

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 3, 2018**

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

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriquez, Parra (arrived 7:16 p.m.)

City Staff Present: City Manager/City Clerk Davis, Public Works Supervisor/Fire Chief Lopez, Finance Director Uyeda, City Attorney Wolfe, Police Chief Alcaraz, Deputy City Clerk Burrola

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by the Invocation delivered by Pastor Brian Mays of Fowler.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

There were no public presentations.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Davis reminded the Council of the South San Joaquin Valley League of California Cities General Membership meeting in Dinuba this Thursday, April 5, 2018. As for city events, Spring Fest is Saturday, April 28, 2018 and the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be held Friday, May 4, 2018.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Davis attended Assembly Member Joaquin Arambula's Community Resource Fair earlier that day; it was a good turnout offering many resources to the community. She was also able to tour the Panzak Park restrooms with City Engineer David Peters and Public Works Supervisor Manuel Lopez. David Peters learned that the City of Kingsburg had similar problems with their park restrooms and Kingsburg hired a contractor who did a beautiful job remodeling the restrooms at a reasonable price. The contractor will be providing estimates to refurbish the Panzak Park restrooms.

Final corrections to the bid specs for the fire station were completed and sent to USDA – David Peters expects to hear back from them soon and hopes to send out for bids by Friday.

The City received a CMAQ grant for continuation of sidewalks along Fowler Avenue from Fresno Street to South Avenue.

The Maxco project is underway and they have begun grading the property.

The Annual Employee Appreciation Dinner has been scheduled for Friday, May 18, 2018, Cattlemen's Steakhouse Restaurant at 6:00 p.m.

## **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Public Works Supervisor Lopez circulated a report of all the well-site locations and a general use of the wells sites; he is also gathering more information for the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).

Staff has started to patch potholes throughout the City due to the heavy rains; he also plans to start planting trees near the post office across from Elaine's restaurant.

The misspelled street sign "Esraelian" has been ordered.

Councilmember Kazarian asked if there is any possible grant funding for walking trails for pedestrians. Supervisor Lopez is going to look into possible grants and a designated area.

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **❖ Discussion: CalPERS Discount Rate Change and Impacts to the City's Budget for the 2018-19 Fiscal and Future Years; Funding Options**

City Manager Davis stated that at the last meeting, it was requested to place a discussion item on the issue of CalPERS intention to lower their discount rate, which will create a financial hardship for government agencies throughout the State. The discount rate pertains to CalPERS long term investment rate forecast. Due to investment returns that have suffered in past years, PERS has decided on a more conservative approach on forecasting the future returns that will fund pension obligations. As a result, lowering the investment return forecast means that employers will have to contribute more to the retirement fund. The rate will be lowered incrementally over the next three fiscal years, from 7.375% in 2018-19 down to 7% in fiscal year 2020-21, which will increase employer contributions accordingly.

Finance Director Uyeda said he has updated some numbers from the prior Finance Director regarding the anticipated costs, pursuant to the most recent actuarial report issued from CalPERS in August 2017. The reports come out annually and the numbers will change depending on how the investment market is reacting, the number of people in the retirement system, and those retiring early. He pointed to the staff report which provided news articles discussing the CalPERS crisis, and an update of CalPERS finances, which have been improving. Most all cities, especially those in the San Joaquin Valley, are in limbo and are not certain on what to do concerning the situation. Some cities are floating bonds, or are using their reserves to pay down liabilities, or imposing district taxes. Mr. Uyeda said he will be taking some time to look closer at the budget in the coming weeks. Mayor Cardenas mentioned that this has been a topic of

discussion at S.K.F. Sanitation District and other meetings that he attends as a board member. It was mentioned that the City will need to continue discussing the matter and find a viable solution. It was requested that Mr. Uyeda provide budget information as soon as possible.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Police Chief Alcaraz reported that in the last few weeks there has been an increase in gang graffiti and they may have identified the person responsible and will be talking with him. Mayor Pro-Tem Parra asked if there is an online App to report graffiti and submit photos online that circulates to Public Works and Police. Chief Alcaraz mentioned he is looking into getting software technology in the near future.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Fire Chief Lopez reported that they were audited a few months ago by ISO, an agency that grades fire departments to determine home owners' insurance rates. Fire departments are graded from 1 to 9, with a lower number being a more favorable rating. The most recent audit has resulted in a 4, down from a 6 a few years ago.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

City Attorney Wolfe provided copies of the updated 2018 Brown Act handbook.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – April 3, 2018; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting - March 20, 2018; C) Adoption of Resolution No. 2396, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Approving Tract 6157 Improvements"; D) Approve Proclamation to observe April 9, 2018 as Johnnie Grigsby Day; E) Approve increase to hourly rate schedule for engineering services – Peters Engineering. Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar with corrections to item D and correction of spelling for Father Kim on the minutes; 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 reported that he visited Panzak Park Easter Sunday and spoke to the public and received great comments regarding the park. He also attended the Joaquin Arambula Community Resource Fair and it was a good turnout with all the services they provided for the community.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra attended the Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 24, 2018; they had a good attendance and ran out of hot dogs. He also attended the Joaquin Arambula Community Resource Fair.

Councilmember Hammer reminded everyone of Spring Fest April 28, 2018, also there will be a luncheon in celebration of John Grigsby's 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday on April 9, 2018 at the Senior Center starting at 10:30 a.m.

Councilmember Rodriquez attended a Fresno Irrigation District (FID) meeting and also announced that his son will be graduating on Friday from the Marines Corps.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.