

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2011**

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

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Aguayo, Darling, Parra & Simonian

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

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

PRESENTATION TO CORNERSTONE THEATER COMPANY

Mayor Cardenas presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Cornerstone Theater Company of Los Angeles for working with citizens to write a play about the Fowler community called "A Man Comes to Fowler." Citizens will be playing the characters, and performances will be held in Panzak Park on August 11-13, 2011.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned an upcoming League of California Cities SSJV Division meeting in Delano on August 11, 2011.

STAFF REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- ◆ **Consider and Approve Contract Between the City of Fowler and Peters Engineering Group for City Engineer Services**

City Manager Elias said that as the result of a recent RFP process, staff recommended approval of an agreement with Peters Engineering Group for City Engineer services. The City received proposals from several qualified firms that were narrowed down to the top five for interviews and site visits. He said that the Peters Group would be the best fit, as they have sufficient municipal experience, the needed expertise in pavement management and transportation related projects, and offer a rate that is \$45 per hour less than the next highest quote. He added that the City would still be able to contract with some of the other engineering firms on special projects, if needed.

David Peters, of Peters Engineering Group, said that they are pleased to be working with the City of Fowler, and are confident in their ability to serve the City well.

After a discussion, Councilmember Simonian made a motion to approve the contract between the City of Fowler and Peters Engineering Group for City Engineer Services, and to authorize staff to draft a letter terminating services with the firm of Giersch and Associates. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Aguayo, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Weisser said that the department has been busy assisting the Cornerstone Theater Group with their production in Panzak Park and working on weed abatement. He attended a meeting on the proposed Golden State Corridor realignment, noting that the roundabouts planned for Fowler and Kingsburg have been eliminated.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Acting Chief Snow circulated the June 2011 statistics. He mentioned that the District Attorney's office had processed 81 backlogged cases, resulting in one DUI case they are able to file charges on. Also, some of the officers attended a railroad crime and accident investigation course at Fresno Police Department's Regional Training Facility.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Acting Fire Chief Lopez gave a brief report, noting that a memo had been sent to all firefighters, requiring them to attend at least five emergency calls and one training per month.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report was given.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - August 2, 2011; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Meeting - July 19, 2011; C) Adoption of Resolution No. 2220, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Submitting Claims for Local Transportation Funds for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year"; D) Approve Agreement between the City of Fowler and Giersch and Associates, Inc. for the project "Fowler Ave. Resurfacing, South Avenue to Merced Street," and authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the Agreement; and E) Adoption of Resolution No. 2221, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler in Support of Naming the Fowler Post Office as: The Cecil E. Bolt Post Office." Mayor Cardenas asked to remove

item E for discussion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Aguayo made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Darling, to approve items A-D of the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Cardenas spoke about item E, a resolution in support of naming the Fowler Post Office after longtime Fowler resident and Postmaster, Cecil Bolt. Several years ago, many citizens wrote letters in support of having the building named after Mr. Bolt, due to his tireless efforts supporting and volunteering in the community, and the great kindness and caring he showed to all. The process lost momentum, and Mayor Cardenas was recently asked if he would help resume the endeavor. He spoke with Congressman Jim Costa, who said that a resolution from the City Council is required along with the support letters. He will then ask for approval from fellow congressmen, and if there are no objections, the request should be granted.

Councilmember Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Darling, to approve item E of the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas announced that he will be leaving town to attend an S.K.F. related conference the following week. He reported on a recent COG meeting where a presentation on the upcoming Tour de Fresno bike race was given.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was adjourned to a closed session at 8:13 p.m. to discuss, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Public Employee Appointment/Employment - Title: Chief of Police. The meeting reconvened to open session at 8:50 p.m. with no reportable action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember Parra made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Aguayo. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:51p.m.