

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 7, 2013**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, City Attorney Wolfe, Police Chief Brand, Fire Chief Lopez

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by an invocation given by Pastor Lois Hill of St. Paul AME Church. Roll call was taken.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Fowler resident Murray McManus stated that he is not in favor of the proposed traffic roundabout at the Merced and 10th Street intersection.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Elias mentioned the annual Mayor's Breakfast/State of the City Address on Friday, May 10, 2013; and an invitation to S.K.F.'s annual employee appreciation luncheon on May 23, 2013.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

— **Discussion: Adventist Health Inquiry**

City Manager Elias said that the City was contacted by Adventist Health, representing Fowler Doctors Joan Rubenstein and Alex Sherriffs, regarding their need to expand due to a growing clientele. They asked about purchasing, leasing or a land exchange of the old Fowler Hospital or other City property.

The Council discussed the matter, noting that the medical practice was very important to the Fowler community. The consensus of the Council was for staff to continue working with Adventist Health to discuss options on assisting with their expansion plans.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

— **Reject Bid Received for the 2013 Street Maintenance Project**

Public Works Director Weisser said that the City recently rebid the 2013 Street Maintenance Project due to a low bid turnout, and again, only one bid was received from Asphalt Maintenance in the amount of \$331,844.90, exceeding the City Engineer's

estimate. City Engineer Peters followed up with several plan holders who did not bid the project, to find out why they didn't participate. One reason is that the project calls for reclamite treatments, which some contractors are reluctant to bid due to lack of experience with the material. Staff recommends rejecting the bid and re-bidding the project again using all slurry seals in lieu of reclamite. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in the summer of 2013.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Simonian, to reject the bid for the 2013 Street Maintenance Project. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Finance Director Wong gave a budget report for July 2012 - March 2013. General Fund revenues were at 75 percent, and expenditures were at 81 percent, of budget. He gave a summary of various transactions and proceedings that have taken place with the winding down of the Fowler Redevelopment Agency, including discussions with the Department of Finance on their disallowing certain financial obligations of the Successor Agency.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Brand gave the April 2013 crime statistics, with a total of 75 case numbers issued for the month. He mentioned the annual Peace Officers Memorial held in Fresno.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Lopez mentioned that the Battle of the Badge Blood Drive will be held on May 13, 2013, with both the Police and Fire Departments participating.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

City Attorney Wolfe reported that the California Supreme Court ruled that cities can exercise their police powers and land use authority to ban Medical Marijuana dispensaries.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - May 7, 2013; and B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Meeting - April 16, 2013. Councilmember Simonian made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Cardenas attended an S.K.F. meeting where they discussed conducting a sewer rate study in anticipation of a rate increase.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra attended a recent League of California Cities Board meeting where Governor Brown was present to answer questions.

Councilmember Monis reported on the recent Springfest event, and on the Friends of the Fowler Library's plans to hold an "art-hop" fund raiser.

Councilmember Simonian commented that Mayor Cardenas should have been given an opportunity to speak during the recent Cecil Bolt Library dedication ceremony, as he and the Council worked diligently with legislators to accomplish naming the post office after Mr. Bolt.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Councilmember Hammer made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra, to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p. m.