

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:03 p. m. Roll call was taken.

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

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

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by a moment of silence and reflection led by Mayor Cardenas.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Tomas Carrasco, of Fowler, stated his appreciation for the new credit/debit card system for water bill payments. He commented that the Veteran's Day ceremony was a wonderful event, but he would like to see more Fowler Veterans participate in the future. Councilmember Hammer stated that the committee is working to accomplish adding more Fowler Veterans to the invitation list for future ceremonies.

**ADD SUBSEQUENT NEED ITEM TO AGENDA**

City Attorney Wolfe said that a matter arose after the agenda was posted that calls for adding a subsequent need/urgency item to the agenda. It is a closed session item, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4), to consider initiating litigation to quiet title on Nelson Avenue for an access easement related to the Magill Terrace Housing Project at 401 E. Nelson Avenue. The item could not wait until the next meeting as there is a deadline of December 15, 2017 to secure tax credit financing for the project.

Councilmember Rodriquez made a motion to add a closed session item to the agenda, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4), to consider initiating litigation to quiet title on Nelson Avenue for an access easement related to the Magill Terrace Housing Project at 401 E. Nelson Avenue. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hammer, and carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain/absent: None.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Davis mentioned an invitation to Fowler Unified School District's Holiday Luncheon on December 13, 2017, and a holiday party hosted by the SSJV Division of the League of California Cities on December 8, 2017, at the Ridgecrest Golf Course in Dinuba. Also, the Recreation Commission's Children's Shopping Day event will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2017, from 1:00 - 3:00 p. m. at the Fowler Senior Center.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

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

City Manager Davis and Planning staff are scheduled to attend a LAFCO workshop to learn more about the municipal services review and Sphere of Influence (SOI) update process. Planning staff, assisted by former Planning Consultant Bruce O'Neal, will be scheduling a Council workshop in February to discuss updating Fowler's SOI.

City Manager Davis said that the second meeting in December is normally canceled unless an urgent matter arises. The consensus of the Council was to cancel the December 19th meeting if no items of business should arise.

### **CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

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

City Engineer Peters gave an update on the fire station project. Staff has been under a very challenging timeline to meet the USDA loan conditions, due to additional time needed to update and re-engineer the plans. The project was advertised and sent out to bid, and at the same time, USDA sent notification allowing the City a one-year extension on the loan conditions. As a result, the bid opening was cancelled. He will be taking time to refine the bid specifications, noting that he has since received some helpful feedback from potential bidders. It is planned that the project will go out to bid in early 2018, with a project award anticipated for March 2018.

City Engineer Peters reported that he is having traffic counts reevaluated to possibly reduce the new speed limit on Adams Avenue between Golden State Boulevard and Highway 99.

He gave an update on the South Kings GSA. They have implemented legal counsel, and have sent out an RFP for engineering consultants that will be on call for needed technical assistance. They will soon be working on a Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

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

Public Works Director Weisser has met with 5 Bars Communications to discuss processes related to installation of cell towers on City facilities. He reported that Union Pacific Railroad is planning to replace railroad ties and crossings in town, and the City will be responsible for removing and replacing some of the asphalt paving up to the tracks.

He attended a meeting at Fresno COG regarding a grant for a Pavement Management System which provides a pavement index of road conditions and an inventory. SB1 funds are paying for this grant through COG, so the program is free, but the City would be responsible for the updates. He said that to compete for SB1 funding for a project, a city must have a pavement index for its roads.

He has been looking into upgrading the Panzak Park restroom facilities, and has received an estimate from Public Restroom Company at a cost of \$280,000 for ADA compliant restrooms. He is waiting to hear from two other companies for comparison quotes.

Mr. Weisser stated that he will be working on updating the City's ADA Transition Plan, and he will be including the damaged Monis sidewalk property area in the update. It can then be a targeted area for future grant funded sidewalk projects. He is checking on the possibility of including the area in an upcoming Lifeline funded project for sidewalk improvements on Adams Avenue between 2nd and Main Streets. Until then, the Public Works Department will soon be removing the tree and roots in preparation for sidewalk improvements.

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

City Manager Davis reported that the City is receiving much favorable feedback on the City's new debit/credit card payment system for water utility bills. New financial system software is being installed and staff training has been scheduled. Interim Finance Director Sanchez is working to implement an online utility bill payment system possibly by March 2018.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

City Manager Davis circulated Police Department crime statistics on behalf of Chief Alcaraz, who was away at a training session.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Fire Chief Lopez stated that the department is working on their 2018 training schedule.

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

No report was given.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - December 5, 2017; and B) Approve Minutes of the City Council/Fowler Public Authority Joint Meeting - November 7, 2017. Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriguez. Noes: None. Abstain/absent: None.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Cardenas attended a Mosquito Abatement District meeting where it was reported

that the Clovis cemetery has developed a mosquito problem from standing water in gravesite flower compartments. He also attended a recent SKF groundbreaking ceremony for their solar project.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra spoke of the success of the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. He attended League of California Cities board meetings the prior week, where they discussed strategic goals for transportation, affordable housing, and infrastructure projects. He mentioned that there is a movement to place the SB1 transportation funding on the ballot in an attempt to remove the tax, so the board took action to approve funding for the League to fight the efforts.

Councilmember Hammer commented that the Christmas Tree Lighting and Veteran's Day Ceremonies were very well done and very well attended. He attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for for the Fowler Library's new Early Learning Center.

Councilmember Kazarian reported on attendance at GSA meetings, and the Veteran's Day and the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremonies. He would like to see an ice skating rink or snow at next year's event. He attended a 5 Cities ad hoc committee meeting to discuss his idea of linking the cities for the ability to attract more retail opportunities.

Councilmember Rodriquez attended the Veteran's Day and Christmas Tree Lighting ceremonies, commenting on the success of both events.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation. Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 (Deciding whether to initiate litigation) 1 case; pursuant to Government Code Section 5497 - Public Employee Performance Evaluation - Title: Public Works Director; and pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) to consider initiating litigation to quiet title on Nelson Avenue for an access easement related to the Magill Terrace Housing Project at 401 E. Nelson Avenue.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 8:52 p. m. with the following reportable action taken: The City Council unanimously approved initiating a quiet title action to settle an easement dispute on Nelson Avenue associated with the Magill Terrace Housing Project at 401 E. Nelson Avenue. The vote was as follows: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain/absent: None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.