

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL
AND FOWLER PLANNING COMMISSION
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2014**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 5:03 p. m. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers present: Cardenas, Parra, Simonian & Monis
Councilmembers absent: Hammer

Commissioners present: Fernandez, Mejia, Mukai, & Rodriquez
Commissioners absent: Mellon

City staff present: City Manager Elias, City Clerk Davis, Police Chief Brand, Finance Director Wong, Public Works Director Weisser, City Attorney Wolfe, Planning/Police Secretary Burrola, Fire Chief Lopez, Building Official Baxa, Senior Center/Recreation Director Hernandez, Planning Consultant O'Neal, Engineering Consultant Peters

AB 1234 ETHICS AND PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING

City Attorney Wolfe conducted the biennial AB 1234 ethics training for elected and appointed officials. The presentation began with news videos showing officials who have faced criminal charges or had to pay steep fines for receiving personal financial gain from their role as a public official. He explained the conflict of interest laws that prohibit officials from participating in any discussion or decision on matters that materially affect their financial interests, whether negatively or positively. He mentioned changes to the law concerning real property interests, which prohibit an official from making decisions on matters within 500 feet of property that he owns or leases. The rule still applies to residential property, but commercial property is now subject to a different standard. Another change is that travel payments received from an outside source for an official to view a project or other official purpose, are not considered income or gifts if they are made directly to or coordinated with the City.

A question and answer session took place pertaining to various scenarios involving personal financial gain, use of public resources, and governmental transparency. Mr. Wolfe noted the "Ten Commandments" of public service, including: approaching your job as a service to the public; promise only good, fair and honest service; buy your own tickets to events; pay for your own lunch; accept gifts from friends and family and return gifts from others; be open and transparent; and always do the right thing, even when no one is looking.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Simonian made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra, to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.