

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 17, 2016**

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

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

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

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of Fowler resident and school teacher Linda Gutierrez, who passed away. Roll call was taken.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Fowler citizen Paul Logan requested that the City look into installing a dog park in town, and gave information on dog parks in other local cities.

**PRESENTATION TO FOWLER HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER TEAM**

City Manager Elias asked to table the item.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Elias suggested that the next Council meeting be canceled, as it falls on the June 7th election date. With other scheduling conflicts in the month, he recommended that the Council hold one meeting on June 14, 2016. The consensus was to hold one meeting in June on that date.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**- Adoption of Resolution No. 2346 - PACE Medical Benefits Program**

City Manager Elias said that staff met with representatives of Keenan and Associates to discuss joining the Public Agency Coalition Enterprise (PACE), a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that provides medical benefits at competitive and stable rates to public agencies. He explained that the program offers a very good health care plan through Anthem Blue Cross, and a flexible spending plan for eligible medical and dependent care expenses. Upon approval of an agreement, the City would implement the program on July 1, 2016. PACE requires a two-year participation commitment, after which the City may choose to opt out of the program.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to Adopt Resolution No. 2346, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Approving the Form of and Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding and Authorizing Participation in the Public Agency Coalition Enterprise (PACE) Medical Benefits Program." The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, & Monis. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Simonian.

➤ **Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Fowler and Fowler Unified School District (FUSD)**

City Manager Elias explained that the MOU is a continuation of a three-year agreement for helping with costs to maintain FUSD facilities that are being used for community sports and recreation activities. The MOU calls for an annual contribution of \$25,000 from the City and is the second extension of the initial three-year MOU. It will be revisited near the time of expiration to evaluate the City's progress in improving recreation facilities, such as with the development of Donny Wright Park.

Councilmember Monis made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hammer, to approve the MOU between the City and FUSD for contribution toward recreational facilities. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, & Monis. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Simonian.

City Manager Elias also reported on a recent tour he took of Valley Children's Hospital to view their facilities and operations.

### **PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Public Works Director Weisser reported on recent water pressure fluctuations caused by changes in some water well functions. He said that a fox has been seen around town, and he called the Fresno County Department of Agriculture to help contain the animal.

### **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Finance Director McDonald said that he is working on the upcoming budget, and is corresponding with USDA on a loan application for a new fire station.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Brand gave a brief report on police response to a traffic accident the prior day that claimed the life of local teacher, Linda Gutierrez.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Lopez distributed a statistical report for April 2016 showing 66 emergency calls, training sessions and events.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

City Attorney Wolfe attended a League City Attorney Conference, where sessions were held on changes to the Whistleblower statutes, and dealing with various forms of fraud.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - May 17, 2016; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting - May 3, 2016; C) Consider and approve staff's recommendation to reject claim against the City of Fowler: Teresa Young; D) Accept the Donny Wright Park Project constructed by Avison Construction Company and authorize the City Engineer to file the Notice of Completion; and E) Proclamation Declaring May 15-21, 2016 as "National Public Works 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. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Simonian.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Cardenas attended a Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District meeting where the Zika Virus was discussed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra reported on a recent Fresno LAFCo meeting.

Councilmember Hammer attended a College Signing Day event at Fowler High School.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Councilmember Hammer made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p. m.