

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2014**

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, Police Chief Brand, Public Works Director Weisser, City Attorney Wolfe, Planning Consultant O'Neal

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by an invocation given by Mayor Cardenas. Roll call was taken. There were no public presentations.

PRESENTATION - CONGRESSMAN VALADAO'S OFFICE

Justin Mendes, a representative for Congressman David Valadao, spoke of legislation that the Congressman is sponsoring to help the Ninth Circuit of the Eastern District Court System, as it is overburdened and backlogged with cases. The legislation calls for increasing the number of judgeships and designating Bakersfield, California, as a place of holding court. A letter of support from jurisdictions within the District is being requested. The Council's consensus was to provide a letter.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned that information regarding funeral arrangements for National Raisin Company co-founder Ernest Bedrosian had been placed at the dais. He stated that agenda item 8B should be removed from the agenda.

STAFF REPORTS:

— **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2013-02**

Planning Consultant O'Neal stated that, as discussed at the public hearing and first reading of the ordinance held on November 19, 2013, Ordinance No. 2013-02 calls for removing properties between Golden State Boulevard and Highway 99 from the Form Based Code zoning designation. The Ordinance rezones the properties to the C-2 and C-H zone districts.

Councilmember Simonian made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra, to waive the second reading and approve Ordinance No. 2013-02, "An Ordinance Before the City Council of the City of Fowler, County of Fresno, State of California, Approving Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment No. 13-02 (City of Fowler)." The motion carried on a 5-0-0 vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Monis, Parra & Simonian. Noes: None. Absent: None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Discussion/direction on development and implementation of Water Conservation programs and policies

City Manager Elias explained that the City has water conservation measures in place, such as watering restrictions during summer months and an adopted Statewide Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance. With the ongoing drought conditions in the Valley and the increase to underground water being pumped, it would be helpful to discuss how the City can be more effective in enforcing water conservation.

The Council discussed the matter, and comments were made about the seriousness of conserving water and the necessity of being pro-active because it is unknown how long the drought will last. It was stated that public outreach and education should be the focus, perhaps through newspaper articles and other means. The topic will be brought back to future meetings.

City Manager Elias also reported that the Fresno County Library is intending to reduce hours at the Fowler Library to help pay for a new mobile library project. It was recommended that the Council contact County representatives about the matter. The consensus was to provide a letter to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors stating the Council's objection to the proposed hours reduction.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Weisser said that the Manning Avenue Reconstruction project will begin on January 20, 2014, with a 40 day estimated construction period.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Brand gave crime statistics for calendar year 2013. There were 996 case numbers and 167 citations issued, and a total of 166 arrests were made. The statistics showed that crime is down in the City overall, with the exception of motor vehicle theft.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

No report was given.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report was given.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - January 7, 2014; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Special Meeting - December 10, 2013; C) Adoption of Resolution No. 2288, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Approving Development and Planning Fees for 2014"; and D) Accept the South Fowler Avenue Reconstruction Project and authorize the City Engineer to file the Notice of Completion. Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Monis, Parra & Simonian. Noes: None. Absent: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra and Mayor Cardenas mentioned an upcoming bus trip to Sacramento on January 16, 2014, where elected officials and citizens will be lobbying for water needs in the region.

Councilmember Monis mentioned a recent local food giveaway.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p. m.