

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2012**

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

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Darling, Parra & Simonian

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

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: CENTRAL CALIFORNIA REGIONAL OBESITY PREVENTION PROGRAM

Genoveva Islas-Hooker, Regional Director of the Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program, spoke about the importance of addressing obesity and related problems in local communities. Their organization is committed to working with cities to overcome challenges, help create policies, and encourage a healthy food environment. City Manager Elias noted that Fowler was the second city in California to adopt a resolution in support of healthy eating and active living policies.

PRESENTATION TO COUNCILMEMBER RICK DARLING

Mayor Cardenas presented a plaque and expressed appreciation to outgoing Councilmember Rick Darling for his four years of dedicated service on the City Council. Councilmember Darling stated that he was grateful for the opportunity to serve the City of Fowler.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned Saturday, November 24, 2012 is "Small Business Saturday," a national event that encourages all to support local small businesses during the holiday season and throughout the year. He mentioned an invitation from Assembly Member Henry T. Perea to a holiday open house on December 5, 2012.

STAFF REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Elias reported that the Due Diligence Review of the former Redevelopment Agency's Low to Moderate Housing Fund was approved by the Fowler Successor Agency Oversight Board. The Successor Agency must turn over the remaining fund balance of \$872,947 to Fresno County.

Discussion/direction: Providing Assistance for the Motel 6 Development Project

City Manager Elias said that he received a request for financial assistance from Fowler Development, LLC, developers of the proposed Motel 6 project near 10th and Merced Streets. The group has conveyed that for the project to move forward, they need assistance in the form of reimbursement for offsite improvements, and credit toward the cost of development impact fees. He asked for the Council's direction on whether to move forward to provide assistance.

Richard Barrett and Michael Berberich of Fowler Development, LLC, stated that when the site plan was approved, the conditions of approval called for fees and infrastructure costs that had not been anticipated, prompting the need for financial assistance to complete the project. They discussed information provided to the Council showing estimated annual projections of Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT) from the motel, and requested that a portion of the tax be credited against \$258,000 of development impact fees.

City Attorney Wolfe noted that any type of assistance that the City may offer would be tied to equal or more benefits the City would receive in return. City Manager Elias noted that a reimbursement agreement could provide possible reimbursement for offsite improvements from future development in the area. The Council discussed the matter at length. The consensus was not to provide financial assistance for the project.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Weisser reported that the department has been working on installing holiday decorations and preparing for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting event. He mentioned recent street light wire theft incidents, where the damage was minimal due to preventative measures that had been taken.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Brand gave a statistical report for the month of October 2012. The officers have been attending various training opportunities, including tobacco prevention training, due to the City's recent adoption of a tobacco retailer permit ordinance.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Lopez gave a report of emergency calls for October 2012. The volunteer firefighters participated in a "Fill the Boot" event that raised \$1,700 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report was given.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - November 20, 2012; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting - October 16, 2012; and Fowler City Council/Successor Agency/Public Financing Authority Special Joint Meeting - October 16, 2012; and C) Approve Local Agency State Agreement (City of Fowler and CalTrans): Bicycle Transportation Account Project. Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Darling, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra invited the Council to an upcoming Latino Caucus event at Fresno State. Councilmember Darling commented on the success of the Veterans Day Ceremony held at the Veterans Monument.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember Darling made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Simonian, to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p. m.