

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 6, 2017**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p. m. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian

Councilmembers Absent: Parra, Rodriquez

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

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Fowler resident George Bacon asked about the Council's position on S. K. F. Sanitation District's proposed rate increase. Mayor Cardenas said that as the City's representative on the S. K. F. Board, the Capital Improvement Plan was discussed and evaluated. The Board approved a two year plan and rate increase instead of a five year plan. The increase is needed to maintain infrastructure and adequate sewer capacity for the cities. Public presentations on the matter were given in the three cities, and an upcoming public hearing will provide individuals an opportunity for protesting the increase.

Fowler resident Melissa Squeo presented Fire Chief Lopez with a toy fire truck donated by her son Vince.

COMMUNICATIONS

Interim City Manager Davis reminded the Council of the S.S.J.V. division of the League of California Cities meeting on Thursday, June 15, 2017, in Visalia. She mentioned a link provided to the Council to a video of a Chevron commercial being aired nationally that features the Central Valley's local cities, and shows the Fowler water tower.

STAFF REPORTS

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2017-01

Interim City Manager Davis stated that Ordinance No. 2017-01 will update the Fowler Municipal Code concerning residential accessory dwelling units, to incorporate changes required by state law for such units.

Councilmember Hammer made a motion to waive the second reading and approve Ordinance No. 2017-01, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Fowler Amending, Title 9, Chapter 5, Article 21, Sections 201 and 211 Through 215 of the Fowler Municipal Code Pertaining to Residential Accessory Dwelling Units in Single-family and Multi-family Zones." The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kazarian and carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Parra, Rodriquez.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

— Update on the City's Watering Restrictions

Interim City Manager Davis gave an update on the City's watering restrictions. Recently, the Governor repealed his statewide emergency drought declaration. At the time the declaration went into effect, the City adopted a resolution to restrict watering to a two-day per week schedule. With the declaration ended, the two-day schedule is no longer in effect, and reverts back to the Fowler Municipal Code restrictions calling for a three-day per week, even/odd address watering schedule from March 1 - November 30th. Councilmember Kazarian asked to further discuss the three-day watering restriction at the next meeting.

— Contribution to Dues - SJVWIA

Interim City Manager Davis gave background information on the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority (SJVWIA), which was formed to address water issues important to the region. Last year, the City of Orange Cove was selected to be the Eastside Cities representative on the SJVWIA, but could not afford to pay the dues contribution of \$50,000 to help pay for a grant application for the Temperance Flat project. The other Eastside Cities and Fresno County assisted by contributing a pro-rata share. The SJVWIA remains in the process of finishing the complex grant application, and Orange Cove is asking the cities to once again participate in the \$50,000 dues contribution, as in the prior year. Fowler's portion would be \$306. The consensus of the Council was to provide the pro-rata contribution along with the other cities.

Interim City Manager Davis announced that registration has opened for the League of California Cities Annual Conference on September 13-15, 2017 in Sacramento. She asked that those who wish to attend let staff know as soon as possible so that they can confirm arrangements.

Interim City Manager Davis reported that staff met with Randy Hill and his engineer Mr. Gianetta to discuss a revised conceptual plan for Tentative Tract Map No. 5952. The new plan incorporates recommendations made by the Council at a prior meeting, including larger lot sizes and wider streets.

Ms. Davis reported that City Engineer Peters received a cost estimate from the architect of \$10,000 to work on additional design options for the fire station.

Ms. Davis reminded the Council of the Police Chief interviews on Tuesday, June 13,

2017 at 6:30 p. m. She mentioned that the first Council meeting in July falls on the 4th of July holiday, and depending on agenda items, the meeting may be canceled rather than scheduling a meeting for July 5, 2017.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Weisser said that a request was received from Frank Monis, who resides on Adams Avenue near Fowler High School, for the City to install sidewalks on the Vista Street side of his property where there is currently no sidewalk. Mr. Weisser said that the City does not have the funds or manpower for such project, which could cost up to \$10,000 due to a large tree obstructing the area. He noted that there may be some grant funding opportunities for sidewalk reconstruction in the future. Fowler resident George Bacon stated that he lives near the area and sees students walking in the street to the High School since there is no sidewalk, with school bus and other traffic on the street.

Interim City Manager Davis said that the City had an active concrete replacement program in the past, where property owners would partner with the City to replace their damaged sidewalks by paying for the materials and the Public Works Department would provide the labor. It was asked that a concrete replacement program be discussed at an upcoming meeting. Finance Director McDonald stated that staff will work on factoring the program into the upcoming 2017-2018 budget, and present it to the Council.

Public Works Director Weisser reported that some of the uprights for the flagpoles in the Veterans Monument Park are failing, and he is trying an LED option. He asked the Council to visit the site to look at the LED lighting and provide comments.

Mayor Cardenas asked about the criteria to have stop signs installed, as a stop sign at 6th and Modesto Street may be warranted. Mr. Weisser said that he would have the City Engineer conduct a study to determine if it meets criteria for a stop sign.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Finance Director McDonald advised that the budget will be ready for presentation at the June 20, 2017, meeting. Mayor Cardenas asked that City staff work diligently to find ways to conserve financial resources.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Interim Police Chief Bessinger gave a statistical crime report for May 2017. He will have a presentation at the next meeting on the Police Department's code enforcement plan.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Lopez reported on the fire and emergency call statistics for May. To date, there is a total of 317 calls, trainings and events attended.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe reported on a Fresno County court case on an appeal of a property tax assessment owed on farm equipment, that went all the way to the California Supreme Court.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - June 6, 2017; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council and Fowler Public Financing Authority Joint Meeting - May 16, 2017; C) Approve staff's recommendation to reject claim against the City of Fowler - Amila Roberts; D) Approve agreement between the City of Fowler and Lozano Smith for Professional Legal Services.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hammer, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Parra, Rodriquez.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas attended a Latino Water Coalition meeting in Fresno, where the group discussed the funding application for Temperance Flat. He will be attending a public hearing for S.K.F.'s proposed rate increase on Thursday, June 8, 2017.

Councilmember Hammer attended the Fresno County Fruit Trail Opening where he spoke with Chamber of Commerce representatives from various cities about their activities. He attended the opening ceremony of the electric vehicle charging station at the Fowler Library.

Councilman Kazarian stated that a business mixer will be held on Wednesday, June 28, 2017, 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, to encourage local businesses to talk about reactivating the Fowler Chamber of Commerce. He attended a meeting with City staff and the fire station architect to discuss modifying the fire station design and develop options. He attended the South Kings Basin JPA meeting where they voted to form a GSA and he was selected to serve as Board Chairman. Councilmember Kazarian also publicly recognized David Muro Sr., Ron Carrasco and Joseph Corona, for voluntarily lining the Fowler Cemetery roads and veteran grave sites with flags for Memorial Day.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember Hammer made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p. m.