

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2014**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:01 p. m.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Parra, Monis, & Simonian

Councilmembers Absent: Hammer

City Staff Present: City Manger Elias, City Clerk Davis, Finance Director Wong, City Attorney Wolfe, Police Chief Brand, Public Works Director Weisser, Fire Chief Lopez, Planning Consultant O'Neal, City Engineers Peters and Washburn

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

PRESENTATION BY FRESNO COUNTY CLERK

Brandi Orth, Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, spoke to the Council about election services and gave information on activities related to the November 4, 2014 General Election. She noted that statistics from the June Primary show that there is a growing population of vote by mail voters in Fowler.

PUBLIC HEARING:

APPLICATION TO FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG) FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (ATP) GRANT

Public Works Director Weisser explained that the City is applying through Fresno COG for an ATP Grant for pedestrian facilities on Merced Street from 3rd to 5th Streets. The project will include ADA accessible ramps, replacement of sidewalk that is in poor condition, and installation of decorative street lights.

Mayor Cardenas opened the duly noticed public hearing on the matter at 7:16 p. m. There were no comments from the public and the hearing was closed at 7:16 p. m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to approve the application to Fresno COG for an ATP Grant for Merced Street Pedestrian Facilities from 3rd to 5th Street. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Monis & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias suggested that since most of the Council will be attending the League of California Cities Annual Conference, that the September 2, 2014 Council meeting be canceled. The consensus was to cancel the regular meeting and hold a special meeting on September 9, 2014.

STAFF REPORTS:

UPDATE ON CITY OF FRESNO DRAFT GENERAL PLAN

Planning Consultant O'Neal gave an update on the City of Fresno's draft General Plan update, which projects a population growth of 226,000 over the next 20 years. Much of the housing development planned will be infill or multi-family projects, which may "push" developers of subdivision projects to surrounding areas, such as Fowler. The City of Fresno does not plan to increase its Sphere of Influence past North Avenue.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2308: APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL CANDIDATES

City Manager Elias referred to the City Clerk's staff report that explained that as of the close of the nomination period, there are no more candidates than offices to be elected at the November 4, 2014 General Municipal Election. The only nominees are the two incumbents - David Cardenas and Jim Simonian. The Council has three options: 1) to appoint to the office the persons who have been nominated; 2) appoint to the office any eligible elector if no one has been nominated; or 3) hold the election, if either no one or only one person has been nominated. A notice of the facts was published, pursuant to law, on August 11, 2014. An appointment cannot be made until after the 5th day following the date of publication. However, the appointment must be made by the 75th day before the election, which falls on August 21, 2014, or the election must be held. The cost savings of not holding the election is estimated to be \$1,500 - \$2,500.

After a discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to adopt Resolution No. 2308, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler, California, Providing for the Appointment to the Offices of This City That Were to Be Elected on Tuesday, November 4, 2014." The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Monis & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Elias gave a progress report on the new Denny's Restaurant under construction, plans for a new Dollar General store, and a duplex project on Vine and West Fresno Streets. A site plan was received from a packaging business in a neighboring city that intends to relocate to a 25 acre parcel near Manning Avenue.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Weisser said that the vacant house next to City Hall known as "the annex" is in the process of being demolished. The National Raisin digester project is nearing completion, with plans to repave the nearby street by the end of the month. Staff will be studying and analyzing the lighting at the pickleball courts due to a complaint that the lighting is inadequate.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Finance Director Wong said that the F. Y. 2013-14 audit will soon be underway.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Brand gave a crime statistics report for July 2014. He will be working with the City Attorney to update the City's Medical Marijuana ordinance. A former police reserve officer, Cody Wells, was sworn in to a full-time police officer position on August 4, 2014.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Lopez gave a report of calls and training sessions for July 2014. There have been 57 motor vehicle accidents to date, mainly occurring on the highway.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe affirmed that he will be meeting with Chief Brand to work on updating and adding clarification to the City's Medical Marijuana regulations.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - August 19, 2014; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Meeting - August 5, 2014; and C) Adoption of Resolution No. 2309, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Requesting Action by Congress on Drought Legislation." Councilmember Simonian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Monis & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas attended a Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District meeting where they discussed the growing population of Yellow Fever Mosquitos. He will be attending an upcoming CASA Sanitation District Conference.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra commented on the Water Bond, Proposition 1, that will be on the November 4, 2014 ballot.

Councilmember Monis reported that the Fowler Library began installation of an awning on the building. She attended a meeting to prepare for the upcoming Tour de Fresno bike race coming through Fowler on Saturday, September 13, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Simonian, to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p. m.