



**ANNUAL MAYOR'S BREAKFAST
STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019
JOCY'S RESTAURANT**

GOOD MORNING, WELCOME EVERYONE! Thank you all for coming.

I'd like to introduce some distinguished guests:

Fresno County Supervisor District 4, Buddy Mendes
Chongtoua Mouavangsou representing Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula
Fowler City Council: Mayor Pro-Tem Leonard Hammer, Councilmembers Karnig
Kazarian, and Mark Rodriquez
Mrs. Anna Cardenas
Fowler Unified School District - Interim Superintendent Lori Gonzales
Liz Gomez, Alexandra Hodoian, and Michael Rivera (Waste Management)
Erica Cabrera –PG&E
Max Anderson-Fowler Chamber of Commerce
Pastor Jesus Valencia - Vision Church

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It's my great pleasure to give you an update on City projects over the past year:

COMMERCIAL PROJECTS:

We are very excited about the new **Valley Children's/Adventist Health Medical Plaza**, that will be opening on June 1st. The 46,000 square foot facility has beautifully designed pediatric and adult medical offices, dental offices, and pharmacy and lab services. The project has attractive landscaping, park spaces and children's play areas. This project will bring about 60 new jobs to the City. An open house for the community is being scheduled.

The MaxCo packaging company has made great progress towards completion of their 300,000 square foot facility near Manning and Golden State Blvd. The project will create at least 30 new jobs for the community.

City staff is in the process of approving construction plans for a new 2,850 square foot **Jack in the Box** drive through restaurant near the southeast corner of South 10th Street. It's easy to see that business is booming for the new **Taco Bell restaurant** which opened last December.

The Buford Oil Company is finalizing the environmental review of their new truck and travel center project, to be located at their 19-acre property on Manning Avenue, between Highway 99 and Golden State. The project will include two fast food restaurants, a 24-hour restaurant, a multi-story hotel, a truck wash, and a tire and repair business. The project is expected to be approved by the Planning Commission in July 2019.

RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

Construction on the new Fresno Housing Authority project, **Magill Terrace**, at 401 E. Nelson Street, is almost complete. This project is a major improvement from the former old 20 unit apartments that were demolished last year. Magill Terrace has 60 attractively designed new units, and a swimming pool and poolhouse was added to the project. Residents will be moving in by the end of this month to enjoy their new homes and amenities.

Tract 5834 – K Hovnanian Homes, is building out the first phase of their subdivision, located at the northeast corner of South and Sunnyside Avenues. Home sizes will range from 1,694 to 2,800 square feet. The first phase includes 58 lots that are currently under construction.

The City Council and Planning Commission recently approved tentative maps for two new subdivision projects. **Sunshine Raisin - Tract No. 6188** will be a residential subdivision near Adams and Armstrong Avenues with 80 new homes to be built. The home sites will range from 10,000 to 16,000 square feet. Construction is planned to be underway next year.

R.J. Hill - Tract No. 5952 proposes construction of 143 new homes west of Sunnyside and south of South Avenues. Home sizes will range from 1,300 to 2,900 square feet, with a wide variety of attractive designs and styles. The project will begin in 2020 and completed by 2024.

The City recently completed the purchase of 8 acres of property east of Sunnyside and north of South Avenue, from Fowler Unified School District. The District owns adjoining property that will eventually become a new school site. The City is in the process of submitting a \$3million dollar grant application under the State's Proposition 68 Park Grant program, to develop the City's 8 acres into a future Sports Park. Several public meetings have been held with citizens, who have provided their input on the design and amenities for the future new park.

Long Range Planning

General Plan Update. The City's Planning Department has been making progress on updating the City General Plan, which dates back to 1976. They have conducted meetings and interviews with the City Council, Planning Commission, and various stakeholders to develop a plan for the future that will ensure that Fowler grows sensibly, and in a way that the community desires.

POPULATION UPDATE:

The State of California's new population estimate for the City is now: **6,605 residents.**

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

NEW FIRE STATION

- ◆ Over the past several years, the City worked hard to finalize the financial documents, design and construction plans, and bid process, to get our new fire station project underway. The groundbreaking ceremony was held in January, and since then there has been a buzz of construction activity on the property, with the foundation being poured this week. You will soon see a new building going up on the site on 5th and Main. We look forward to the ribbon cutting ceremony when the project is completed this fall. This project is partially funded by Utility Users Tax dollars, which has given our public safety departments some very important needs.
- ◆ With the use of Federal Transportation funds, the City recently finished construction and improvements to reconstruct Adams Avenue from Golden State Blvd. to 5th Street. The project included new paving, striping, curb and gutter and accessible sidewalks. Funding has been approved for the next phase of the project, which will extend from 5th to Merced Street. Funding for design work has been approved for the 3rd phase, which will be from Merced Street to Temperance.
- ◆ The City has applied for a Community Development Block Grant to build brand new, ADA accessible restrooms for Panzak Park. The project will begin in mid 2020. This will be a much needed improvement!

- ◆ Over the past year, the Public Works Department has installed several upgrades to four of the City's wellsites. They planted 30 trees and added seven new benches to Donny Wright Park, and have been focused on cleaning up and beautifying Golden State Boulevard.

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- ◆ Last November, the Fowler Voters approved a citizen initiated 1 percent District Sales Tax Measure for the benefit of the community. The additional sales tax is estimated to provide approximately \$950,000 annually. The City will be planning for a much needed new Police Station with a portion of these funds.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Fowler Police Department completed the 2018 year with a total of 1329 case numbers drawn and a total of 348 arrests, as the community experienced a 3.3% overall decrease in Part 1 crimes for 2018. The Chief feels this is a great accomplishment amidst the population growth fueled by new home subdivisions as well as new retail and medical construction and development that the City has experienced over the last year.

The department has also purchased a new Toyota Camry, currently being road tested to ensure its feasibility as a patrol unit alternative. Should the vehicle be able to meet the demands of our patrol functions, the Camry should offer up to a 20% savings in the departments' fuel and maintenance budget.

The department continues to place a great emphasis on school safety with increased patrols of the schools. More importantly our officers are making time to visit with students during recess and school events showing the importance of strengthening our relationships with the community, especially our youth. With that, the Fowler Police Department has worked with Fowler Unified School District to reestablish an Explorer Program as well as facilitate Active Shooter Training for School Staff as well as tactical training for our police officers.

SENIOR CENTER AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Edwin Blayney Senior Center offers a nutritional lunch program Monday through Friday for seniors age 60 and above. Wellness activities such as Zumba, crafts and everybody favorite - - - BINGO - - - is keeping everyone moving and active! They recently celebrated the 104th birthday of one of their Seniors!

The Fowler Recreation Department, is busy and ready to host: Fowler's Fabulous 4th of July, Fowler's Farmers Market, Trunk or Treat, Fowler's Christmas Tree Lighting and Children's Shopping Day. Fowler's Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Fest was a big success!

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In conclusion: The Fowler City Council and City staff are dedicated to keeping the Fowler community with the desirable, quality lifestyle that is enjoyed so much by our citizens. Our Departments are working hard to be more efficient and cost conscious, always looking for funding opportunities to provide more services, recreational opportunities, and enhanced facilities that our citizens want and need.

We are proud that major projects, such as the new Valley Children's Regional Medical Center, and our new Fire Station, have become a reality. We are also looking forward to planning well for future needs, such as a new police station. We are grateful to our citizens, who display community pride and give generous support to the City. Fowler has a very bright future ahead!