

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

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

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

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

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

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

There were no public presentations.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Davis announced the grand opening for the new United Health Center in Selma, Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 11:00 a.m., the Fowler Improvement Association's annual spring luncheon on March 14, 2019, and the City's upcoming rabies clinic on Saturday, March 30, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the City Hall breeze way.

**STAFF REPORT**

**CONSIDER FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2019-01**

City Manager Davis explained the first reading; this item is related to the City's residential water service. Finance Director Uyeda presented suggestions to the Council at a prior meeting to improve water operations for the water department and to help the citizens, one of which is related to the shut off of water service and the water bill due dates. The ordinance would also incorporate a new senate bill that allows more leeway for customers to pay their water bill before shut offs take place. City Attorney Wolf explained the ordinance implements the Councils direction that gives 30-days instead of 15-days, language was also added to say: any delinquencies will be handled pursuant to written policies, because the new law, shut off protection act, requires a written policy on discontinuation of water service for nonpayment until the payment by a customer has been delinquent for at least 60 days.

Councilmember Rodriquez made a motion to waive the First Reading and approve Ordinance No. 2019-01, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Fowler Amending Sections 6-4.707 and 6-4.709 of Article 7, of Chapter 4, of Title 6, and Amending Section 6-4.1109 of Article 11, of Chapter 4, of Title 6 of the Fowler Municipal Code Relating to the City's Residential Water Service", seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Davis said the first Community workshop was held earlier today for the Park grant application. The workshop is to seek input from residents on the proposed design land needs for the park/recreational sports complex. She said it was a good turnout; the next workshop will be on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. She attended the community workshop sponsored by Tree Fresno for the Highway Beautification plan grant. The workshop was held on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at John Sutter Middle School, it provided information about the benefits of trees.

Ms. Davis mentioned that a workshop will be scheduled on March 19, 2019 to discuss the district sales tax and priorities for the proceeds of the tax.

## **CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

### **DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE TRAFFIC MITIGATION MEASURES - MERCED AND 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET AREA**

City Engineer Peters mentioned that this item was discussed at a prior meeting several years ago. The purpose is to expand the discussion further and to determine what possible solutions can be implemented. He provided a PowerPoint presentation on this discussion. Mr. Peters said Merced Street between Highway 99 and 10<sup>th</sup> Street has a higher than normal accident rate, which is related to new development and numerous driveways along Merced Street, which create significant numbers of conflict points. In 2015 a traffic study was conducted and analysis predicted that traffic congestion would increase as proposed projects developed. It was discussed in prior meetings of the possibility of having medians, roundabouts, traffic signals or other types of traffic control. Currently there are about 17,000 vehicles traveling on Merced Street on a daily basis which is a two lane road. Mr. Peters provided information on levels of service. Levels of service (LOS) is a term used to qualitatively describe the operating conditions of a roadway based on factors such as speed, travel time, maneuverability, delay, and safety. The level of service of a facility is designated with a letter, A to F, with A representing the best operating conditions and F the worst. He provided information, on the level of service, for the area of Merced Street which was analyzed during peak hours between 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and afternoon hours between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. He explained that the calculations of the analysis show that once all the development is completed; there will be a high level of traffic congestion.

A discussion took place on the control of traffic for Merced Street and what strategies it would take to control the flow of traffic. Mr. Peters suggested quite a few options to control the flow of traffic. He said Caltrans is opposed to traffic signals at the intersection of Merced and 10<sup>th</sup> Street due to traffic backing up at the intersection and the highway off ramp to Merced Street. Mr. Peters said a roundabout possibly placed at 9<sup>th</sup> and Merced Street would perform better, but these are just ideas for Council to consider. He would also like to consider declassifying Merced Street as a truck route; this would eliminate safety issues and the control of traffic would possibly improve. Mr. Peter's said he would analysis further options and bring it back to the Council.

## **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

No report was given.

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

No report was given.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

No report was given.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

No report was given.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

City Attorney Wolfe noted that he provided a copy of the updated Brown Act Workbook to staff and Council. He mentioned effective January 1, 2019 it is required to have the agency's agenda posted on the agency's primary Internet Web site homepage and accessible through a prominent direct link to the current agenda.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – March 5, 2019; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council and Fowler Planning Commission Special Joint Workshop and the City Council Meeting – February 19, 2019”.

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Cardenas attended the Fresno Council of Governments meeting the prior week.

Mayor Pro Tem Hammer mentioned the passing of Fowler resident and former Mayor, Marcia Dennis.

Councilmember Rodriguez attended the Tree Fresno Workshop at John Sutter Middle School.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Councilmember Kazarian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Parra to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.