY MOTTO

City Manager Elias said that at the last meeting, the Council considered the Fowler Chamber's request for the approval of an official City motto, "The Blossom Trail City" as a tool to enhance local tourism. City Attorney Wolfe had recommended seeking a trademark to protect the City from legal challenges that might arise from use of the motto. The Staff Report outlined the process, costs, and length of time it would take to apply for and maintain a Federal trademark.

Chamber President Craig Mellon and Board Members Mary Anne Ward and Jim Martin, spoke in support of the motto, stating that it would help the local economy and could be used in promoting annual City events. Mr. Mellon said that they have developed a logo to accompany the motto, and asked that the City allow local businesses to use it for marketing purposes.

The Council discussed the proposed motto, and whether the City had financial resources for the trademark process. City Manager Elias stated that the costs could be incorporated into the Council's budget, and regulations for use of the logo could be addressed in the Chamber's annual agreement with the City. Mayor Pro-Tem Aguayo made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Darling, to adopt "The Blossom Trail City" as the City's motto. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote, with Councilmember Parra absent.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Clerk Davis reminded the Council of the April 1, 2011 deadline to file their annual FPPC Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests.

STAFF REPORTS:

A) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

◆ Discussion: Method of Recruitment for Police Chief Position

City Manager Elias continued the discussion from the previous meeting concerning the recruiting method for the police chief position. He circulated proposals from two recruiting firms, with the costs estimated to be about \$22,000 for full services and expenses. The firms also provided a cost breakdown for doing specified tasks, so that other tasks could be done by City staff to achieve a cost savings. He will be speaking to some contacts who have recently used professional recruitment firms, to find out more about the process and outcome.

The Council discussed various ways of conducting the police chief recruitment. The consensus was to place the matter on the March 23, 2011 special meeting agenda for further discussion. The March 15, 2011 regular meeting would not be held, as Mayor Cardenas was not available.



Update on RFP for Engineering Services

City Manager Elias reported that staff had completed the Request for Proposals for Engineering Services document, and would soon be sending it out to various engineering firms.

B) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

C) PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Weisser reported that he received the plans for the Veterans Monument from Gateway Engineering, but they will need to be sent back for corrections. The pickleball court project is ready to be re-advertised.

D) FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

E) POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Acting Chief Snow reported that a suspect who was featured on a Crimestoppers program was located and arrested by the Fowler Police Department. The Department recently conducted a check on the status of local registered sex offenders.

F) FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Acting Fire Chief Lopez gave a statistical report of January 2011 emergency calls. He said that funds received from a recently awarded grant would be used to purchase new turnouts.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe reported that cities and counties can impose regulations on Medical Marijuana dispensaries, including restrictions on their location.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - March 1, 2011; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Regular and Special Meetings - February 15, 2011; C) Approve letter of support regarding "Transportation Tax Swap." Mayor Pro-Tem Aguayo made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Darling, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas presented a plaque from Fresno COG to Mayor Pro-Tem Aguayo, in recognition of his valuable service to the COG Policy Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Mayor Pro-Tem Aguayo made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Simonian, to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p. m.