

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 19, 2013**

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

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis, & Simonian

City Staff Present: City Manager Elias, City Clerk Davis, Finance Director Wong, Public Works Director Weisser, Fire Chief Lopez, City Attorney Wolfe, Planning Consultant O'Neal

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by an invocation given by Reverend Raul Moreno of the Fowler Baptist Church. Roll call was taken. There were no public presentations.

PRESENTATION BY HEALTHWISE SERVICES AND S. K. F. SANITATION DISTRICT: SHARPS & PHARMACEUTICAL KIOSK PROGRAM

S. K. F. General Manager Ben Munoz and HealthWise Services representative Sonia Tyler, gave a presentation on a proposed sharps and pharmaceutical disposal "kiosk" program for the cities of Fowler, Kingsburg and Selma. The program will help eliminate problems associated with disposal of the waste into the sewer system. S. K. F. will pay a portion of the program cost, and the City's cost would be \$3,700 per year for one collection site. Up to three kiosk sites are proposed, depending on needs. Ms. Tyler gave information on how HealthWise collects and processes the medical waste under the program.

City Manager Elias noted that the City has a mail-in sharps disposal program already in place as part of it's contract with Waste Management, and there may not be a need for another sharps program. The Council asked whether the City could opt out of the sharps program while keeping the pharmaceutical disposal program. Mr. Munoz said that the two programs are meant to go hand in hand. A formal month-to-month contract will be brought back for approval if the City wishes to participate.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion to approve implementing one site of the kiosk program beginning July 1, 2013, subject to a six month review. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Monis, and carried on a 4-1-0 vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Monis and Hammer. Noes: Simonian. Absent/Abstain: none.

PUBLIC HEARING:

TO CONSIDER APPROVING VACATION OF BONITA AVENUE WEST OF GOLDEN STATE BOULEVARD

Planning Consultant O'Neal explained that a portion of Bonita Avenue west of Golden State Boulevard was no longer needed and is a maintenance issue for the City. The Council previously approved a resolution to initiate abandonment proceedings, which sets a required public hearing on the matter. A public utility easement will be reserved,

and the abandoned street will revert to the adjacent property owners.

Mayor Cardenas opened the duly noticed public hearing on the matter at 7:55 p. m. Adjacent property owner Cristina Wilkenson High asked questions about the location of the public utility easement. With no further comments from the public, the hearing was closed at 8:04 p. m.

Councilmember Simonian made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2270, "A Resolution Before the City Council of the City of Fowler, County of Fresno, State of California, Approving Vacation of Bonita Avenue West of Golden State Boulevard 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 was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned an upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony for the new scoreboard at Fowler High School; a ceremony for naming the Fowler Post office in honor of longtime postmaster Cecil Bolt on April 5, 2013; the SSJV Division of the League of California Cities general meeting in Woodlake to April 18, 2013; and the Fowler Chamber's Annual Community Awards Banquet in Selma on April 11, 2013.

STAFF REPORTS:

PRESENTATION: BLUEPRINT INTEGRATION PROGRAM – FOWLER GENERAL PLAN AUDIT

Planning Consultant O'Neal stated that the Blueprint Integration Program, adopted in eight Valley counties and managed by Fresno COG, incorporates various "smart growth" planning principles to guide future development in the region. The City has supported these principles, which include: creating a range of housing opportunities and choices; creating walkable neighborhoods, preserving open space, farmland and critical environmental areas; enhancing the economic vitality of the region; and providing a variety of transportation choices. Recently, an audit of the Fowler General Plan (GP) was conducted to determine whether it is consistent with the principles, and if not, to identify ways the GP can be amended to incorporate them to a larger degree.

Mr. O'Neal gave several recommendations resulting from the GP audit, including: the need to update the City's Housing Element; facilitating walkable neighborhoods by placing requirements in the Zoning Ordinance and City Standards; creating and adopting design guidelines; giving priority to development of vacant underdeveloped land; and updating water and storm drainage master plans.

The Council discussed the principles and recommendations. Mr. O'Neal noted that recommendations from the audit can be incorporated into a future GP revision, and in the update to the City's Housing Element.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Discussion/action: League of California Cities Bylaw Amendments

City Manager Elias said that the League of California Cities has submitted to its membership two proposed amendments to its bylaws: 1) that resolutions submitted to the League for presentation to the General Assembly must be concurred in by at least five cities or by five elected officials from at least five or more cities; 2) that the League Board may take a position on a statewide ballot measure by a 2/3rd vote of the Directors present. Currently only a simple majority vote is required. The reason for the amendments is to ensure that there is a concurrence that the subject matter of resolutions are of broad interest and importance to cities, and that the League's position on ballot measures represents a broad consensus of the Directors.

After a discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion to approve both proposed League Bylaw amendments. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Monis, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

City Manager Elias reported on a recent meeting he had with members of the Fowler Unified School District Board to discuss community recreational needs.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Weisser said that staff has been busy working on weed abatement and tree-trimming. He reported on the progress of the Rule 20 utilities undergrounding project on 7th Street.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Finance Director Wong gave a budget summary for July 2012 - February 2013. General Fund revenues totaled 73.5 percent, and expenditures 72 percent, of budget. He noted that sales tax revenue is coming in much higher than the four preceding years, totaling \$596,332 for the period.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

No report was given.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Lopez gave a report of emergency calls for February 2013. He spoke of a recent gas leak that occurred near 7th and Merced Streets that was caused by a crew working on a construction project. The Fire, Police, and Public Works Departments worked together to quickly evacuate nearby businesses and residents and block off streets until the leak was repaired.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe stated that he and the City Manager will be meeting with representatives of Waste Management the following day to discuss a billing dispute.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - March 19, 2013; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Meeting - March 5, 2013; and C) Adoption of Resolution No. 2013-2271, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Concerning the Fresno Council of Governments 2014 Regional Transportation Plan." Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Simonian, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas commended the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments for their efficient response to protect citizens during the gas leak occurrence. He mentioned that the S.K.F. Board recently selected an engineer for a sewer project on Fowler Avenue.

Councilmember Monis attended the grand opening of a new Sikh funeral home near Fowler, and an office hours session with a representative from Congressman Valadao's office held at the Fowler Library.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra reported on his recent trip with the "One Voice" delegation to Washington, D. C. He also took time to meet with legislators to discuss local needs.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember Hammer made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:27 p. m.