

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 6, 2014**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:06 p. m.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis & Simonian

City Staff Present: City Manager Elias, City Clerk Davis, Finance Director Wong, 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 Pastor Bryan Mays. Roll call was taken.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Representatives of the Golden Living Center in Fowler presented a grant of \$1,000 to the Fowler Fire Department to be used for the purchase of carbon monoxide detectors. Fire Chief Lopez and the City Council thanked them for their generous donation to help citizens who are in need of the life saving devices.

APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION AGAINST SIKH BULLYING

Raj Singh, speaking on behalf of the Sikh Coalition, gave statistics about the bullying of children who practice the Sikh religion. The bullying is mainly due to ignorance about their religious identity and customs. He thanked the Council for their support in addressing the issue.

Councilmember Simonian made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra, to approve "Proclamation in Solidarity to Stand Against Bullying in the City of Fowler, Schools, Organizations, and the Community at Large." The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PRESENTATION BY S. K. F. SANITATION DISTRICT

Ben Munoz, General Manager of S.K.F. Sanitation District, gave a Powerpoint presentation on District operations and procedures, showing some of the new equipment upgrades that have been made. He answered questions regarding the pros and cons of sewer package plants, which the City of Selma is now considering as a way to handle future growth. He mentioned that Selma, Kingsburg and Fowler will be invited to participate in updating S.K.F.'s Sewer Master Plan to prepare for growth in their communities.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned upcoming events: the Fresno County Fruit Trail Opening

Ceremony on May 21, 2014 at Circle K Ranch in Fowler; an informational dinner meeting sponsored by the Local Government Commission on June 11, 2014; and the annual Mayor's Breakfast at Jocy's Restaurant on Friday, May 23, 2014.

STAFF REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Discussion/direction on proposed Measure C Expenditure Plan Amendment

City Manager Elias explained that Fresno COG received a request from the City of Fresno to amend the Measure C Expenditure Plan, approved by the voters in 2006. They are asking that funds for a rail consolidation and new technology program be redirected to a street maintenance fund that would be allocated to member agencies on a formula basis. This would help with the unmet funding needs for street maintenance, so as to preserve the existing transportation infrastructure investments in all of the communities. The item will be voted on at a future COG Policy Board meeting and COG is asking the various agencies to give direction on how their Mayors should vote on the proposed amendment.

After a discussion, the consensus was for Mayor Cardenas to vote in favor of the Measure C Expenditure Plan Amendment at the upcoming COG Policy Board meeting.

City Manager Elias mentioned that a letter of appreciation was received that commended Mayor Cardenas for his recent assistance to a motorist who was stranded in Fowler with young children.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Finance Director Wong gave a financial summary for July 2013 - March 2014. Revenues are at 71 percent, and expenditures are at 73 percent, of budget. Sales tax revenue is coming in slightly higher than what was received the prior year, and Utility Users tax revenue has decreased slightly.

Mr. Wong spoke about the intention of CalPERS to make changes to its actuarial assumptions to adjust for slightly longer retiree mortality rates. This will create a marked increase to employer and employee contribution rates beginning in Fiscal Year 2016-2017. City Manager Elias stated that it would be helpful for the Council to appoint two members to a Finance Committee to discuss and make recommendations on how to handle the anticipated increase.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Brand reported that 97 case numbers were issued in March, and 70 case numbers

were issued in April. The Department is working to make improvements and changes to evidence room procedures.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Lopez announced that the Department will be holding a blood drive at the Senior Center on Monday, May 12, 2014. They will soon be distributing smoke detectors to the community.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe reported that the Supreme Court recently held that an invocation can be given at a Council meeting that does not have to be non-denominational, as long as the Council is not advocating a particular religion or requiring the public to participate.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - May 6, 2014; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Meeting - April 1, 2014; C) Approve Proclamation declaring May 18-24, 2014 as "National Public Works Week"; and D) Approve Proclamation declaring May 4-10, 2014 as "Municipal Clerks Week." 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. Abstain/Absent: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra reported that the League water committee he serves on voted in support of a water bond measure, with the added language that he suggested - that it will be supported only if there is an assurance of continuous funding.

Councilmember Monis commented on the success of the annual Employee Appreciation dinner.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 9:02 p. m. to discuss, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 - Public Employee Performance Evaluation - Title: City Manager; and Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 - Conference with Labor Negotiators: Agency designated representatives: Mayor and City Attorney. Unrepresented employee: City Manager.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 9:34 p. m. with no reportable action taken.

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 9:35 p. m.