

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 18, 2017**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:01 p. m. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriquez

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

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Police Chief Michael Brand. Mayor Cardenas asked for a moment of silence for those who lost their lives in a tragic hate crime in Fresno that day. There were no public presentations.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION - POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL BRAND

On behalf of the City Council, Mayor Cardenas presented a plaque reflecting appreciation for retiring Police Chief Michael Brand's service to the City. Chief Brand commented on what a great community Fowler is, and thanked the City for the opportunity to serve.

COMMUNICATIONS

Interim City Manager Davis reminded the Council of upcoming events: Springfest - Saturday, April 22, 2017; Annual Mayor's Breakfast - Friday, May 12, 2017 at 6:30 a.m. at Favorito's Restaurant; and a retirement luncheon for Chief Brand on Wednesday, April 26th in the Council Chambers.

STAFF REPORTS

UPDATE ON FORMATION OF GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (GSA):

City Engineer David Peters said that the five cities met again to discuss forming a JPA to become their own GSA, due to an impasse on negotiations with CID on their proposed MOU to join their GSA. City Attorney Wolfe stated that he drafted a revised, reasonable and favorable MOU that was submitted to CID, but was summarily rejected. Mr. Peters said that there are realistic options for the five cities to form a GSA to develop plans for future groundwater recharge facilities, while being covered through cooperative agreements with CID in the near term. When the five cities GSA is formed, the boundaries will include spheres of influence, which will create overlap with CID's GSA boundaries. This situation would prompt the Department of Water Resources to become involved to help resolve the overlap. Their mediation may result in a more favorable agreement with CID for the cities to consider joining their GSA. City Engineer Peters provided a timeline for the cities to approve a JPA agreement, hold necessary JPA board meetings to form the GSA, and file the GSA with the State before the June 30, 2017 deadline.

DISCUSSION: ANNUAL EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DINNER

Mayor Cardenas asked for a copy of a letter to City vendors requesting prize donations for the employee appreciation event, and a vendor list, so that he could contact vendors that were not on the list. He asked the Council to help obtain additional prizes for the event, which will be held Friday, April 28, 2017.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

◆ Approve Appointment of Drew Bessinger as the Interim Police Chief for the City of Fowler and Related Employment Agreement

Interim City Manager Davis introduced Drew Bessinger to the Council, stating that Mr. Bessinger has had a long and successful law enforcement career and is highly recommended by other local cities in which he served as their interim chief. Mr. Bessinger spoke, stating that he is looking forward to serving the City and the citizens of Fowler.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion to approve the appointment of Drew Bessinger as Interim Police Chief and the related employment agreement, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Parra, Kazarian, Rodriguez. Noes: None. Abstain none: Absent: none.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Weisser reported that the rehabilitation of Wellsite 8A by Valley Pump will start the following week. It was asked that Mr. Weisser provide some type of parking restrictions for semi-trucks along Fowler Avenue near Highway 99, due to visibility problems for cars.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Interim City Manager Davis stated that the 2015-16 Fiscal Year audit is nearly complete, and will be presented at the first or second meeting in May.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police statistics for February and March 2017 were circulated.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Lopez reported that there were 68 emergency calls, event stand-bys and training sessions in the month of March.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe reported on proposed AB 1250 concerning contracting out of city

services. If the bill passes there will be many hoops for cities to go through, and cities would be liable for a contractor's actions.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - April 18, 2017; and B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting - April 4, 2017. Councilmember Kazarian asked that clarification be added to the minutes on the GSA matter to mention that there is a ten-year period before CID could terminate the City's cooperative agreement, and to add some type of acknowledgment that the updated draft MOU was received shortly before the meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Rodriquez, to approve Item A of the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Rodriquez, Kazarian; Noes: None. Abstain/absent: None.

Mayor Cardenas made a motion to approve Item B with the additions requested, seconded by Councilmember Rodriquez. The motion carried on a 3-0-2 voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: Hammer, Parra. Absent: none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas reported that S.K.F. is proposing a rate increase, prompted by future capital improvement projects. They will be giving presentations on this matter in the cities of Selma, Kingsburg and Fowler during the month of May.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra reported that recently passed SB-1 will provide the City approximately \$244,000 year for road projects.

Councilmember Kazarian attended a GSA meeting with the five cities. He will be attending an EDC Real Estate Forecast event.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Rodriquez, to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p. m.