

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL AND FOWLER
PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
JUNE 25, 2013**

Mayor/Chairman Cardenas called the meeting to order at 5:34 p. m. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers/Directors Present: Cardenas, Parra (arrived at 5:43 p. m.), Hammer, Monis & Simonian

City/Authority Staff Present: City Manager/Executive Director Elias, City Clerk/Secretary Davis, Finance Director/Treasurer Wong, City Attorney Cross, Public Works Director Weisser, Fire Chief Lopez, City Engineer Peters

There were no public presentations.

DISCUSSION/UPDATE FROM CITY ENGINEER: CONSOLIDATED IRRIGATION DISTRICT'S (CID) PROPOSED GROUNDWATER IMPACT FEES

City Manager Elias stated that this would be an initial discussion of the CID matter, with a further discussion to take place at a special meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2013.

City Engineer Peters said that staff has been working with CID to reach an agreement concerning their intention to implement fees to mitigate potential groundwater impacts, caused by drawing water from the ground and distributing to the citizens. CID has secured signed agreements with other local cities to implement the fees, which will be used to fund and develop groundwater recharge facilities and cover related administrative and maintenance costs. These cities have had to raise their water rates to accommodate the CID fees, as the cost structure is approximately \$130 per acre foot of net groundwater pumped. Cities receive a credit of the amount of water that has been collected in local stormwater basins against the groundwater that has been pumped from the ground.

Staff has reached a verbal understanding with CID that Fowler will develop a groundwater management plan. The plan, to be implemented over time, would identify any overdraft of groundwater within the City limits, and call for a plan to recharge the water so that the overdraft is eliminated or minimized to a level of insignificance. The City would also develop it's own groundwater recharge or water retention facilities.

City Manager Elias noted that CID has halted project development in several cities by filing suit under CEQA laws, until agreements are reached. An expansion project proposed by National Raisin Company in Fowler has already met with objections from CID. Staff is still in the discussion stages with CID, and further details of the agreement the City is developing will be discussed at the July 17, 2013 special meeting.

ADOPTION OF 2013-14 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

City Manager Elias said that the California Consulting contract, in the amount of \$15,000, has been eliminated from the budget, per Council direction at the last

meeting. In addition, \$1,070 was cut from the part-time salaries in the Police Department budget. As a result, the projected \$16,070 General Fund deficit fund balance is eliminated, and the budget is in balance.

FOWLER PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY:

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. PFA 2013-01

Director Hammer made a motion, seconded by Director Monis, to Adopt Resolution No. PFA 2013-01, "A Resolution of the Fowler Public Financing Authority, County of Fresno, State of California, Adopting the Financing Authority Annual Budget and Appropriating Revenue of the Agency for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year." The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

CITY COUNCIL:

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2279 AND 2280

Councilmember Monis made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra, to adopt Resolution No. 2279, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler, County of Fresno, State of California, Adopting the City Annual Budget and Appropriating Revenue of the City for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year." The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Councilmember Simonian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to adopt Resolution No. 2280, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler, County of Fresno, State of California, Establishing the Appropriation Limit for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Pursuant to Article XIII B of the California Constitution." The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2281

City Manager Elias stated that Resolution No. 2281 is to support a ballot measure to extend Fresno COG's Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program (AVA). The AVA program has provided \$52,000 to City over the past six years to reimburse costs to abate abandoned vehicles.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hammer, to adopt Resolution No. 2281, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Approving the Inclusion of a Measure on the June 3, 2014 Fresno County Primary Ballot to Extend the AVA Program for a Ten-year Period." The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember/Director Simonian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem/Vice-Chairman Parra. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p. m.