

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL
AND FOWLER PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
JULY 30, 2019**

Mayor/ Chairman Cardenas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p. m. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers/Directors Present: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Rodriguez

City/Authority Staff Present: City Manager/Executive Director Davis, Public Works Supervisor/Fire Chief Lopez, City Attorney Cross, Finance Director/Treasurer Uyeda, Police Officer Duron, City Planner Marple, Deputy City Clerk Burrola

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Joey Daggett Engineer for Bedrosian's 80-lot subdivision located at the corner of Adams and Armstrong Avenues said the plans are complete and the final map has been submitted to the City Engineer for review. He expressed that one of the conditions for the project is to dedicate 5 percent to open space (park) which equals to (4) - 15,000 square foot lots. He did some research and discovered that all of the newer subdivisions in the City do not have this condition placed as a requirement. He and the applicant, Brian Bedrosian, are requesting that this condition be waived as part of the project. Mayor Cardenas stated this would be a staff decision and suggested that he contact City staff regarding this project request and it could be brought back to the Council at a later time. City Manager Davis said it was discussed at an earlier staff meeting; they are looking into it and will get back to him with further information.

Paul Bedrosian, Fowler resident requested to be placed on the next City Council agenda for the first annual car show presented by the Chamber of Commerce for September 7, 2019 at St. Gregory's' Church.

PRESENTATION – PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATES

Lourdes Perez, Program Manager with Pubic Health Advocates, provided an overview on the update and progress of the Prop. 68 Statewide Parks Program application. Ms. Perez said Prop. 68 passed in 2018 allocating 4 billion dollars for park improvement and water infrastructure. Out of the four billion dollars 720 were allocated to support underserved communities. She mentioned that twelves cites throughout California are being supported and the City of Fowler is one of those twelve. In January 2019 community outreach workshops were conducted, community surveys were collected in person and online to gather information regarding interests, concerns, and how they could be addressed on park amenities and features. Danielle Claybon, Project Specialist, provided a presentation

on the community outreach workshops conducted in the City and the benefits and engagement process involved. Information was gathered from the workshops and KDI prepared basic site plans from the communities' feedback. The site plans were taken to mobile pop-ups in the City, Public Health advocates held community events to gather input on the concept plans. Ms. Perez summarized and explained the engagement results of the final features of the concept plan which were prioritized and voted on by the residents. The final concept plan will be submitted along with the application if the resolution is adopted by the Council. The grant scope for the entire project totaled to \$6,425,000 which includes a 15% contingency. Ms. Perez said the CEQA compliance is currently pending; a placeholder will be submitted with the application packet indicating the City will comply with the CEQA analysis once the project is awarded which would begin in January 2020. The Resolution is authorizing the City to pursue the grant funding for Prop 68 and authorizing City Manager Davis as the representative for the City to sign the application. If awarded the City is committed for operation and maintenance of the project for thirty years. Mayor Cardenas asked where the City currently stands compared to the other eleven cities being supported on the project. Ms. Perez stated the application deadline is August 5, 2019 and all the other cities are ready to submit their applications. Ms. Perez expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to work with the City and being able to provide and support the community. The Mayor opened the discussion for public comments on the matter. Mayor Cardenas thanked Ms. Perez and the agency for providing information and support to the community on the park project.

Councilmember Rodriquez made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2436, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler, County of Fresno Approving the Application for Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Grant Funds", seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

CONSIDER/APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BUDGETS

Finance Director Uyeda provided an overview of the City's proposed general and water fund budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the budget for the Fowler Public Financing Authority. He said the City is still in the process of closing fiscal year 2018-19 and various adjustments are still to be recorded. There are actual expenses pertaining to 2018 in 2019 that will need to be pushed back to fiscal year 2017-18 as the audit nears completion. Mr. Uyeda said he is confident that the adjustments to the General Fund will end in a positive for both fiscal year 2018 and 2019. Fiscal year 2020's budget will be left at status quo, based on this review of last year's operating costs. He said he was approached by a couple of councilmembers about reinstating all the holidays along with a 2% COLA increase for full-time employees, which has been included in the budget. He mentioned Sally Tripp, USDA, inspected the fire station project and everything is looking good. There have been some concerns on having glass doors placed for the project, the City Engineer and the contractor are looking at other options to replace them, and this will save the City money. Councilmember Kazarian asked if the grant funding received for ground water GSP prep was included under other reimbursements, and how much is showing on what is received to date. Mr. Uyeda said it's covered under the general ground water fund. He said a grant was approved for the new GPS development and the

City covered the costs. He asked Mr. Uyeda to look into the grants funded for this project along with other grant projects projected in the budget in order to reconcile the costs. He also had some concerns on the district tax funding covering transfer costs for the Police Department. Another general concern is the salary and benefits' year after year showing an increase of about 11 percent and the general fund is decreasing by 4 to 5 percent. Mr. Uyeda stated the City wants to keep their employees and the City's salary schedule is equivalent to other cities and most of the City's employees are at top salary step. Mayor Cardenas opened the discussion for public comments on the matter before considering adoption of the resolutions. There were no comments from the public.

City of Fowler

Councilmember Parra made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2437, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler, County of Fresno, State of California, Adopting the City Annual Budget and Appropriating Revenue of the City of 2019-2020 Fiscal Year", seconded by Councilmember Rodriquez. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2438, "A Resolution of the City Council of Fowler, County of Fresno, State of California, Establishing the Appropriation Limit for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Pursuant to Article XIII B of California Constitution" seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Hammer. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Fowler Public Financing Authority

Vice-Chair/Mayor Pro Tem Hammer made a motion to adopt Resolution No. PFA 2019-01, "A Resolution of the Fowler Public Financing Authority, County of Fresno, State of California, Adopting the Financing Authority Annual Budget and Appropriating Revenue of the Agency for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year", seconded by Director/ Councilmember Rodriquez. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

DISCUSSION REGARDING HONORARY STREET NAMING

City Manager Davis said she was approached by Jessie Hudgins, representative of the Valley Children's/Adventist Health Clinic, with a request to place the honorary street name of Leon S. Peters Boulevard on 10th Street, south of Merced Street. This is due to Leon Peters having a strong connection to the Fowler community and his foundation has provided significant investment to the newly built clinic. Ms. Davis said she wanted to bring the subject of honorary street naming to the Council for discussion in the event the Council may want to grant the request, since there will likely be a number of similar requests with Fowler having a history of many beloved individuals who have contributed to the community over the years. She recommended that a policy and process for honorary street naming be developed.

Ms. Davis said that honorary street name signs are posted above standard city street name signs, and are intended to recognize and honor certain individuals or groups without changing the official name of the street or the addresses of residences and businesses on the street. Staff researched the topic and received information and policies from other cities. She noted that developing a policy would require a deliberative process, as there are numerous factors and variables that would need to be considered. Some of them include: Who would initiate and have input on the process; which streets would be eligible; would only the name of an individual be considered, or would community groups, organizations, and businesses be included. Would a certain percentage of property owners need to be in favor; would it be allowed for living individuals or limited to a posthumous honor. Would it be based on a certain length of community service, or a certain level of monetary donations to the community or to a specific project, and so + forth.

Councilmember Rodriquez expressed his opposition on the idea, saying it would complicate and create issues due to the possibility of many requests to honor an individual. Councilmember Kazarian expressed that it would be a good opportunity to honor and recognize certain individuals in the community, but to limit the number of honorary street names allowed per year according to policy restrictions. It would also be an opportunity to increase the aesthetic charm of the community. Councilmember Parra said that it would create difficulties in determining who would be eligible for the honor, especially when weighing in with the citizens who live on those streets, and other criteria. Mayor Cardenas said that the idea brought back the time when many similar considerations for the Veterans Monument project had to be decided, and how difficult it was. The consensus of the council was not to move forward with honorary street naming and to table the discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember/Director Rodriquez made a motion, seconded by Vice- Chair/Mayor Pro Tem Hammer to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.