

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2014**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:04 p. m.

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

City Staff Present: City Manger Elias, City Clerk Davis, Finance Director Wong, Public Works Director Weisser, Police Chief Brand, Fire Chief Lopez, City Attorney Wolfe

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Renée Contreras, of the Central Valley Muscular Dystrophy Association, thanked the Fowler Fire Department for assisting with their recent "Fill the Boot" fund raising event.

Valerie Shelton, editor of the Fowler Ensign, announced that the October 30, 2014 issue will be the newspaper's last issue. She thanked the Council and staff for assisting her in reporting important news to the community, and said that she hoped someone would come forward to purchase the Ensign and resume it's publication.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned the upcoming Gurdwara Gur Nanak Parkash parade on Sunday, October 26, 2014. An ethics training session for the Council and Planning Commission is scheduled for November 18, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. He suggested scheduling a special meeting on November 24th or 25th for the installation of the two Councilmembers who will be appointed to a new term in lieu of election, and the Council reorganization.

STAFF REPORTS:

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2311 - NINTH AMENDMENT TO FRESNO COG'S JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT (JPA)

Laural Fawcett, Associate Regional Planner for Fresno COG, explained the Ninth Amendment to COG's JPA with member cities. In 2013, the COG Board approved amending their JPA to expand their authority to enter into agreements for new transportation services in local communities. The amendment will allow COG to enter into a contract with the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) to provide transit service to Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. YARTS service will help seniors, school children, and others that may not have adequate transportation, to now be able to visit the parks year round. All Fresno COG JPA amendments are required to go to each of the member agencies for individual City Council approval.

Councilmember Simonian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to adopt Resolution No. 2311, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Approving Ninth Amendment to Fresno Council of Governments' Joint Powers Agreement." The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

— Approve Naming the New Park on West Fresno Street in Honor of Former Mayor, Firefighter, and Community Volunteer Don Wright

City Manager Elias said that at the previous meeting, the Council discussed naming the new park on West Fresno Street after longtime community volunteer and former Mayor Don Wright. Mr. Wright's family has indicated that they are very pleased and happy that he will be given this honor. A formal resolution or proclamation will be presented to them at a future meeting.

Councilmember Hammer made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Simonian, to approve naming the new park on West Fresno Street in honor of former Mayor, Firefighter, and Community Volunteer Don Wright. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

— Accept Donation(s) for Playground Equipment for New Park

City Manager Elias said that the City received a \$1,000 donation towards playground equipment for the new park. At the previous meeting, it was mentioned that the City received a donation offer of \$15,000 for playground equipment from the family of Dr. Vincent Leonardo, if a plaque is installed to name the playground after the doctor. The Council must formally approve the donations.

After a discussion on whether to recognize donors with a plaque or other item, City Manager Elias recommended that the Council approve the anonymous \$1,000 donation, and refer the matter of developing criteria for donor recognition to the City's Finance Committee.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion to accept the \$1,000 donation, and to forward the matter of acceptance of donations for the playground equipment to the Finance Committee to come up with criteria. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Simonian, and carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

City Manager Elias said that the Fresno Business Journal published an article regarding plans for an Adventist Health/Valley Children's regional medical plaza in Fowler, to be located on 16 acres near 10th and Fresno Streets. He also mentioned that the new Denny's Restaurant will be opening on Sunday, October 26, 2014.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS REPORT

No report was given

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

No report was given.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Brand reported on upcoming police officer training sessions. The Department disposed of 48 old firearms from the City's property room, in compliance with California law.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Lopez reported that there were 73 emergency calls, event stand-by's, and training sessions in the month of August 2014. Fire Department staff will be present at the upcoming Gurdwara Gur Nanak Parkash parade.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe reported on a Sierra Club lawsuit against Fresno County concerning environmental issues on the Friant Ranch project. The issue will be going before the California Supreme Court.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - October 21, 2014; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Meeting - October 7, 2014. 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 Cardenas attended a Consolidated Mosquito Abatement meeting where it was discussed that there were 500 West Nile Virus cases in California this year.

Councilmember Monis mentioned an upcoming presentation on Sikh culture and customs at the Fowler Library.

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 8:07 p. m.