

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 5, 2019**

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

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Kazarian, Parra

Councilmembers Absent: Hammer, Rodriquez

City Staff Present: City Manager/City Clerk Davis, 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**

Patric Jones, Fowler resident, expressed his concerns of the parking situation at St. Lucy's church he had mentioned at a prior Council meeting.

Vicki Filgas-Trevino, Selma resident and active member providing mural projects and public art to the City of Selma, spoke of an opportunity she would like to offer the City of Fowler. She provided information on a bronze sculpture that the city of Selma has had on display for three years. This sculpture was created by Muralist Ernie Palomino, weighing 2000 pounds, dedicated to the farm workers. She explained that Mr. Palomino's endeavor was to share this sculpture with other farm working communities so that it could be enjoyed and appreciated. She expressed that Fowler would be a great location to house this sculpture for the next three years and at the end of the three years move it to the next community.

Jason Webb and Gabriel Sepeda, business partners of Fat Gabe's Mobile Kitchen, stated they are following up on last week's special meeting. They have not received the list of requirements they need to operate their mobile food vending trailer on property at 226 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street. City Manager Davis said that staff is working on completing the list.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Davis mentioned the General membership meeting for the South San Joaquin Valley Division is this Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Madera Club House.

The Blossom Trail Ceremony will be Friday, February 8, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Selma Arts Center.

**STAFF REPORT**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Davis said that the City is working with Tree Fresno and Fresno Council of Governments (COG) on a Community Landscape Plan. There will be outreach events, to get community participation, these events will be taking place at Sutter Middle School; the

dates are February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Invitations were mailed out with the water bills.

She mentioned construction for the fire station project will begin towards the end of next week.

Ms. Davis said City staff met to discuss traffic mitigation solutions for the Merced and 10<sup>th</sup> street intersection. The subject will be brought to the Council sometime in March for discussion.

## **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Public Works Supervisor Lopez was not present. Ms. Davis reported 14 truckloads of asphalt were used to patch potholes on Golden State Boulevard. The weeds along alleyways and Golden State Boulevard have been sprayed.

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **APPROVE INSTALLATION OF ONLINE PAYMENT SERVICES**

Finance Director Uyeda said the City currently accepts credit cards only in-house, he is working on options that would allow residents to access an online site to pay their water bills via credit and debit card. Mr. Uyeda said software installation and training would be a one-time installation fee of \$11,882 and monthly use and maintenance fee of \$541. He proposes using part of the \$70,000 initially budgeted for replacing the City's aging computer software. Fowler is the only City in the direct area that does not have online bill paying available.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve installation of online water bill payment services and related budget adjustment, seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer, Rodriquez.

### **IMPLEMENT NEW OUT SOURCED MAILING SYSTEM**

Mr. Uyeda said the City is currently renting a folding machine which prepares the bills for mailing which costs the City \$500 a month. In addition the copier is tied up for long periods of time printing invoices and restricts other users from faxing or making copies. There are times the system will suffer a glitch and invoices do not get printed correctly and this causes additional time and material costs, combined with staff time, to incur. The City has been experiencing mailing problems and bills are not being received or received late. The system fee is \$1,150 per month; less current copier rental equals \$650 per month offset by reduced time to other more productive areas.

Councilmember Parra made a motion to approve budget adjustment to implement new out sourced water bill mailing system, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer, Rodriquez.

**DIRECTION ON MAKING CHANGES TO WATER BILL DUE DATES AND SHUT OFF DATES; AND CONSIDER AND APPROVE CLOSING OUT DAILY WATER BILL PAYMENTS AT 4:30 PM**

Mr. Uyeda stated the water bills are due 15 days after issuance. Finance proposes to extend the due date to 30 days. Most cities in Fresno County use the 30-day period to cut off and in some cases; late fees are not assessed until after 45 to 60 days. The Finance Department proposes to close out receiving water bill payments at 4:30 p.m. to give staff enough time to correctly balance the daily receipts. In addition, SB-998 recently passed, will require cities to extend water cut-off to 60 days effective January 1, 2020. Ms. Davis said this will require an ordinance amendment for water shut off dates. This will be brought back at a later time to the Council.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve closing out water bill payments at 4:30 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer, Rodriguez.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

◆ **APPROVAL TO SURPLUS PATROL VEHICLE**

Police Chief Alcaraz recommended to surplus a patrol vehicle, Patrol Unit #35, a 2006 Dodge Charger has not been utilized for patrol in the last six months due to needed repairs. In the last two years it has incurred over \$6,000 in repairs and is currently in need of extensive repairs which will cost the City over \$5,000.

Councilmember Parra made a motion to approve the surplus of the patrol vehicle, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer, Rodriguez.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

No report was given.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

No Report was given.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – February 5, 2019; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council and Fowler Planning Commission Special Joint Meeting and the City Council Meeting – January 15, 2019; C) Adopt Resolution No. 2421, “A Resolution Before the City Council of the City of Fowler, County of Fresno, State of California Approving Variance No. 18-01 and Approving A Categorical Exemption Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15322”, D) Adopt Resolution No. 19-2422, “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Accepting A Sewer Easement Within APN’s 345-180-05, 345-180-22 and 345-180-26”.

City Manager Davis pulled Item D. She explained this item is for a sewer easement for Maxco, which should be approved separately; the grant deed has not yet been received

from Maxco for the sewer easement. City Attorney Wolfe said it could be approved contingently on the Grant deed being submitted to the City Engineer. Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 19-2422, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Accepting a Sewer Easement within APN's 345-180-05, 345-180-22 and 345-180-26" contingent upon the grant deeds upon being satisfactory to staff, seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hammer, Rodriquez.

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Cardenas attended a Council of Governments meeting last week, he was asked to take the position as Chair for the Council of Governments.

Councilmember Parra met with a representative from Congressman TJ Cox's office and representatives from other cities regarding public safety and economic development.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Councilmember Kazarian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Parra to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.