

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 17, 2020**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:13 p. m. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra

Councilmembers Absent: Rodriquez

City Staff Present: City Manager/City Clerk Davis, City Attorney Cross, Police Chief Alcaraz, Public Works Director Dominguez, City Planner, Marple, Finance Director Uyeda, 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.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Davis said she received a phone call from Liz Gomez with Waste Management; they are currently having issues with telecommunications during this difficult COVID-19 situation. If there are any urgent issues, calls can be directed to Ms. Gomez.

Deputy City Clerk Burrola reminded Council to submit their FPPC 700 forms before the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**PUBLIC MEETING TO CONSIDER ACCEPTING THE 2018 AND 2019 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOWLER GENERAL PLAN HOUSING ELEMENT**

City Planner Marple provided background and project description of the 2018 and 2019 progress report of the Fowler General Plan Housing Element. She said Government Code 65400 requires that cities provide an annual report to the City Council, the Office of Planning and Research, and the Departments of Housing and Community Development. The Housing Development is an important State-mandated requirement of the General Plan. The Housing Element establishes comprehensive goals, policies, and programs to meet a jurisdiction's share of Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA).

Ms. Maple said the City of Fowler is a member of the Fresno County Council of Governments (Fresno COG), which is composed of the 15 cities and the unincorporated areas for Fresno County. Fresno COG is responsible for distributing the RHNA to the local governments through an allocation methodology that is consistent with development and growth patterns. The City of Fowler's RHNA for the current eight-year projections period from December 2015 through December 2023 is 524 housing units and is equivalent to an annual production rate of 66 units.

Staff has prepared the 2018 and 2019 Annual Housing Element Progress Reports (attached) describing the City's progress towards meeting its RHNA and progress towards implementing the programs outlined in the MJHE.

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the attached resolutions accepting the 2018 and 2019 Annual Progress Reports for the 2015-2023 Housing Element as required by Government Code Section 65400.

Councilmember Parra made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2459, "A Resolution before the City Council of the City of Fowler County of Fresno, State of California Accepting the 2018 Housing Element Annual Progress Report", seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Hammer. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Rodriquez.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hammer made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2460, "A Resolution before the City Council of the City of Fowler County of Fresno, State of California Accepting the 2019 Housing Element Annual Progress Report", seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Rodriquez

#### **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2020-02**

Public Works Director Dominguez said the ordinance includes some necessary amendments to existing code sections, and a new Chapter addressing the leash free dog area rules/regulations.

Councilmember Parra made a motion to waive the first reading and approve Ordinance No. 2020-02, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Fowler Amending Section 6-1.306 and 10-1.05 of the Fowler Municipal Code Pertaining to Animals at Large, and Adding Chapter 2 to Title 10 Creating Leach Free Dog Park Area Regulations", seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Hammer. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Rodriquez.

#### **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2020-01**

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to waive the second reading and adopt Ordinance No. 2020-01, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Fowler Amending Section 7-1.05 of Chapter 1 of Title 7 of the Fowler Municipal Code Pertaining to Authorized Street Trees for Planting", seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Hammer. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Rodriquez.

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

City Manager Davis said in conjunction with the tree list, Tree Fresno will be scheduling a special event on Arbor Day to feature the tree planting of the 10<sup>th</sup> street ponding basin.

Ms. Davis thanked City department heads for working hard and thinking of ways to protect the City during the pandemic.

She said during this time, the Senior Center is closed, Yvonne Hernandez, Senior Center Coordinator, has had many people reach out to assist in delivering meals, provide groceries and activities to the Seniors of Fowler.

## **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Public Works Director Dominguez said Public Works staff had COVID-19 training today. During this time, the Public Works Department will continue essential maintenance of the water distribution system, maintenance of critical infrastructure and respond to all emergencies as they arise.

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Finance Director Uyeda said there has been a significant reduction in traffic and general business which will have an adverse effect on sales taxes. Although the City has sufficient reserves to handle the situation, we have taken the additional step of implementing a new policy that any and all expenditures greater than \$2,500 must be pre-approved.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Police Chief Alcaraz circulated the DOJ Part 1 Crime statistics for the month of February 2020.

Chief Alcaraz said the department is taking extra precautions regarding the pandemic. He said the department is prepared and they have some procedures in place, they are prepared to offer services by providing extra patrol.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Fire Chief Lopez circulated the Fire Department activity report for the month of February 2020. There has been an increase of medical calls.

He said the fire department had additional training on Saturday for first responders who anticipate close contact with persons with confirmed or possible COVID-19.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

### **Consider Approval of Electrical Facilities Undergrounding Agreement – Maxco Supply, Inc.**

City Attorney Cross said three years ago the Maxco Project was approved and conditions of approval were provided. The conditions of approval for the development clearly required that all on-site utilities must be underground. In June 2020, the City received a request from the applicant to approve the overhead poles and to provide service overhead due to servicing scheduling with PG&E. The City temporarily approved the overhead provisions for those electrical services with the understanding that we come back for an agreement later with a short time period in which the applicant will still have to meet the conditions.

The agreement provides for the applicant to complete the underground electrical service and remove the overhead power poles within 1-year from the date a certificate of occupancy is issued. Mr. Cross said it also requires a \$105,000 surety bond or letter of credit to protect against disruptions or financial loss due to the contractor's failure to complete the project.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve the electrical facilities underground agreement with Maxco Supply, Inc. for SPR 14-05 project, and authorize City Manager to sign agreement, seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – March 17, 2020; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting and City Council Meeting – March 3, 2020; C) Approve Proposed Tree Planting List in Standard Drawings M-13 of the City Standards and Specifications.

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Cardenas said he received notifications from SKF that the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Selma Kingsburg and Fowler joint Chamber of Commerce Mixer has been canceled.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hammer said all recreation events for the City have been postponed until further notice.

Councilmember Kazarian said he met with the leadership of the Danish American Museum and toured the Adventist Health building. It was discussed to possibly section off a small portion of the building for a future museum.

### **Discussion: Economic Development Committee**

Councilmember Kazarian said the City needs to consider forming an Economic Development Committee to improve the economic wellbeing and quality of life of the community. He would like to further discuss in a future meeting the consideration of forming a Committee, whether it should be a formal committee, subject to the Brown Act.

A discussion took place and the Council's consensus was to table the discussion and to place it on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Mayor Pro-Tem Hammer made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Parra to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.