

MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING JULY 21, 2015

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p. m.

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

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

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by an invocation given by Pastor Bryan Mays. Roll call was taken.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Fowler resident Emilio Rodriguez spoke about some code enforcement matters in his neighborhood.

Fowler resident Murray McManus spoke of a citation he received for violating the City's watering regulations. He circulated a list of dates and times when he observed watering taking place at a City park, asking how the City can issue citations when it isn't following it's own regulations.

PRESENTATION ON HERO PROGRAM

John Law, a representative of Renovate America, gave a presentation on the Hero program, which provides funding for home energy projects. Applicable projects include solar, water conservation, insulation, and heating and air conditioning improvements. The costs for the improvements are financed by placing an assessment on the consumers property tax bill. Approval of a resolution authorizing the City's participation in the program is required. To date, 324 cities have adopted the HERO program.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to adopt Resolution No. 2328, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler, California, Consenting to the Inclusion of Properties Within the City's Jurisdiction in the California Hero Program to Finance Distributed Generation Renewable Energy Sources, Energy and Water Efficiency Improvements and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Approving the Amendment to a Certain Joint Powers Agreement Related Thereto." The motion carried by a 4-0-1 voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Monis, Parra & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned an invitation from Congressman David Valadao to discuss drought and water related issues. Also, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors have circulated a list of possible dates to hold a joint meeting with the cities of Clovis, Fowler, and Sanger to discuss items of mutual interest.

STAFF REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Approve Letter of Support for Congressman David Valadao's Proposed H.R. 2898, *Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015***

City Manager Elias suggested that the Council not take action to support the proposed *Western Water and American Food Security Act*, sponsored by Congressman Valadao, until after the U.S. Senate takes action.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Award Two Contracts for the Merced Street Sidewalks from 3rd to 5th Street**

City Engineer Peters said that a bid opening was recently held for sidewalk and lighting improvements on Merced Street from 3rd to 5th Streets. Staff recommends awarding two contracts: to Witbro Inc., dba Seal Rite Paving & Grading in the amount of \$260,946.46 and the Fresno Local Conservation Corps in the amount of \$71,260.00. The majority of the project is funded through a grant, but the project is over budget by approximately \$60,000. He said that costs could be reduced by the use of change orders, such as by changing the decorative street lights to standard street lights. Due to time constraints on the grant award, there is no opportunity to rebid the project.

Councilmember Simonian made a motion to award two contracts: to Witbro Inc., dba Seal Rite Paving & Grading in the amount of \$260,946.46 and the Fresno Local Conservation Corps in the amount of \$71,260.00 with the direction that staff seek to reduce construction costs through value engineering implemented via change order. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra and carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Monis, Parra & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer.

Public Works Director Weisser circulated a water production report. He noted that the watering schedule for the City park on Fresno Street, mentioned by Mr. McManus, has been reduced.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Brand circulated a statistical report showing a total of 90 cases in May and 78 in June.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Lopez gave a report of emergency calls for the month of June.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report was given.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - July 21, 2015; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Regular and Special Meetings - June 16, 2015 and Minutes of the City Council and Fowler Public Financing Authority Special Joint Meeting - June 30, 2015; C) Adoption of Resolution No. 2329, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler of Authorization to Contract" (Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging); D) Approve Agreement for Connection to City Water - Ruben and Elfida DeLeon; E) Approve submittal of Transportation Funding Claim for Fiscal Year 2015/16; and F) Adoption of Resolution No. 2330, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Concerning Local Transportation Purpose Funds Extension (Measure "C" Extension)." 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, Monis & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas attended a Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District meeting where they discussed the construction of a new office building. He attended a 90th birthday celebration for Fowler resident Clara Mellon.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra mentioned an upcoming League of California Cities general membership meeting in Clovis.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember Simonian made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra, to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p. m.