

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2014**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:14 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 Garza, City Engineer Peters

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by an invocation given by Councilmember Simonian. Roll call was taken.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Fowler resident Murray McManus spoke about a strong acetone odor that occurs in his neighborhood in the evening.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned an invitation to a meeting with Assemblymember Henry T. Perea to discuss the water crisis.

STAFF REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

No report was given.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

— **First Reading of Ordinance No. 2014-01**

Public Works Director Weisser said that Ordinance No. 2014-01 amends the Fowler Municipal Code to provide further regulations for water conservation. The Council recently discussed the importance of being proactive in conserving water, due to the severe ongoing drought conditions in the Valley. The regulations are modeled after the City of Fresno's water conservation schedule, calling for an odd/even residential address watering schedule on alternate days during the months of March through November. No watering is allowed on Mondays or between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on any day. During the months of December through February, odd numbered addresses can water only on Saturdays and even numbered addresses only on Sundays. The ordinance allows for certain exceptions, such as for newly sodded or seeded grass.

After a discussion, Councilmember Simonian made a motion to waive the first reading and approve Ordinance No. 2014-01, "An Ordinance Amending Article 11 of Chapter 4 of Title 6 of the Fowler Municipal Code Concerning Water Services." The motion was seconded by Councilmember Monis and carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis, & Simonian. Noes: None. Absent: None.

— **Adoption of Resolution No. 2290**

Public Works Director Weisser stated that Resolution No. 2290 sets forth a citation policy that establishes penalties for violations of the City's water conservation requirements. The policy calls for two written warnings followed by an increasing fine schedule for each successive violation. City Attorney Garza noted that the fines are less than those in the City's regular administrative citation schedule.

Councilmember Hammer made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra, to adopt Resolution No. 2290, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Adopting a Policy for the Issuance of Administrative Citations Pertaining to Water Conservation." The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis, & Simonian. Noes: None. Absent: None.

— **Approval of Necessary Expenditures to Refurbish the City's Christmas Tree**

Public Works Director Weisser said that Crystal Valley Decorating, a former Fowler business, has offered the City a 50 percent discount to refurbish the City's Christmas tree. Payment must be received by February 28, 2014 for the discount to apply. The refurbishment cost is \$18,000, which also includes a street banner and several lighted Christmas wreath decorations. Staff is arranging transportation of the tree to and from Crystal Valley, now located in Oregon.

Councilmember Monis made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hammer, to approve the necessary expenditures to refurbish the Christmas tree. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis, & Simonian. Noes: None. Absent: None.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Finance Director Wong circulated a quarterly sales tax report from HDL Company.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Brand circulated a statistical report for January 2014, with 14 arrests made and 86 case numbers issued. He served as an evaluator for an active shooter training exercise conducted at Fresno State, with 38 different agencies participating.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

No report was given.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Garza mentioned subjects of interest for cities being discussed through the League of California Cities City Attorney's online listserv, such as the topic of electronic cigarettes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - February 18, 2014; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Meeting - January 21, 2014; C) Adoption of Resolution No. 2291, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler, County of Fresno, State of California, in Support of U.S. Postal Service Reform Legislation"; D) Approve discarding or selling the old animal control truck; and E) Adoption of Resolution No. 2292, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Authorizing Officials to Execute Agreements with CalTrans." 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, Parra, Hammer, Monis, & Simonian. Noes: None. Absent: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas reported that S.K.F. Sanitation District received several awards for their operations.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra attended a Blossom Trail kick-off event.

Councilmember Monis said that after members of the Friends of the Fowler Library and the City expressed concerns to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and County Librarian, the proposed reduction of hours at the Fowler Branch will not take place.

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 8:13 p. m.