

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

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 6:01 p. m. Roll call was taken.

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

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

There were no public presentations.

DISCUSSION: PROPOSED WATER RATE INCREASE TO FUND GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AND WATER SYSTEM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

City Engineer Peters explained that the City recently entered into a mandated agreement with Consolidated Irrigation District to fund groundwater recharge programs for the City. Revenue will need to be generated to fund the projects through a water rate increase. The estimated increase would be approximately \$5.73 per month for a residence with an average usage of 15,000 gallons per month. The increase would be phased in over an eight-year period, with the first year increase being approximately \$0.71 per month and the eighth year reaching \$5.73 per month.

In addition, Mr. Peters said that the City needs to plan for future water system improvements to ensure adequate delivery, storage and source facilities. Improvements would include repair and replacement of pipelines, replacing old hydrants, and developing new water wells and storage facilities. Staff recommends a ten-year capital improvement program, projected to cost \$2 million. This would add \$4.98 per month to the average residential user. The increase would also be ramped up over an eight year period, with the first year increase being about \$0.62 per month, and the eighth year reaching \$4.98 per month.

Considering both the recharge facility and water system improvements together, the monthly rate increase would be \$1.34 per month for the first year, and reaching \$10.71 per month in the eighth year. Implementing the rate increase will require a Proposition 218 ballot process and related public hearings.

After discussion, the consensus of the Council was to move forward on implementing the water rate increase for both groundwater recharge programs and water system improvements, together.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Simonian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Hammer. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p. m.