

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 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 Wolfe, Finance Director Uyeda, Police Chief Alcaraz, Deputy City Clerk Burrola

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Murray McManus, Fowler resident, expressed his concerns regarding an issue he is having with the neighbors across the street from his house who are selling furniture from their home.

SUBSEQUENT NEED ITEM

City Attorney Wolfe addressed Council regarding a subsequent need item to add to the agenda. This item will be placed under Staff Reports after Item A. The matter arose after the agenda was posted. This item is related to the fire station project, there is a requirement from USDA for the City's Attorney to issue a Certificate of Counsel, in order to issue the Certificate, the Council will need to ratify the contract with Klassen and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract and related documents on behalf of the City.

Councilmember Rodriquez made a motion to add the subsequent item to the agenda after Item A, as Item B: "Ratification of Contract with Klassen Corporation for construction of the new Fire Station and authorization for City Manager to execute the contract and related documents on behalf of the City", seconded by Councilmember Kazarian. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

PRESENTATION

Henrietta Martin and Shelly Cooper, representing Fowler Improvement Association, provided information on a project they would like to propose. Little Free Libraries is a non-profit organization where little free libraries are placed in parks, schools, businesses and other areas of the community; anyone is welcome to take a book. The Little Free Libraries will be maintained by the Association by monitoring on a daily basis and providing books for anyone to take and return. They asked Council if they would waive

the planning fee for starting the project. The consensus of the Council was to waive the fee and direct staff to move forward with the project.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Davis mentioned the upcoming election on November 6, 2018; the City of Fowler's polling locations are located at St. Lucy's Church, Fowler Baptist Church and the Fowler Library.

STAFF REPORTS

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2018-02

City Manager Davis said these two ordinances are related to the citizens' ballot measure for the 1% district sales tax. City Attorney Wolfe reported there are two ordinances, one is codified and the other is uncodified. If the sales tax measure passes on November 6, 2018 the City needs to have an ordinance in place in order to collect the new sales tax on April 1, 2019. By the December 4th meeting a second reading of these ordinances is required in order for the State to start collecting. The codified ordinance is for the Fowler Municipal Code to provide information that there is a 1% sales tax implemented by the Citizens of Fowler. The uncodified ordinance is for the State to collect the tax for the City. Councilmember Kazarian stated that he is against the sales tax measure as he's expressed during previous meetings, however the measure is moving forward and it's the voters' decision. He understands the uncodified ordinance is required by the State in order for the City to collect. If the sales tax measure passes there needs to be oversight in the language to ensure the funds are used properly.

Councilmember Hammer made a motion to waive the First Reading and approve Ordinance No. 2018-02, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Fowler Adding Section 3-5.12, to Chapter 5, of Title 3 of the Fowler Municipal Code Pertaining to the Imposition of An Additional Transaction and Use Tax", seconded by Councilmember Rodriquez. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

FIRST READING OF UNCODIFIED ORDINANCE NO. 2018-03

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion to waive the First Reading and approve Uncodified Ordinance No. 2018-03, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Fowler Imposing an Additional Transactions and Use Tax to be Administered by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration", seconded by Councilmember Hammer. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

RATIFICATION OF CONTRACT WITH KLASSESN CORPORATION – FIRE STATION PROJECT

City Attorney Wolfe explained to Council earlier that this item is related to the fire station project. The ratification is necessary so the City's Attorney's office can issue the Certificate of Counsel that is required by USDA. Once approved by City Council, the City Manager will execute the agreement and provide to the USDA as required.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve the "Ratification of Contract with Klassen Corporation for construction of the new Fire Station and authorization for City Manager to execute the contract and related documents on behalf of the City", seconded by Councilmember Rodriquez. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Davis said she and staff met with representatives of Woodside Homes to discuss a proposed subdivision project near Sumner and Sunnyside Avenues.

A meeting is scheduled next week with Fowler Unified School District representatives to discuss a future new school and City Park near Sunnyside and South Avenues.

She mentioned that since the last meeting where citizens living near Fowler and Adams Avenues spoke of concerns related to a vehicle collision causing damage to their properties, another collision recently happened again in the same area. Staff met with the concerned residents to discuss implementing immediate safety measures for the intersection.

Councilmember Kazarian asked about various concerns related to water bills. He is aware that staff is looking into the matter. City Manager Davis said that several things have happened at once. There were reports that some residents did not receive their bill in the mail and were receiving other people's mail, this resulting in late notices. Water usage data was lost from the water software system, plus water rates went up during that time. Finance Director Uyeda spoke to the Post Master to track the problem with the mail. The Post Office and the City are working together to try to resolve this issue. Mr. Uyeda is working on a proposal to submit to the Council on how to process billings, regulations and payments. Councilmember Kazarian suggested including the water rates on the water bill.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Lopez said there are some issues with the water meters, there are several different types of meters. The City needs to switch over to the meters provided by Neptune. These meters are digital and precise and detect water leaks. He is

currently working with the Finance Director to implement these meters for the City. He has been going out to residents, upon their request to check for water leaks.

Public Works Supervisor Lopez circulated a graph provided by the City Engineer regarding the traffic concerns on Adams and Fowler Avenues. They have been working together to provide a safety structure to deter vehicles from going over the barriers. He has placed LED flashing stop signs in the area and has ordered flashing yellow stop ahead signs, and may be placing rumble strips at the intersection.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Finance Director Uyeda stated he is working with Public Works Supervisor Lopez and improvements to the roads have no impact on the general fund, they have been charged to the gas tax.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Alcaraz circulated the DOJ crime statistics for the month of September. No issues were reported during the Fall Festival and Jr. High School band review events. He spoke with the representative of the Sikh Parade; the event has been postponed due to issues with signage for the event. He mentioned the Fowler Police Department is selling pink patches for breast cancer awareness month to the public. All of the proceeds will go to support Central Valley Cancer Support. Patches are \$10.00 and can be purchased at the Police Department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Lopez circulated the fire statistics for the month of September.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe said there is new legislation SB998. This bill would require a community water system to have a written policy on discontinuation of water service to certain types of residences for nonpayment, available in prescribed languages. The bill would require the policy to include certain components, be available on the City's Internet web site, and be provided to customers in writing, upon request. The bill would require an urban and community water system that discontinues residential service to provide the customer with information on how to restore service. Policies will need to be in place by February 1, 2020.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – October 16, 2018; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting – October 2, 2018.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra attended the Big Fresno Fair Fowler Horse Race. He congratulated the Lions Club for their booth winning First Place at the Big Fresno Fair.

Councilmember Hammer mentioned there are only three more weeks left for the Farmer Market. He mentioned the upcoming Trunk or Treat event on October 31, 2018 and the Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 1, 2018.

Councilmember Kazarian attended the Big Fresno Fair Fowler Horse Race. He also attended the Fowler Jr. High School Band review and continues to attend meetings with the Central Kings GSA to discuss the agreement on water.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hammer to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.