

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 7, 2020**

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

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

City Staff Present: City Manager/City Clerk Davis, City Attorney Cross, Police Chief Alcaraz, Public Works Director Dominguez, City Engineer Peters, 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.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**To Consider Supplemental Action Related to the Sunnyside-South Southwest Reorganization**

City Attorney Cross said this is a housekeeping item related to the RJ Hill Tract No. 5952. On May 7, 2019 the City Council took several actions to approve a proposal from RJ Hill to subdivide, prezone, and initiate annexation of lands associated with Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 5952 which LAFCo's approval is required. Resolution No. 2429 requests that Fresno LAFCo undertake proceedings for the Sunnyside South Southwest Reorganization which consists of annexation to the City of Fowler and the Selma-Kingsburg Fowler County Sanitation District (SKF) and detachment from the Consolidated Irrigation District and the Fresno County Fire Protection District. Upon annexation from the City, the land must also detach from the Kings River Conservation District (KRCD) which staff inadvertently omitted from the resolution. In order to move the project forward, the City must request that LAFCo detach the project site from KRCD. The attached resolution will serve as a supplement to Resolution No. 2429 and will be submitted to LAFCo with the application process.

The Mayor opened the duly noticed public hearing on the matter at 7:06 p.m. The public hearing closed at 7:07 p.m.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2456, " A Supplemental Resolution Before the City Council of the City of Fowler County of Fresno, State of California Requesting that the Local Agency Formation Commission Undertake Proceedings for the Sunnyside-South Southwest Reorganization", seconded by Councilmember Rodriquez. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

## **PRESENTATION: VOTER'S CHOICE ACT UPDATE**

Brandi Orth, County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, shared information about the Voters Choice Act., which Fresno County Elections is in the process of converting to. Voters will have more days, more ways to vote. The conversion will be effective beginning with the March 2020 election. All registered voters will automatically receive Vote-by-Mail ballots. Vote Centers and drop boxes will be located in every incorporated City and ballots can be dropped off at any Vote Center.

Vote Centers will be open for 4 days and ten Vote Centers will be open for 11 days, including weekends. The Fresno County Fowler Library will be designated as a Vote Center and will be open for four days, and a drop box will be placed in front of the City Hall building. Ms. Orth said they are actively using social media platforms to communicate with voters. Additional information is provided on the website at [www.votefresnocounty.com](http://www.votefresnocounty.com).

Mayor Pro-Tem Hammer made a motion to Approve Resolution No. 2457, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler, California, in Support of the Voter's Choice Act", seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

## **PRESENTATION: FOWLER IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

Shelly Cooper and Jan Kinney, FIA members, gave a brief historical background on the FIA building. She said the building was built in 1910; the building is in need of repairs. They are currently in the process of applying for a grant to restore the building. Architects and structural engineers have looked at the building; the building currently has a swamp cooler causing roof damage, among other repairs that need attention. Dr. Arambula and Senator Anna Caballero are planning a visit to see the building. It was suggested the FIA members look into online funding sites.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Davis said Council has been invited to attend the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Blossom Trail Ceremony, Friday, February 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in Orange Cove. The Council received an invitation to the City of San Joaquin's Centennial Gala in February.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

City Engineer Peters said he is currently working on submitting application grants for various projects, one of which is putting in a right hand turn lane at Merced and 7<sup>th</sup> Street to prevent congestion of traffic. He said he also submitted grant applications for several road maintenance projects. He said the design for the Panzak park restrooms is underway.

Mr. Peters provided an update on the completion of the new fire station; there were some delays, but completion is scheduled for mid to late February.

Councilmember Kazarian asked Mr. Peters if he looked into costs for restoring the City's water tower. Mr. Peters said he did look into the costs the cost estimated from \$125,000 to \$150,000. He recommended structural support in addition to the wrapping.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Davis said the Planning Commission will be having a special public hearing, Thursday, January 9, 2020, to consider approval of Conditional Use Permit Application for the Buford Travel Center.

She said the City's Planning department is working on an item for possibly the January 21<sup>st</sup> Council meeting on new housing laws.

### **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Public Works Director Dominguez said the fencing has been completed and the sign is ready for the dog park at Donny Wright Park. They are currently waiting for the contractor to supply the trees.

Mr. Dominguez said many potholes have formed on the streets due to the recent storms. They have been patching potholes along Golden State Boulevard and Manning Avenue and will continue throughout the City. He said minor sidewalk repairs have been performed on Merced Street near the Presbyterian Church. The four-way signal light for Adams and Merced Avenue has been ordered and will be installed later this month.

Councilmember Kazarian asked if the sidewalk that was repaired in front of the Presbyterian Church was City labor or City funded. Mr. Dominguez said it was an in house budget repair. Councilmember Kazarian said there are sidewalks in the City needing repairs, he said he would like a sidewalk policy for cost sharing and having consistency throughout the City for sidewalk repairs.

### **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Police Chief Alcaraz said he was notified by Finance Director Uyeda that he contacted auctioneers to have a look at the items left in the Grange Hall and the Church.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Police Chief Alcaraz said the City recently experienced a homicide involving three victims; the suspect was identified and is currently in custody.

He said a Public Safety Forum is scheduled for Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fowler City Hall Council Chambers; discussion will be on public safety infrastructure, crime prevention technologies and strategies, and community enhancement.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Fire Chief Lopez circulated the Emergency Call Report for the month of November.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

No report was given.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – January 7, 2020; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting – December 3, 2019; C) Consider Approving Staff's Recommendation to Reject Late Claim Application – Jennie Klapperich, Claimant, vs. City of Fowler; C) Approve Resolution No. 2458, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Approving Development and Planning Fees for 2020"

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hammer said the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2020; Spring Fest will be April 18, 2020.

Councilmember Kazarian said the GSP passed; they are in the second phase and are working closely to identify different ground water recharge basin locations.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting adjourned to a closed session at 8:23 p.m.:

City Attorney Cross said item No. 3 will not be discussed in closed session.

1. 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.
2. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 - Conference with Real Property Negotiators: Property: 119 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Agency Negotiators: City Manager. Negotiating Party: Alex Sheriffs and Joan Rubinstein. Under Negotiation: Price, terms.
3. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation Name of Case: City of Fowler v. The Dow Chemical Co. et al. San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC – 18-567967

Mayor Cardenas left the closed session at 8:30 p.m. due to a conflict of interest due to owning property near the subject of closed session item No. 1.

The Council reconvened into open session at 8:33 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 8:34 p.m.