

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL
FOWLER REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, AND FOWLER PUBLIC FINANCING
AUTHORITY SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
AUGUST 23, 2011**

Mayor/Chairman Cardenas called the meeting to order at 6:01 p. m.

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

City/RDA/PFA Staff Present: Executive Director/City Manager Elias, City Clerk/Secretary Davis, Finance Director/Treasurer Wong, Community Development Director Deaver, Public Works Director Weisser, City Attorney Wolfe, Acting Police Chief Snow, Acting Fire Chief Lopez

Roll call was taken. There were no public presentations.

CONSIDER AND ADOPT FISCAL YEAR 2011-12 BUDGETS: CITY/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY

Finance Director Wong circulated some changes to the draft F.Y. 2011-12 budget that had been previously distributed. A correction was made to overstated General Fund (GF) employee benefit totals, an approved street project was added, and some other revenues that had been identified were added. Estimated GF revenues for 2011-12 totaled \$3,558,075 and estimated appropriations totaled \$3,940,790. With the addition of the beginning fund balance resource of \$419,748 and transfers of \$168,086, the estimated ending fund balance at June 30, 2012 was \$30,119, with a reserve of \$175,000 kept for contingencies.

City Manager Elias said that staff's practice is to delay making major capital expenditures until it is determined that revenues are coming in as expected. He noted that there could be further budget adjustments if the State takes away the COPS grant, which has been proposed.

The Utility Users Tax budget showed appropriations for police vehicles and a fire patrol unit. Acting Chief Snow explained that several of the current vehicles are showing signs of wear and are in constant need of repair. Acting Fire Chief Lopez stated that he is in the process of researching a fire patrol unit he located that would cost less than the one that is budgeted.

City Manager Elias stated that salary step increases for applicable employees had been factored into the budget. Councilmember Parra suggested that a 2 percent cost of living increase be offered to all full-time employees instead, which would cost less than step increases. City Manager Elias said that his salary would be exempt from the increase.

Concerning the RDA budget, City Manager Elias explained that because the State is calling for dissolution of redevelopment agencies or allowing them to continue with severely reduced funding, he had to recommend that the Community Development Director position be eliminated. With the State taking \$589,731 in RDA funding there are no resources left to fund the position. A discussion followed on ways to continue funding the position, possibly by further cutting GF departmental expenses. City Manager Elias explained that there was no room for cutting operational expenses.

The consensus was to schedule a special meeting on August 29, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. for adoption of the budgets, so that adjustments for the cost of living increase could be made, and to have additional time to consider if there was a way to fund the Community Development Director position. City Manager Elias reminded the Council that a special meeting had also been set for August 30, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. for police chief interviews.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember/Director Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember/Director Darling, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned by general consensus at 8:39 p. m.