

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 5, 2018**

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

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriquez

Councilmember Absent: Parra

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

Jonathan Simonian and Ryan Bedrosian, both Fowler residents, provided an update to the Council regarding the Fowler Chamber of Commerce. As of today a formal board has been established and they have circulated welcome letters and flyers along with applications for anyone who would like to join. A Welcome Mixer will be held on June 21, 2018 at Simonian Fruit Company at 6:30 p.m., anyone is welcome to attend. Members of the Council expressed their support and gratitude to Mr. Simonian and Mr. Bedrosian for their leadership and effort.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- ◆ **To Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 2401, “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Confirming Diagram and Assessment Annual Levy – 2018/19 Landscaping and Storm Drainage Facilities Maintenance – District No. 1”**

City Manager Davis stated that the item being presented is for the approval of the annual assessments for the landscaping and storm drain maintenance district, for several subdivisions within the City.

City Engineer Peters noted that the Council adopted a resolution to set a public hearing for June 5, 2018 to consider approval of the Engineer’s Report and the annual levy and collection of the assessments for the district. The Assessments will be transmitted to the Fresno County Assessor’s Office.

Councilmember Kazarian asked Public Works Supervisor Lopez about providing a report to account for maintenance costs for the district. Public Works Supervisor Lopez stated

that he is keeping track of the areas and what is maintained and he will be providing a report to City Council quarterly.

The Mayor opened the duly noticed public hearing on the matter at 7:21 p.m. There were no comments from the public and hearing closed at 7:21 p.m.

Councilmember Hammer made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2401, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriguez. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: Parra.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Davis mentioned an upcoming South San Joaquin Valley League Division meeting Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Tornino's.

The League of California Cities will be having a 2018 Annual Conference & Expo in Long Beach on September 12 – 14, 2018.

The Fowler Library will be having their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Anniversary reception on June 14, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## **CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

### **◆ Provide Staff Direction Regarding Alignment to Golden State Boulevard (GSB) between Adams Avenue and South Avenue.**

City Manager Davis stated that the City Engineer will provide an overview of a few options for the Golden State Corridor Improvement Project, which was discussed at the last City Council meeting.

City Engineer Peters presented a brief overview from the last meeting where the Council reviewed the 60 percent design, showing the Golden State Corridor shifting over to 8<sup>th</sup> Street which created numerous issues concerning impacts to businesses along 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Through receipt of public comments expressing concern on the proposed shift of GSB, the Council requested alternatives to this realignment be developed that would maintain the existing alignment. Mr. Peters said that the alternative he developed maintains the existing realignment of GSB, rehabilitates 8<sup>th</sup> Street, incorporates a Class I bike trail, and provides other operational improvements where feasible. Peters provided a comparison photo of the bike trail and walking path along Clovis Avenue in the City Clovis, showing similar features to the proposed changes to the GSB design. Another design change would be to signalize the intersection of Merced and Golden State Boulevard as well as 8<sup>th</sup> and Merced Street, which is a closely spaced intersection. Signalizing the intersection and coordinating the two traffic signals would improve the flow of traffic. This would be similar to what the City of Clovis has at the intersection of Clovis and Barstow Avenue. Another alternative would be to landscape and widen the

sidewalks and provide a monument sign in the middle of GSB. This would create a gateway appearance into the downtown area.

The Council discussed the alternatives presented and the consensus was that these changes would benefit the City and the businesses along the business district.

◆ **Reject All Bids Received on May 30, 2018 for the Fire Station and Authorize the City Engineer to Rebid the Project.**

City Engineer Peters explained that the City received two bids on May 30, 2018 for the Fire Station project; a protest letter was received on June 1, 2018 from the second low bidder related to confusion to the second story floor. Upon review of the protest letter and the two bids, the City Engineer has determined that clarification could be made to the bidding documents to alleviate the concerns addressed in the letter. With the presence of federal funding involved in the project, rejecting all bids and rebidding the project would minimize potential future delays related to this issue. There is possibility of a third bidder if the current bids are rejected and the City reopens the bids.

Councilmember Rodriquez, made a motion to reject all bids received on May 30, 2018 for the Fire Station project and authorize the City Engineer to rebid the project, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian. The vote in favor was as follows: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian and Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Parra.

## **DISCUSSION**

◆ **Discussion of Solar Project – Pickett Solar**

Councilmember Kazarian introduced this topic at the last Council meeting, the purpose of this item is to seek approval from Council to move forward with considering the proposal and present it to staff. He has been in contact with Pickett Solar Company regarding possible cost savings to the City, the options would be a power purchase agreement or purchasing the solar array. He circulated a standard financial evaluation for total system costs and annual electric bill with solar vs without solar. He looked into loans and found a 1% interest loan from the California Energy Commission for cities; they would require the savings from the solar to pay for principle and interest which the City would not have to pay out of pocket. Pickett Solar has done work for National Raisin, Bee Sweet and a lot of other projects in the Central Valley.

Mayor Cardenas expressed his concerns regarding other projects that need to be addressed first, such as the Fire Station, Maxco and other projects underway and if the City has enough staff to address any more projects. After discussion the consensus of the Council was to move forward with gathering more information on the solar proposal.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Davis reported that she had attended a City Managers meeting last week at Fresno County for the CDBG funding allocation for various cities. She is looking into combining the City's allocation for the 2018/19 year to use with the unused funding from another city. She is working with the City Engineer to possibly utilize the funds for ADA improvement for the Panzak Park bathrooms.

She also stated that at the last Council meeting it was mentioned that the City and Tree Fresno applied for a grant with Fresno COG to prepare a beautification landscaping plan for the Highway 99 Corridor, the City was awarded the grant. She has been meeting with Bruce O'Neal and Lee Ayres of Tree Fresno regarding the project.

She mentioned that The City of Fowler was mentioned in the Business Journal as being the 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest growing city ranked by population in the past 5 years, after the cities of Chowchilla and Clovis.

## **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Public Works Supervisor Lopez circulated: 1) The Consumer Conference Report which provides information of quality of water that is tested monthly 2) The Annual Water Quality Report which is more user friendly (most current version). He has been working with the City Manager to educate the public on water quality, water conservation, important health information and lead in home plumbing. The information packets have been ordered and will be mailed out to the public before July 1, 2018.

The City's alleys have been sprayed, and the ponding basins have been cleaned out.

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

No report was given.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Alcaraz mentioned that the Police Department has been very busy; they served three search warrants in the month of May. One of the offenders was a convicted felon who had two firearms which officers confiscated from his home.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Fire Chief Lopez mentioned the Fire Department will be staffing fire engines for the graduation ceremonies on Wednesday and Thursday, staff will be standing by. Fire season has started; Cal Fire engines are fully staffed, some vegetation fires have started to break out and will continue to get worse.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

No report was given.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – June 5, 2018; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting – May 15, 2018.

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Cardenas attended the City of Council Governments last week; he also attended a meeting for Fresno County Transportation Agency regarding gas taxes.

Councilmember Hammer mentioned lifeguards have been hired for the Swim Program, swim lessons will begin June 18 – 29<sup>th</sup> and again on July 9 – 20<sup>th</sup>. Public Swim will also start July 18, 2018 from 8:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The Summer Lunch program will start June 11, 2018 at the Edwin Blayney Senior Center from 12:05 p.m. – 1:05 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Farmers Market starts on July 25, 2018 through October 31, 2018.

Councilmember Kazarian attended the Donny Wright Dedication Ceremony; he also attended the Employee Appreciation Dinner, both events were a success.

He attended the RECon 2018 conference event in Las Vegas, Nevada, which is a global event of retail real estate professionals. He has been corresponding and working with some of the businesses to bring to Fowler.

Councilmember Rodriquez attended the Employee Appreciation Dinner, it was a good turnout.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting adjourned to a closed session at 8:18 p.m. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 – Public Employee Performance Evaluation. Title: City Manager/City Clerk.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 8:29 p.m. with no reportable action taken.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Councilmember Kazarian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Rodriquez to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.