

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 1, 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, Public Works Director Weisser, Police Chief Brand, City Attorney Wolfe, Fire Chief Lopez, City Engineer Peters

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.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned an SSJV Division of the League of California Cities general membership meeting in Dinuba on April 10, 2014, and the Recreation Commission's Easter Egg Hunt event on April 12, 2014.

STAFF REPORTS:

APPROVE FRESNO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT SERVICE AGREEMENT

City Manager Elias explained the Service Agreement for Annexations and Automatic Aid Agreement with Fresno County Fire Protection District. The ten-year agreement addresses City fire protection services upon detachment of property from the District when property is annexed into the City limits. Normally upon property annexation a city will detach from the Fire District and provide it's own fire protection services, which results in loss of property tax revenue to the District. This agreement calls for the City to continue having the Fire District be the primary service provider upon property annexation, and to pay to the District an amount of money equal to the District's percentage share of property taxes that they would have received had the property not detached from the District. The Agreement also sets forth automatic aid with no fee from either the City or the District to one another, and for dispatching services to be reduced by 50 percent from current. City Manager Elias said that until the City is large enough to provide it's own full service fire protection services, it is much more cost effective for the District to continue providing the services if the City annexes property.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to approve the City of Fowler and Fresno County Fire Protection District Service Agreement for Annexations and Automatic Aid Agreement. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis, & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

— Update: Proposed Improvements at the 10th Street/Merced Street Intersection

City Engineer Peters gave an overview of proposed improvements for the 10th and Merced Street intersection. Recently, the Council directed staff to begin preliminary engineering and apply for federal funding for a traffic roundabout. The process will begin with design work and environmental clearance, then acquiring the necessary right-of-way, followed by authorization to proceed with the construction phase of the project. The anticipated construction date will be spring of 2016.

Jim Marderosian, owner of property near the intersection, spoke of possible adverse economic impacts of a roundabout to Starbucks and other businesses on his property, referring to a letter he recently sent to the Council expressing his concerns. He said that though he met with City staff to discuss the roundabout, there are still a lot of unanswered questions and more information is needed on impacts to businesses in the area.

John Liu, CalTrans Representative, and Hillary Isebrands, an expert on roundabout design from the Federal Highway Administration, gave detailed information on roundabouts. Ms. Isebrands explained that roundabouts are considered to be one of the Federal Highway Administration's 9 proven safety counter measures as they significantly reduce traffic conflict points, which decreases the number of accidents. She noted that there is room for some flexibility in the roundabout design for the Merced and 10th Street intersection, such as shrinking the diameter, which would make less of an impact on the four quadrants. She spoke of studies that were done in Colorado and California on the economic impacts of roundabouts to nearby businesses, which were shown to be positive. Ms. Isebrands added that good design is crucial to implementing a successful roundabout.

The Council discussed and asked further questions about the roundabout design for the intersection. Additional discussions will be scheduled for future meetings.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

— Award of Neighborhood Park Project

City Engineer Peters said that the bid opening for the Neighborhood Park Project resulted in eleven bids ranging from \$525,449 to \$775,603.50. There is an option to approve the project without the parking lot improvements, as they can be delayed to a future phase of the project. City Manager Elias stated that a parking lot would take away a lot of the green space, and there is plenty of room for diagonal parking spaces along the street. Staff recommends awarding the base bid, without the parking lot, plus Alternate Schedule C - for three gates, in the amount of \$373,788 to the low bidder, Yarbs Grading and Paving of Fowler.

Councilmember Monis made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hammer, to approve awarding the Base Bid plus Additive Alternate Schedule C for the Neighborhood Park project in the amount of \$373,788 to Yarbs Grading and Paving. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis, & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Brand reported that the Police and Fire Departments conducted a joint first responder training session, sponsored by P. G.& E. He attended a workshop with Sheriff's Department representatives and local Police Chiefs where he received valuable information and training.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Lopez reported on emergency calls, public events and training, which are averaging about 60 per month for the past few months.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report was given.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - April 1, 2014; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Meeting - March 18, 2014. Councilmember Simonian made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis, & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas attended an S.K.F. meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra mentioned that he is on a League committee that is working on a water bond.

Councilmember Monis reported that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors has approved that the Fowler Library be opened for one extra operating hour, rather than approving a recent proposal by the County Librarian to reduce the hours.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 9:18 p. m. to discuss, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 - Public Employee Performance Evaluation - Title: City Manager. The meeting reconvened to open session at 10:09 p. m. with no reportable action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hammer, to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:09 p. m.