

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL
AND FOWLER PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2018**

Mayor/Chairman Cardenas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p. m. Roll call was taken. There were no public presentations.

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

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

2018-2019 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET WORKSHOP

City Manager/Executive Director Davis said that a balanced budget has been prepared for the City to complete ongoing projects and those that have been long overdue. Highlights of the proposed budget included: funding for improvements and upgrades to the water system and water well equipment, costs to begin the process of a General Plan update and Sphere of Influence expansion, funding for an updated development fee study, computer system upgrades and an online water bill payment system. The budget also includes a 2% cost of living increase for employees and two paid holidays that had been suspended for several years. She stated that improvements for the City's parks, such as benches, tables and shade covers, were budgeted. Also, the City has applied for CDBG funding which will be used for ADA accessible restrooms at Panzak Park. The old restrooms would be demolished and replaced with prefab restrooms similar to those at Donny Wright Park. She noted that the project will likely fall into the next budget year to accomplish.

Finance Director Uyeda provided an overview of the budget for the City and Financing Authority, noting that he and City Manager Davis had made further changes which improved the estimated ending fund balance for the General Fund by \$15,000. He gave an overview of revenues and expenditures. Sales tax revenue was estimated at approximately 1.4 million, and property tax revenue was also estimated to be somewhat higher than the prior year. The budget for the Finance Department included increased funding for staff training on the new software system, to use it more efficiently. He is working to ensure that the budget includes replacement of outdated City equipment on an annual cycle in coming years. He mentioned some changes he is making to the accounting, such as with the Landscaping and Storm Drain Maintenance District funds, which were being held in a debt service fund. They are now properly categorized as a special revenue fund in the General Fund, where the expenses occur. He has implemented new procedures to tighten controls on financial transactions, as recommended by the auditors. He spoke of the need to be proactive in preparing for critical future needs, such as repairing aging infrastructure.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem/Vice Chair Parra made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember/Director Rodriquez. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.