

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2015**

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

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Parra, & Monis

Councilmembers Absent: Hammer, Simonian

City Staff Present: City Manager Elias, City Clerk Davis, Finance Director Wong, City Attorney Wolfe, Public Works Director Weisser, Planning Consultant O'Neal, City Engineer Peters

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2332 - WATER RATE INCREASE

City Engineer Peters explained that the City entered into an agreement with Consolidated Irrigation District to fund water recharge projects to benefit the City. Also, staff has identified several capital improvement projects that are needed to maintain the City's water infrastructure. A Water Rate Study Engineering Report was prepared to calculate costs for the projects and improvements. The Study determined that a rate increase is needed to provide adequate funding for the projects. A proposed rate schedule to facilitate the increase, phased over an eight-year period, was developed. A Proposition 218 public hearing notice on the proposed water rate increase was mailed in June 2015 to all property owners and tenants in the City, stating the opportunity to file a written protest. To date, the City has received one written protest.

Mayor Cardenas opened the duly noticed Proposition 218 public hearing on the proposed water rate increase at 7:16 p. m.

Fowler resident George Bacon spoke against the increase, and asked questions about why it was needed. Staff responded to the questions. Mayor Cardenas asked the City Clerk if any other written protests were received. City Clerk Davis confirmed that no other written protests were received. With no other public comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:30 p. m.

The Council discussed the matter. City Manager Elias noted that the water rates have not increased in 15 years. He explained the importance of being proactive in maintaining both water quality and the reliability of the water system.

Councilmember Monis made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra, to adopt Resolution No. 2332, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Approving a Schedule of Water Rate Increases Effective on September 1, 2015." The motion carried

by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, & Monis. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer & Simonian.

B) CONTINUED FROM AUGUST 4, 2015: CONSIDER GENERAL PLAN (GP) AMENDMENT NO. 15-02 AND REZONE NO. 15-02

Planning Consultant O'Neal stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to consider applicant Jaime Chavero's proposal to rezone property at 314 S. 5th Street to RM-3 to allow up to three units to be built. He noted that all zoning matters require a majority vote, and with two Councilmembers absent, all three Councilmembers present must vote in favor if the project is to be approved. A resolution to deny the project, and a resolution and ordinance to approve the project, were provided for the Council's consideration.

Contractor Cesar Rodriguez, representing Mr. Chavero, asked that the public hearing be continued to the next meeting, when a full Council will be present.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion to continue the matter to the September 1, 2015 meeting and not beyond that meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Monis and carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, & Monis. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Simonian & Hammer.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

STAFF REPORTS:

SECOND READING ORDINANCE NO. 2015-07

The Council's consensus was to table the second reading of Ordinance No. 2015-07, to rezone property at 522 S. 6th Street from RM-2 to RM-3, as proposed by applicant Jaime Chavero, until the September 1, 2015 meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

No report was given.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Weisser reported on vandalism at the new park and incidents of graffiti occurring around town.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Brand reported on the success of the recent National Night Out event, hosted by the Fowler Police Department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

No report was given.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report was given.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - August 18, 2015; and B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting - August 4, 2015. 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. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer & Simonian.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas reported on a recent Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District meeting and attendance at the National Night Out event.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra reported on the recent SSJV Division meeting of the League of California Cities in Clovis.

Councilmember Monis mentioned the upcoming book sale and other events at the Fowler Library.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember Monis made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra, to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p. m.