

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 19, 2018**

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

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

City Staff Present: City Manager/City Clerk Davis, Public Works Supervisor/Fire Chief Lopez, City Attorney Cross, Police Chief Alcaraz, City Engineer Peters, Building Inspector Baxa, Deputy City Clerk Burrola

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

Mayor Cardenas welcomed the Community in attendance and welcomed Boy Scout Troop 390 for attending tonight's meeting.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Eric Cederquist, retired Fowler Unified School District Superintendent, expressed his gratitude to City Council and City of Fowler staff for their community partnership with the Fowler Unified School District.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION - ELAINE'S CAFÉ

Mayor Cardenas recognized Elaine's Café. Owner Jieying "Vickie" Lian was presented a certificate of recognition for serving the community of Fowler for 26 years.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Davis mentioned that the City's Summer Swim Program began yesterday.

The City is hosting the EOC free summer lunch program for kids' up to age 18, Monday through Friday at the Senior Center.

STAFF REPORTS

ACTION TO SELECT VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE(S)

City Manager Davis mentioned that the League of California Cities asks that cities select a voting delegate and alternates for their business meeting at the League's Annual Conference in Long Beach, September 12 – 14, 2018.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Rodriquez to select Mark Rodriquez as the voting delegate, David Cardenas as the alternate, and Dan

Parra as the second alternate. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

DISCUSSION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF A DISTRICT SALES TAX

Mayor Cardenas said that at a previous meeting, the Council had discussed implementing a district sales tax. He asked the City Manager to bring it back for a final discussion, as there is a looming deadline for placing the matter on the ballot at the November 6, 2018 election. The Council may want to consider moving forward with it because there are so many needs for City facilities and departmental needs.

Councilmember Kazarian stated that he wants it put on record that he is against the district tax, just as he stated at the time of the previous discussion. There has been no new budgetary information provided by the Finance Director that would prompt reconsidering the tax, and he does not believe it's the right approach. He has worked to put forth a sizeable cost savings measure for the City by means of a solar project that would provide 2 to 3 million dollars of savings over 25 years. He specified that his decision hasn't changed and voiced that the City needs to explore other alternatives before moving forward with this.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra commented that the Council is still able to discuss and possibly move forward with the measure, or there are citizens who are ready to place an initiative on the ballot. He added that the police department has had to purchase used cars, there is a need for a new police station, and the CalPERS discount rate has created rising employee benefit costs. The citizens of Kingsburg recently passed a similar 1 cent tax measure. Councilmember Rodriquez said that he would like to have more financial information from Finance Director Uyeda before making such decision, and that if a tax was needed, to perhaps start with a smaller amount. City Manager Davis said that Mr. Uyeda was unable to be present due to a pressing family matter, however, he had reviewed the financial numbers that the Council had previously been presented with on both the district tax and CalPERS discount rate, and nothing had changed. He is working with CalPERS to discuss alternatives for unfunded liabilities. He has advised that current financial operations look to be within budget, but there remains a lack of significant funding for future needs for major facilities and infrastructure, such as a new police station.

Mayor Cardenas commented that there are large future unfunded liabilities that will need to be paid, and there is not adequate funding for future items for public safety needs to keep the community the safe place that it is. Councilmember Kazarian noted that all of the Council are in support of public safety, but it would be best to look at other alternatives and not rush into imposing a district tax. Councilmember Hammer stated that with the current financial information provided, he would not be in favor of a district tax.

The Mayor called for public comment on the matter.

Craig Mellon of Fowler stated that he was presenting the City with a Notice of Intention to Circulate a Petition for a Fowler Public Safety Measure. The reason for the measure would be to generate approximately \$953,000 annually to build a new police station, hire additional police officers, increase crime suppression and prevention, and restore and replace outdated equipment. Excess funds could go to General Fund obligations and a reserve account for the City. The City would enact a 1 percent sales tax with an annual reporting of expenses, and with all funds staying in the City of Fowler. He said the City is growing, and it should be proactive instead of reactive in providing needs, as the School District has been proactive in implementing a bond measure to provide needed facilities. He said that if the City waits, it will be in trouble.

Marlon Dick, Fowler resident, stated that the citizens' initiative is a good idea and he supports it, and supports moving in the direction to generate revenues. He said that it appears that the City has a balanced budget that it's proud of, but it could not produce a new police station with that, and there is a large need for significant sums of money. He added that it was a positive idea, and something that is needed.

DISCUSSION ON PROVIDING A LETTER TO FEDERAL LEGISLATORS REGARDING FOWLER DACA RESIDENT, ERICKA LEON-MEJIA

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra read a letter he generated asking our Federal Legislators to take action and advocate for Fowler resident Erika Leon-Mejia's return to the United States, so she can be reunited with her family. Erika had her DACA status revoked and was barred from returning to the United States. Erika established her roots in Fowler; she attended CSU Fresno to obtain her Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. Mayor Pro-Tem Parra is asking the Council to support Erika in returning her back home to her family in Fowler.

The Mayor opened the discussion for public comments on the matter.

Oday Guerrero, Fowler resident and one of Erika Mejia's closest friends stated that they attended elementary and high school together. She expressed concern that Erika is not able to return to the United States to be reunited with her family. Ismael Leon, brother of Erika Mejia, expressed his gratitude to the Council for their support in returning his sister back to the United States.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Davis reported that the Planning Department sent notices to nearby property owners for an upcoming public meeting for the Buford project in the Council Chambers, June 20, 2018, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Fowler Fire Station rebids will be taking place on Thursday, June 21, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

She also mentioned that Channel 30 Action News reported last week on Jocelynn Budwig winning a gold medal for shot put, becoming the first female in the history of

Fowler High School to become a state track and field champion. She suggested honoring Jocelyn at a future meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Lopez reported that he has City crew working on cleaning Golden State Boulevard. Also, the pamphlets for the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) have arrived and will be sent out in the mail next week.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

City Manager Davis presented a short report on behalf of Mr. Uyeda who was not able to attend the meeting. Mr. Uyeda has been working on the City's audit and budget and catching up on reports and updating procedures.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Alcaraz circulated Part 1 Crime Stats for the month of May 2018.

National Night Out will be held at Panzak Park, Tuesday, August 7, 2018 a time is still yet to be determined.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Lopez reported that the fire department will be conducting hose testing and hydro testing on the weekends in the next few months. They will be standing by for the 4th of July celebration event.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report was given.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – June 19, 2018; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting – June 5, 2018; C) Adoption of Resolution No. 2402, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Concerning Local Transportation Purpose Funds Extension – Measure "C" Extension" D) Adoption of Resolution No. 2403, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Granting the City Manager Budgetary Authority to Continue City Operations Pending Budget Adoption for Fiscal Year 2018/19" E) Adoption of Resolution No. 2404, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Ordering an Election, Requesting County Elections to Conduct the Election, Requesting Consolidation of Election and Determining Payment for Candidate's Statements, and for the Appointment to Office if No One or Only Person is Nominated".

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, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas recommended reappointment of Sonia Smith, Roy Alatorre, Wilson Parker and Patric Jones to another term on the Recreation Commission, as their terms will expire on June 30, 2018. Councilmember Rodriquez made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hammer, to re-appoint Sonia Smith, Roy Alatorre, Wilson Parker and Patric Jones to a new term on the Recreation Commission. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

Mayor Cardenas attended the 10th Anniversary celebration for the Fowler Library. Mrs. Hammer coordinated the event.

He also attended the San Joaquin South Division of League of California Cities meeting and Mosquito Abatement meeting.

Councilmember Hammer attended the last Recreation Committee meeting and they are busily preparing for the 4th of July celebration.

Councilmember Kazarian attended the 10th Anniversary celebration for the Fowler Library. The Library has a lot of history to see.

He reported that staff met with Pickett Solar, and are looking for possible sites.

Councilmember Rodriquez met with the Summer Swim Program lifeguards.

Mayor Cardenas thanked Boy Scout Troop 390 for attending the meeting and invited them to attend future meetings.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting adjourned to a closed session at 8:19 p.m. to discuss, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) – Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation Deciding Whether to Initiate Litigation – One potential case.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 8:26 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 9:14 p.m.