

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL  
AND FOWLER PLANNING COMMISSION  
SPECIAL JOINT WORKSHOP  
JANUARY 15, 2019**

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

Councilmembers present: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Rodriquez  
Councilmembers absent: None

Commissioners present: Fernandez, Kandarian, Mukai  
Commissioners absent: Mellon, Mejia

City staff present: City Manager Davis, Public Works Supervisor/Fire  
Chief Lopez, City Attorney Wolfe, Police Chief Alcaraz,  
City Planner Marple, Deputy City Clerk Burrola,  
Planning Secretary Zavala

**GENERAL PLAN UPDATE WORKSHOP**

City Planner Marple introduced Sara Allinder, Senior Planner from Provost and Prichard. Ms. Marple and Ms. Allinder provided a PowerPoint presentation on the General Plan Update. The workshop is to provide information to the Council and Commission of the purpose and objectives, and roles of the Planning Commission and City Council. Ms. Allinder explained the basics of what it does for the City and why it's important. There is no requirement for how often the general plan needs to be updated, with one exception, the housing element is required to be updated on a regular cycle, updates are required periodically based on new requirements being added through legislative amendments. The City of Fowler currently updated the housing element in 2016 as part of the Fresno County Multi-jurisdictional housing element. These updates generally have triggers for when compliance is required. It is required that every jurisdiction in California has a general plan. The General Plan is a comprehensive, long-term plan for the physical development of the county or city. Long-term is left to the discretion of the jurisdiction although the long term time frame is about 20 years. There are eight required elements but they can be addressed in any format of your choice and State Law also gives you the ability to add new topics. The required elements are: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, safety, and air quality, there has been a new element that has been added in the last couple of years and that is the environmental justice component. The primary purpose is to initiate the first comprehensive update since 1976 to reflect current community values and vision and compliance with State regulations, there was an update in 2004 which was only for the land use circulation and economic development. The primary purpose for the workshop is to initiate the first comprehensive updates since 1976 in order to reflect the community values. The objective is to look forward to 2040 and there are a lot of new state laws that are in affect and those will drive some of the objectives so that the City is in compliance. The role of the City Council and Planning Commission is to represent the community during the progress; identify and prioritize issues to be addressed; act as a sounding board for ideas and policy development; provide input and direction at key milestones in the process and

recommend or take action on the updated General Plan and to engage them as well as members of the public to have joint study sessions.

Ms. Marple explained the five phases of the project schedule and milestones and it will be extended, for budgetary reasons, over four calendar years. Typically general plans take generally two to three years. The five phases will be scheduled once completed in November of 2022 and will be presented for adoption by the Planning Commission, and City Council for the final adoption of the General Plan and associated Environmental Impact Review (EIR). In order to keep the public informed of future meetings and the status of the project, information is available online at the City's website or they can contact the Planning Secretary to be placed on a notification list if they have any questions. Mailers will also be sent in the water bill of notifications for citizen involvement in the General Plan update process.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Rodriquez. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.