

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 3, 2017**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:02 p. m. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Kazarian, Rodriquez. Mayor Pro-Tem Parra attended by teleconference from the Westin Bonaventure Hotel Lobby, 404 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071

Councilmembers Absent: Hammer

City Staff Present: Interim City Manager/City Clerk Davis, Police Chief Alcaraz, City Attorney Wolfe, Fire Chief Lopez, Interim Finance Director Sanchez, City Engineer Peters

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by an invocation given by Pastor Bryan Mays. The Mayor asked for a moment of silence for the mass shooting victims in Las Vegas.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

James Harding, Eugene Kandarian, and other concerned neighbors spoke about the new 50 mph speed limit near their residences on Adams Avenue west of Golden State Boulevard to the Highway 99 on ramp. They asked that it be returned to the previous speed limit of 35 mph due to difficulty entering and exiting their homes caused by the higher speed of traffic. Mayor Cardenas asked that City Engineer Peters review the matter for future reconsideration, and notify the residents at that time.

Mike Butts, of the Redcat Football Boosters, thanked the Council for the youth sports funding they granted to send the group to leadership camp in Hume Lake the past Spring. Coach Diaz and some of the members thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend the leadership camp and spoke of the great experiences they had.

Melissa Squeo, of Fowler, thanked the Council for the good decisions they make, and City staff for their hard work.

Andy Gonzales, Fowler business owner, shared information he received from Bank of America on the funding of their ATM machines.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Interim City Manager Davis mentioned an invitation to the Opening Day ceremonies for the Big Fresno Fair the following day, and Fowler Horse Race Day on October 12, 2017. The Groundbreaking Ceremony for Segment 3 of Highway 180 east will be held at 11:00 a.m. on October 12, 2017.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Approve City Manager Supplemental Agreement**

City Attorney Wolfe stated that at the last meeting the Council appointed Jeannie Davis as City Manager/City Clerk, effective October 1, 2017, subject to a contract to be approved at the present meeting, which calls for placement at Step B of the City Manager salary scale. Councilmember Rodriquez made a motion to approve the City Manager Supplemental Agreement, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer. Mayor Cardenas stated that Councilmember Hammer, who was not able to be present, has expressed his approval of the City Manager appointment and agreement.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting to a brief reception for City Manager Davis. Mayor Pro-Tem Parra left the teleconference meeting.

## **CITY ENGINEERS REPORT**

### **Adoption of Resolution No. 2381: SB 1 Funded Projects**

City Engineer Peters stated that as a result of the passage of SB 1, the City will receive an additional \$33,584 for transportation projects this year, and in 2018 the funds will increase to \$100,747. The 2017 funds will be used as the City's match for the Adams Avenue to 5th Street Reconstruction Project, which will go out to bid in early 2018.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2381, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Amending the 2017-18 Budget to Incorporate a list of Projects funded by SB 1: The Road Repair and Accountability Act." The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rodriquez and carried by a unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer, Parra.

### **Update on Fire Station Project**

City Manager Davis reported that staff recently met to discuss and finalize plans and bid options for the fire station, in order to meet the USDA loan requirements and the City's budget for the project. City Engineer Peters said that the plans and specifications are being updated and will be ready to go to bid by Friday, October 13, 2017. The previous construction cost estimate was approximately \$1.32 million, however, in bringing the plans up to current code and other changes, the cost is now estimated to be \$1.72 million. He mentioned various add alternates that can serve as a way to cut costs, if needed, based on the bid results. One cost cutting change that staff made at the meeting, was to reduce the number of engine bays to three instead of four.

George Bacon, of Fowler, asked about the square footage of the building. City Engineer Peters stated that the square footage of the station is 6,800. Andy Gonzales asked if the

second story would be ready to be added as living quarters if funds became available. Mr. Peters said that the plumbing, gas and electrical will be stubbed in and could be connected in the future.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Davis reported that permits have been pulled and grading work has begun on the Valley Children's/Adventist Health Clinic. The anticipated project completion date is February 2019.

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

Chief Lopez said that Public Works is preparing for the upcoming Fowler Fall Festival and Lions Club Band Review. The park restroom facilities have been repainted and cleaned. Councilmember Kazarian commented that new restroom facilities are much needed.

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

Interim Finance Director Sanchez reported that the Annual Street Report has been submitted, and staff is working on implementing new financial software.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Alcaraz said that the Department is hosting a "Coffee with a Cop" event at Starbucks, which is a popular national law enforcement program that helps community members and officers get to know one another and discuss concerns.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Lopez said the Fire Department is preparing for stand-by at the upcoming Fowler Fall Festival and Band Review.

### **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

No report was given.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - October 3, 2017; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting - September 19, 2017; and C) Consider and authorize sending a letter to the California Water Commission in opposition to Proposition 1 funding request by Semitropic Water Storage District. Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Kazarian, Rodriguez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer, Parra.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Cardenas attended a Latino Water Coalition meeting, noting that the group has completed and submitted a grant application for the Temperance Flat water storage project.

Councilmember Kazarian attended a multi GSA meeting where they discussed the initial overdraft numbers. The Fowler Chamber of Commerce project is continuing to move forward with the core group of interested volunteers developing a Facebook page, and actively soliciting businesses to join.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Councilmember Kazarian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p. m.