

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 1, 2012**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Darling, Parra & Simonian

City Staff Present: City Manager Elias, City Clerk Davis, Finance Director Wong, Police Chief Brand, Fire Chief Lopez, City Attorney Wolfe, City Engineer Peters, Planning Consultant O'Neal

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by an invocation given by Councilmember Darling. Roll call was taken.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Fowler resident Shelley Cooper stated that the traffic signal at Merced Street and Golden State Boulevard is changing too quickly for pedestrians and bicyclists, and mentioned the need for a bike lane along Fowler Avenue west of Highway 99. City Engineer Peters said that the timing on the traffic signal can be adjusted, and that the City will soon be placing bike lanes on Fowler Avenue when a reconstruction project commences.

Fowler resident Sandie Monis thanked City staff for assistance with the recent Serve Fowler event.

Andy Gonzales commended the City for being able to hire new police officers in view of the fact that surrounding cities have been in the news for laying off public safety employees.

Fowler resident Arpie Dick spoke of visibility problems for motorists caused by diagonal parking at Merced and 4th Streets. It was discussed that some parking spaces may be able to be eliminated as part of upcoming street improvements in the area.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW FOWLER POLICE OFFICERS

Chief Brand introduced and gave a short bio on newly hired police officers Andrew Bright and Anthony Parinella. The Council welcomed the new officers to the City of Fowler.

PUBLIC HEARING:

**TO CONSIDER ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF S. FOWLER AVENUE -
ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2246**

Planning Consultant O'Neal stated that the Council had directed that a public hearing be

scheduled to consider abandonment of a portion of Fowler Avenue near 10th Street and Highway 99. Staff recommended vacating the street, as it serves no useful public purpose and is a maintenance liability. The vacated street would be conveyed to the four adjacent property owners. The abandonment is contingent on a lot merger for the two adjacent parcels owned by JST, LLC. A public utility easement will be established for the property. Mr. O'Neal noted that the abandonment is consistent with the Fowler General Plan.

Mayor Cardenas opened the duly noticed public hearing on the matter at 7:25 p.m. City Manager Elias read a letter received from adjacent property owner Bobby Williams into the record. Mr. Williams stated that he is against the abandonment as it would affect access to his business. With no further comment, the public hearing was closed at 7:29 p. m.

The Council discussed the abandonment. The maintenance and liability concerns of the street were mentioned. Fowler resident Jose Rodriguez stated that if the City didn't abandon the street it could create revenue by installing parking meters along the street. Fowler resident Ernest Mata commented that the abandonment would benefit the Motel 6 project by allowing for a larger facility. Adjacent property owner John Shehady stated that he was not concerned with the Motel 6 project but wished for a decision to be made so that he could move forward with plans to develop his property.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra said that the abandonment could be delayed until the time that the Motel 6 project proceeds, if successful. He made a motion not to approve Resolution No. 2246. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Councilmember Darling made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Simonian, to adopt Resolution No. 2246, "A Resolution Before the City Council of the City of Fowler, County of Fresno, State of California, Approving Vacation of a Portion of S. Fowler Avenue Pursuant to Streets and Highways Code Sections 8300, Et Seq., Reserving a Public Utility Easement, and Authorizing Conveyance of the Vacated Property to Adjacent Property Owners." The motion carried on a 3-1-0 roll call vote: Ayes: Simonian, Darling & Cardenas. Noes: Parra. Absent/Abstain: None.

The meeting adjourned to a short recess, followed by the Fowler Successor Agency Special Meeting. The regular Council meeting reconvened at 8:17 p. m.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias reminded the Council of the Recreation Commission's Blossom Trial Springfest event on May 5, 2012, and the Annual Mayor's Breakfast on May 25, 2012.

STAFF REPORTS:

A) CONSIDER/APPROVE REQUEST FOR YOUTH SPORTS FUNDING

City Manager Elias said that the City received an application for youth sports funding in the amount of \$4,880.80 from the Redcat Football Boosters. Boosters representative

Mike Butts explained that the funds will allow 35 youths to attend a team skill building and leadership camp.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Darling, to approve youth sports funding to Redcat Football Boosters in the amount of \$4,880.80. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

B) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

— Update on Curbside Trash Pick-up

City Manager Elias introduced Don Johnson of Waste Management, who gave an update the City's curbside trash pick-up program. Curbside pick-up assists local law enforcement patrol by keeping alleyways clear, and alleviates a safety hazard for garbage trucks from public utility lines in the alleys. Mr. Johnson said they are making special arrangements for residents who are unable to comply with curbside pick-up.

— Approve Sale or Donation of Surplus Police Patrol Vehicles and Equipment

City Manager Elias explained that Chief Brand has requested that two patrol vehicles in need of constant repair and miscellaneous old, or no longer used equipment be sold, donated or disposed of. The City of Parlier will purchase the patrol cars for \$500 each.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Simonian, to approve the sale or donation of the surplus vehicles and equipment. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

City Manager Elias reported that a developer is interested in building a food processing facility on seven acres near 8th and Peach Streets, and that an established home builder is interested in purchasing the Crestwood Estates subdivision.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Brand circulated a statistical report for March 2012. The Fowler Police Department participated in a Fresno County Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony earlier that day.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Lopez gave a report on emergency calls for March 2012, and on the various

fire safety and prevention programs he is developing.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe mentioned that he will be conducting a Brown Act workshop later in the year.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - May 1, 2012; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Meeting - April 3, 2012; C) Approve Proclamation Declaring May 2012 as "Drowning Prevention Month" in the City of Fowler; D) Adoption of Resolution No. 2247, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Adopting the 2012 Bicycle Transportation Plan"; and E) Approve and accept Veterans Monument Park Project and authorize Gateway Engineering to file and record the Notice of Completion.

City Engineer Peters asked that the title of Resolution No. 2247 be changed to "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Committing Matching Funds Towards the 2012 BTA Grant Application." Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Simonian, to approve the Consent Calendar with the change to the title of Resolution No. 2247. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas attended a conference related to his duties on the S. K. F. Sanitation District Board. Mayor Pro-Tem Parra attended the recent League of California Cities Legislative Action Days.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Darling. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:34 p. m.