

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 5, 2013**

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

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Hammer, Monis, & Simonian

Councilmembers Absent: Parra

City Staff Present: City Manager Elias, Clerk Davis, Finance Director Wong, Public Works Director Weisser, Police Chief Brand, City Attorney Wolfe

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by an invocation given by Father John Theopane of St. Lucy's Church. Roll call was taken.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Andy Gonzales commented in appreciation of a public works employee who promptly checked on a water drainage issue he was alerted to, after work hours.

Fowler Chamber of Commerce board member Jim Martin circulated an invitation to their upcoming Cruizin' the Trail event.

Postmaster Mary-Anne Ward announced that the dedication ceremony for naming the Fowler Post Office after long time Postmaster Cecil Bolt, will be held on Friday, April 5, 2013.

PRESENTATION BY GENE JOHNSON: THE HOUSING FORECLOSURE CRISIS

Gene Johnson, an affiliate of the Latino Mayors Coalition, spoke about the housing foreclosure crisis, and the related fraudulent practices taking place with banks and lenders. He noted that some cities have implemented foreclosure ordinances, which create mediation programs to help affected homeowners.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned the City's annual Rabies Clinic on March 16, 2013; the Fowler Chamber's Community Awards Banquet on April 11, 2013; and a League of California Cities SSJV Division meeting in Woodlake on the same date.

STAFF REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Discussion: Modifying the City's Funding Agreement with the Fowler Chamber of Commerce**

City Manager Elias asked for Council direction on any desired changes to the Fowler Chamber of Commerce Funding Agreement, such as specifics on delivery of Chamber programs, or restrictions on how funding can be used. He has also made an addition to the contract which requires the Chamber to hold regular office hours, Monday through Friday, of at least 4 hours per day.

The Council discussed the contract and adding the requirement for regular operating hours. Chamber President Craig Mellon spoke to the matter, noting that at times he is out of town on City business, and may not be able to keep the office open during those times. Chamber boardmember Mary-Anne Ward stated that the board could discuss how best to implement regular operating hours at their upcoming meeting, and provide the information to the City Manager. The agreement can then be brought back to the Council for consideration and approval.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Weisser said that some of the asphalt is breaking loose at the railroad crossings, and repair is scheduled for the following Monday. Staff recently attended an educational class on the subject of growing and nurturing trees.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Brand gave a statistical report for the month of February 2013, with a total of 79 cases. He gave a presentation on the new online crime reporting system which the public can now access on the City of Fowler's website.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

A report on emergency calls outside of the City limits was included in the agenda packet.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe report that several new CEQA cases are being considered by the courts, and he will provide information on any updates that occur.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - March 5, 2013; and B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Meeting - February 19, 2013. Councilmember Simonian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas said that he and the City Manager reviewed several applications for the vacancies on the Planning and Recreation Commissions. He recommended appointing Juan Mejia to the Planning Commission and Roy Alatorre to the Recreation Commission. Councilmember Monis made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Mr. Mejia and Mr. Alatorre to the respective Commissions. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hammer, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Councilmember Hammer reported that the new scoreboard at the Fowler High School field has been installed, and a dedication ceremony will be held on March 23, 2013.

Councilmember Monis announced that the annual "Serve Fowler" community cleanup event will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2013. The Recreation Commission will be having an Easter egg hunt in Panzak Park on Saturday, March 30, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember Monis made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Simonian, to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p. m.