

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 19, 2019**

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

Councilmembers Present: Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Cardenas (arrived at 7:37 p.m.)

Councilmembers Absent: Rodriquez

City Staff Present: City Manager/City Clerk Davis, City Attorney Wolfe, Police Chief Alcaraz, Public Works Supervisor/Fire Chief Lopez, Finance Director Uyeda, Building Official Baxa, Deputy City Clerk Burrola

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

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Colby Wells, Public Affairs Manager at Southern California Gas Company spoke about natural gas and what is going on in the natural gas industry. SoCal Gas serves a small portion of the City of Fowler. He said the State is trying to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from residential and commercial buildings. The State has already started electrifications of residential, commercial, and industrial buildings to achieve these results. Senate Bill AB 3232 was introduced last year, if passed it would require the commission, by January 1, 2022, of all new buildings in the State of California to be electric and by 2030 all existing buildings, residential, commercial, and industrial to be converted to electricity at the building owners expense. Mr. Wells said there is another possible alternative, renewable natural gas; he explained that this consists of methane which comes from composition of organic matter.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Davis said SKF will be sponsoring a Mixer at the Selma Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., the City's upcoming rabies clinic is Saturday, March 30, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the City Hall breeze way.

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP – DISCUSSION ON ESTALISHING PRORIoTIES FOR US OF THE DISTRICT SALES TAX PROCEEDS**

Finance Director Uyeda said the City recently passed a 1% district sales tax to generate funds to help the General Fund. The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) has announced that it will go into effect April 1, 2019 however the funds won't be available until September of this year. The Measure specifically listed the use of proceeds for a new police department, public safety equipment; especially the replacement of police vehicles which require excessive amount of maintenance. Another issue is CalPERS unfunded liability which continues to be a major expenditure that will only increase in the coming years. CalPERS reduced their projection by \$20,000; the City paid the entire amount off at the beginning of the year, which saved the City approximately \$12,000 in interest. He said the City has an opportunity to improve public safety, its streets and roads, meet the previously unforeseen negative effects of the

CalPERS unfunded liability and increase its reserve funds. Mr. Uyeda apportioned funds for the police building and is currently looking into grants and loans to help supplement the building and outfitting costs. Mayor Pro Tem Hammer opened the matter for public comment. Steve Barela, Fowler resident, expressed that the funds should be used for public safety since that is what it was specifically listed for. Tomas Carrasco, Fowler resident, agrees that the lions share should go directly to public safety. A discussion took place and the Council's consensus was that staff be directed to continue working on the projection of this project. City Manager Davis added that as staff develops the budget it will be brought back to the Council.

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2019-01**

Councilmember Parra made a motion to waive the second 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 Kazarian. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Hammer, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Cardenas, Rodriguez.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Davis said the Magill Terrace apartments are almost finished. The City will be allowing the Housing Authority to use office space at the senior center to process leasing applications for about a month and a half.

Ms. Davis mentioned the City has hired a temporary part-time Code Enforcement Officer, Ceasar Luna, who is a City volunteer firefighter. He will be working a couple of days a week and will be working alongside Building Official, Nolasco Baxa and Police Chief Alcaraz.

## **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Public Works Supervisor Lopez said benches were placed along the track area at Donny Wright Park. He said they are still working on getting shade covers for the playground area. Councilmember Kazarian said he was approached at the FIA luncheon by someone who would like to donate a memorial bench for the park. Supervisor Lopez said he was contacted about the donation of the bench, but the City currently does not have a policy. Councilmember Kazarian said maybe the City can look into implementing a policy and bring it back to Council.

He mentioned he is currently working on providing reports to the State, these reports consist of the Lead and Copper for school sites, Yearly Water Distribution Report, and the Consumer Confidence Report.

Mr. Lopez said the Adams Avenue project is nearly completed; it was delayed a few days due to rain.

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Finance Director Uyeda reported the fire station project passed its first inspection from USDA today.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

No report was given.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Fire Chief Lopez provided information on year to date call statistics. Calls were down from last year.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

No report was given.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – March 19, 2019; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting – March 5, 2019.

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Hammer said the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.; Spring Fest is April 27, 2019.

Councilmember Parra attended a luncheon and met with Senator Caballero.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting adjourned to a closed session at 7:37 p.m. to discuss, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 – Conference with Real Property Negotiators: Property: 130 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Agency Negotiators: City Manager. Negotiating Party: United Health Centers. Under Negotiation: Price, Terms.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 7:54 p.m. with no reportable action taken.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Councilmember Kazarian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Parra to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.