

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2014**

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

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

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, City Engineers Peters

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Roy Alatorre, organizer of a recent car show in Panzak Park, thanked the Council for their support of the event which raised \$4,300 for the "Wish Upon a Star" children's charity.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned an upcoming San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Special City Selection Committee meeting where a representative from a small city will be chosen to serve on the Board of Directors. He asked that the September 16, 2014 meeting be canceled, as he will be at an out of town conference and there are no pending items of business. The consensus was to cancel the meeting.

STAFF REPORTS:

CONSIDER VARIOUS ACTIONS RELATING TO THE USDA COMMUNITY FACILITIES LOAN APPLICATION FOR A FIRE STATION:

City Manager Elias explained several agenda items relating to the City's application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a loan to build a new fire station.

— **Report on Public Meeting - USDA loan application**

A noticed public meeting was held earlier in the day to solicit public comments on the USDA loan application for the fire station. City Engineer Peters and other staff members were present to answer questions and show renderings of the project. No public comment was received.

— **Approve Submittal of Application for USDA Community Facilities Loan**

City Manager Elias asked the Council to approve submitting the loan application to USDA for the construction of the fire station. City Engineer Peters explained features of the project, noting that the building will be approximately 9,000 square feet, with bathrooms, a kitchen and five parking bays for the equipment. Once the City receives loan approval, possibly by January 2015, the project will take approximately nine months to build.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to approve submittal of an application for a USDA Community Facilities Loan for the construction of a fire station at the southeast corner of Main and 5th Streets, in an amount up to \$1,500,000. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

— **Authorize City Manager to Execute Application Documents for the USDA Loan**

Councilmember Simonian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hammer, to authorize the City Manager to execute the application documents for the USDA loan on behalf of the City, and to take such further actions and sign such further documents necessary to complete the loan process and obtain the loan proceeds. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

— **Approve Agreement for Bond Counsel Services - Lozano Smith, LLP**

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to approve the agreement for Bond Counsel Services Between the City of Fowler and Lozano Smith, LLP. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

DISCUSSION: NAMING OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

City Manager Elias said that the Council may wish to consider officially naming the park being developed on West Fresno Street, often referred to as the "Neighborhood Park." He received a suggestion to name it after the former property owner, Herbie Hibbs. It was discussed that the park might be named after an individual who has made a significant contribution to the community. The consensus of the Council was for staff to bring back criteria and suggestions for naming city facilities for further consideration.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Elias mentioned the upcoming Fowler Horse Race Day at the Big Fresno Fair on Saturday, October 11, 2014.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Weisser said that staff is preparing for the Tour de Fresno bike event coming through town that Saturday. He gave details on a major water outage that recently occurred near Manning and Golden State Boulevard that required valve repair on loose sections of pipe.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Finance Director Wong said that the field work for the F.Y. 2013-14 audit has been completed. The City received notice from the State Board of Equalization that the sales tax growth factor calculation is being increased, which will increase the City's advance

sales tax payments from the State. He gave a report on the Transportation Development Act claim for street and pedestrian improvement funding, received annually through Fresno COG.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Brand said that the City received reimbursement for new laptops for the patrol cars from an OES grant. The Department recently made ten arrests of burglary suspects on four separate cases.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Lopez gave a brief report of activities including equipment testing and stand-by attendance at Fowler High football games. Two firefighters will soon be promoted to Engineer status.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe reported on attending the League of California Cities Annual Conference.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - September 9, 2014; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Meeting - August 19, 2014; and C) Proclamation declaring October 19-25, 2014 as "Freedom from Workplace Bullying 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 Cardenas, Mayor Pro-Tem Parra, and Councilmember Simonian reported on their attendance at the League of California Cities Annual Conference in Los Angeles.

Councilmember Monis mentioned an upcoming book sale at the Fowler Library, and that the awning installation is complete.

Councilmember Hammer spoke of the success of a recent regional baseball tournament hosted in Fowler, and the many compliments on the community he received from out of town visitors.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember Simonian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hammer, to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p. m.