

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 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 Manger Elias, City Clerk Davis, Finance Director Wong, City Attorney Wolfe, City Engineers Peters

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

PUBLIC MEETING: TO RECEIVE COMMUNITY INPUT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FRESNO COUNTY'S 5 YEAR 2015-19 CONSOLIDATED PLAN

Fresno County Public Works and Planning Department representative Kristi Johnson explained their 5 Year 2015-19 Consolidated Plan. The Plan will address the overall needs and goals for activities using Community Development Block Grant (CBDG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and other kinds of grant funds in the City over the next five years. As part of the process, they are conducting public outreach meetings to identify the various needs of cities in which the funds might be used. Some of the projects could include housing rehabilitation and homebuyer assistance programs, infrastructure and public works improvements, community centers, and ADA improvements.

The Mayor asked for public comments on the Consolidated Plan. There were no comments from the public. Ms. Johnson added that over the years, the City has benefitted greatly in partnering with Fresno County, receiving approximately \$1 million to date that has been used primarily for ADA sidewalk improvements.

APPROVE REQUEST TO CLOSE CITY STREETS FOR THE GURDWARA GUR NANAK PARKASH PARADE

Harpreet Binning, Gurdwara Gur Nanak Parkash representative, asked the Council to approve closing the streets for their annual parade on Sunday, October 26, 2014. Preparations and safety arrangements have been made with CalTrans, the Highway Patrol and Fowler Police Department.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to approve the request to close City streets for the Gurdwara Gur Nanak Parkash Parade on Sunday, October 26, 2014. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias said that the October 9th SSJV League of California Cities general membership meeting in Dinuba was canceled due to lack of a quorum.

STAFF REPORTS:

DISCUSSION: NAMING OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK AND PLAYGROUND DONATIONS

City Manager Elias said that at the previous meeting, the Council began discussing the naming of the new park on West Fresno Street. Information gathered from other cities indicate that public facilities are typically named for individuals who have made significant, long-term contributions to their communities in some fashion. He has since received a suggestion to name the park after Mayor and longtime Volunteer Firefighter Don Wright. Another name suggested is former Judge Mikio Uchiyama.

City Manager Elias said that the City received a donation of \$1,000 for playground equipment from former Councilmember Astine Zadourian, who had sent a letter of her intention to donate that urged others to do so, that was recently published in the Fowler Ensign. The City received a letter from the family of Dr. Vincent Leonardo, a well-known local doctor for many years, that is offering a donation of \$15,000 - half the cost of a new play structure - if a plaque is installed that names the playground after the doctor. Mr. Elias said that though the play structure will cost about \$30,000, that does not include the cost of other necessary playground facilities, such as restrooms, which altogether will be about \$225,000.

The Council discussed that both name suggestions for the park are very worthy of consideration. It was stated that Don Wright was very well known for being a tireless community volunteer and for his many years of service to the City, and was the Mayor at the time of his death. The consensus was to bring back an agenda item to approve naming the park after Don Wright, and to formally accept the donations.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

No report was given.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS REPORT

— Reject Bid for Fowler Reclamite Project from Talley Oil, Inc.

City Engineer Peters said that a bid opening was held recently for the Fowler Reclamite Project, which adds rejuvenating oil to various City streets. Only one bid was received, from Talley Oil, Inc., that was \$90,000 over the Engineer's estimate. He recommended that the bid be rejected, and to rebid the project the following spring, possibly to be combined with other street repair work.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Simonian, to reject the bid for the Fowler Reclamite Project from Talley Oil, Inc. in the amount of \$290,672.00. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Financial Summary: F. Y. 2013-14, and First Quarter - F. Y. 2014-15

Finance Director Wong gave a financial summary of Fiscal Year 2013-14. General Fund (GF) Revenues came in at 96.3 percent, and expenses totaled 100.5 percent, of budget. Sales tax revenue received was \$912,000, up \$57,000 from the prior fiscal year. He reported on the first quarter of the current fiscal year, showing GF revenues to be at 13 percent, and expenses at 27 percent.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Adoption of Resolution No. 2310

City Manager Elias said that Police Chief Brand was not able to be present, but he is asking for the Council to approve a resolution opposing Proposition 47, which reduces the classification of most non-serious and nonviolent property and drug crimes from a felony to a misdemeanor. Many law enforcement agencies throughout the State are against Proposition 47.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to adopt Resolution No. 2310, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Opposing Proposition 47." The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

No report was given.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe announced that the biennial ethics training will take place on the date of the second Council meeting in November.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - October 7, 2014; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Special Meeting - September 9, 2014; C) Approve Assignment and Assumption Agreement between the City of Fowler and Efrain Rubalcava and Saul Palomares (kiosk on Manning Avenue)." Item C was removed for separate approval. Councilmember Simonian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hammer, to approve Consent Calendar items A & B. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

Efrain Rubalcava and Saul Palomares spoke of plans for their casual dining restaurant, to be located in the kiosk formerly occupied by Home Plate restaurant, near Manning and Golden State Boulevard. Councilmember Simonian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hammer, to approve Consent Calendar item C. 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 where they discussed upcoming recruitments for a human resource director and controller. He noted that with the upcoming November election, several of the board members may be leaving.

Councilmember Hammer reported on a recent San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Special City Selection meeting.

Councilmember Monis said that Cornerstone Theater will be coming to Fowler again to put on a new theater production, Shakespeare's "The Tempest," and will be auditioning local residents.

Councilmember Simonian commented on the success of the Fowler Fall Festival.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Cardenas adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p. m. to a closed session to discuss, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d) (1) Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation: Name of Case: Derek Thomason vs. City of Fowler. The meeting reconvened to open session at 9:05 p. m. with no reportable action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember Hammer made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:06 p. m.