

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 17, 2012**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Darling, Parra & Simonian

City Staff Present: City Manager Elias, City Clerk Davis, Police Chief Brand, Public Works Director Weisser, Fire Chief Lopez, City Attorney Wolfe, City Engineer Peters

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 BY JUAN GARZA II - CALIFORNIA CONSULTING, LLC

Juan Garza, II, of California Consulting, gave a report on various grants the firm has secured for the City. To date, the City has been awarded approximately \$631,000 with their assistance. The Council asked that Mr. Garza, a Fowler native, be the designated contact person on all future grant applications.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR YOUTH SPORTS FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,500 - FOWLER GIRLS YOUTH SOFTBALL

City Manager Elias said that Fowler Girls Youth Softball has requested funding assistance in the amount of \$6,500. The City's policy calls for a maximum award of \$2,000 annually per organization, though the Council has the discretion to approve a larger amount. He recommended staying within the annual limit, since its early in the fiscal year and there may be other groups requesting funds. A group representative was not available to answer questions. Councilmember Simonian made a motion to postpone the funding request to the next meeting, seconded by Councilmember Darling. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2254

Mayor Cardenas opened the duly noticed public hearing regarding the City's annual Landscape and Storm Drainage Maintenance District No. 1 assessments at 7:26 p. m. With no public comment, the hearing was closed at 7:26 p. m. Councilmember Simonian made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra, to adopt Resolution No. 2254, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler, California Confirming Diagram and Assessment Annual Levy – 2012-13 Landscaping and Storm Drainage Facilities Maintenance District No. 1." The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned an upcoming SSJV League Division meeting in Lemoore. City Clerk Davis announced that the candidate nomination period for three City Council seats at the upcoming November 6, 2012 General Election began July 16th and ends

on August 10, 2012. The period will be extended to August 15, 2012 if an incumbent does not file.

STAFF REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Discussion Regarding the Posting and Enforcement of a Two-hour Parking Limit in the Downtown Area

City Manager Elias said that he received letters from Fowler Barber Shop and Fratello's Bistro, asking the City to place a two-hour parking limit in the downtown, as their customers have been frustrated due to a lack of parking. In 2009, the City conducted a downtown parking survey and found that the majority of cars parked for long periods of time belonged to employees of the various businesses. The City sent a letter notifying businesses about the study so that they could ask their employees to park in areas away from Merced Street. He noted that enforcement of a two hour parking limit would take a police officer off the street, and that installation of meters would not provide enough funding to cover the cost of a police officer.

The Council commented that the City has already removed seven planters in the downtown to create more parking, and that it would be appropriate for the Chamber of Commerce to work with businesses to emphasize use of alternative parking areas, such as on 7th Street, north of Merced Street. City staff may set a future meeting with downtown business owners to further discuss the issue.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Weisser reported that three new part-time laborers have been hired. Staff has been working on weed abatement and pothole patching.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Brand gave the statistical report for June 2012, and mentioned that two recently hired police officers have completed their field training requirement.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Lopez said that the department responded to 67 calls in the month of June, and that two new volunteer firefighters, both from Fowler, will soon be added to the ranks.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe stated that he is working on a memorandum to assist the City's Successor Agency with deadlines and other legalities resulting from the wind-down of

redevelopment agencies.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - July 17, 2012; B) Approve donating 1989 Ford F350 (old Fire Patrol) to Clovis Unified School District as an educational tool for their Regional Occupational Program; C) Adoption of Resolution No. 2255, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Submitting Claims for Local Transportation Funds for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year"; and D) Adoption of Resolution No. 2256, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Concerning Local Transportation Purpose Funds Extension (Measure "C" Extension)." Mayor Cardenas asked for more information on Item B.

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

After a brief discussion, Mayor Cardenas made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra, to approve Consent Calendar item B. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Darling, to reappoint Elaine Roy, Craig Mellon, Sonia Smith and Leticia Rubio to another term on the Recreation Commission. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Cardenas reported on a recent COG and S. K. F. Sanitation District meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Parra invited all to attend an upcoming League of California Cities Latino Caucus event. Councilmember Darling commended the Recreation Commission for the success of the recent 4th of July fireworks event.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Darling, to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p. m.