

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 3, 2019**

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

Councilmembers Present: Hammer, Kazarian, Parra

Councilmembers Absent: Cardenas, Rodriquez

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

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

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Suzie Rico-Vasquez, Fowler resident and employee with the Fresno County Public Health Advocates said she submitted an application to California Walks. The Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Training (CPBST) program is a joint project of UC Berkeley SafeTREC and California Walks. The CPBST includes training and skill building in pedestrian and bicycle safety and creates opportunities for collaboration among communities, local officials, and residents. The goal is to help make communities safer and more pleasant for walking and biking. A grant was awarded to the City to perform a walk and bike audit.

Marlon Dick, Fowler resident, said he has been attending monthly meetings at the Fresno County Registrar of Voters Office. He said starting in March 2020; you have 3 choices for how to vote: by mail, drop box, or vote center, 10 vote centers will be open for 11 days and 40 vote centers will be open for 4 days including weekends. He said Fowler may likely have a voter center located at the Fresno County Library in the City.

**SPECIAL RECONGNITION**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hammer presented certificates of recognition to five elementary students from Fowler. They were honored and recognized for their hand work to raise funds by selling lemonade.

Karina Cleveland, Gavin Martin, McKenna Garcia, Delilah Ayon, and Audrina Ayon raised \$3200 and decided to use the money to support the Fowler Senior Citizens Center and Kids Closet at Marshall Elementary School.

**FOWLER COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE PLAN 2019 – TREE FRESNO**

City Manager Davis introduced Mona Cummings, Lee Ayres, and Bruce O’Neal from Tree Fresno. Mona Cummings, CEO with Tree Fresno provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Fowler Community Landscapes Plan. Ms. Cummings said the overall purpose of the Community Landscapes Plan is to reduce emission, and increase the absorption of greenhouse gases and to improve the environment with tress and green vegetation.

There were two community events that took place at Sutter Middle School which included input from the community.

A consultant team used their expertise to provide knowledge into the landscape plan. The Fowler Community Landscapes Plan will build upon the legacy of trees in the San Joaquin Valley's environment history and result in cleaner air; thanks to the larger tree canopy, less asphalt, and more public open space, greenways and beautiful landscapes. Ms. Cummings said Fresno County communities are currently at 10% urban tree canopy coverage, the average for the State of California is 15%, studies show that 25% to 35% is where we need to be. Trees planted along transportation thoroughfares will not only filter pollutants from the air, but also mitigate noise pollution from passing automobiles and trains, thereby improving environmental conditions for Fowler residents. Planting the right trees in the right places in the future will build upon Fowler's agricultural history. Ms. Cummings said a resolution has been submitted for approval for the acceptance of the document and to approve forwarding to staff and general plan consultants for consideration.

Bruce O'Neal, Chair of the Board with Tree Fresno, said they worked with Fresno COG on this project and they intend to present it to the COG policy board. Lee Ayres, former CEO, with Tree Fresno presented this plan last year.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2452, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler County of Fresno, State of California Accepting the City of Fowler Community Landscapes Plan", seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Hammer, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Cardenas, Rodriquez.

## **COMMUNINCATIONS**

City Manager Davis said the Christmas Tree Lighting event is Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. to dusk and the Children's Shopping Day is Saturday, December 14, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **CITY ENGINNER'S REPOT**

City Engineer Peters said the applicant, K. Hovanian CA Land Holding, LLC is proposing to develop a 74 lot subdivision. The subdivision is in the second phase approved under TTM 5834 in 2007. The applicant has complied with condition of approval of the approved tentative map. The applicant has submitted the public improvement plans and the final map to the City, both of which have been reviewed and approved by the City Engineer. Following acceptance of this map by the City, the City Engineer shall deliver the final map to the Fresno County Recorder.

Councilmember Parra made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2453, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Approving Final Tract Map No. 6259 and Accepting Street Dedications and Easements", seconded by Councilmember Kazarian. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Hammer, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Cardenas, Rodriquez.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Davis said City staff is currently busy working with current development projects.

## **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Public Works Director Dominguez said the Christmas decorations are up and the Christmas tree is currently being set up.

He said cleanup has been completed on southbound Golden State Blvd. between Adams and Manning Avenues.

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Finance Director Uyeda said as discussed and approved in previous Council meeting, he proposed to enroll the City into the Fresno County Teeter Program, where the City receives all property taxes billed on a fixed schedule rather than collected. He recommends the Council approve the resolution requesting the Fresno County Board of Supervisors authorize the Fresno County Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector to apportion property taxes to the City of Fowler according to the Teeter Plan.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2454, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Requesting Inclusion into the Alternative Method of Property Tax Distribution Known as the Teeter Plan", seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Hammer, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Cardenas, Rodriquez.

## **Approval of Purchase of Water Meter Reader/Transmitters**

Finance Director Uyeda said the City installed a new water meter reading system due to equipment failure. The new system features the ability to read water meters and transmit data directly via cell phone to the City's water usage/billing system without having to come into the office. Each device costs \$2,650 and he is recommending the purchase of 3 totaling \$8,663.51. The cell phones are free and would only cost the City the minimum monthly usage fee.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve the purchase of Water Meter Readers/Transmitters, seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Hammer, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Cardenas, Rodriquez.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Police Chief Alcaraz said the department received a \$500 donation from an anonymous donor for the Explorer Program. He said on November 22, 2019 the Explorers were taken to the Museum of Tolerance.

He mentioned the department will be hosting "Coffee with a Cop" on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. to 10: a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Fowler Starbucks.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

No report was given.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

No report was given.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – December 3, 2019; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting and City Council Meeting – November 19, 2019; C) Approve Resolution No. 2454, “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler in the Matter of Federal Transportation Project Selection and Implementing Timely Use of Funding”

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve consent calendar items B, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Hammer. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Hammer, Kazarian. Noes: None. Abstain: Parra. Absent: Cardenas, Rodriquez.

Councilmember Parra made a motion to approve consent calendar items A and C, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Hammer, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Cardenas, Rodriquez.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hammer said he attended the Sikh Parade; attendance was low due to the rain. The Christmas Tree Lighting is scheduled for Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> rain or shine.

Councilmember Kazarian attended the Sikh Parade. He said he met with the representative of the Danish American Museum to look at sites for the proposed project.

Councilmember Parra attended the Sikh Parade.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting adjourned to a closed session at 8:05 p.m. pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 - Conference with Real Property Negotiators: 130 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Agency Negotiators: City Manager. Negotiating Party: United Health Centers. Under Negotiation: Price, terms.

The Council reconvened into open session at 8:14 p.m. with no reportable action taken.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Councilmember Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.