

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 19, 2020**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:01 p. m. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Kazarian, Hammer and Parra (via Telephone)

Councilmembers Absent: Rodriquez

City Staff Present: City Manager/City Clerk Davis, City Attorney Cross, Public Works Director Dominguez

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Blake Carpenter, United Health Center, said UHC is partnering with the City of Fowler to conduct COVID-19 testing at no cost to the City's residents. Testing will be done at Untied Health Center, 106 E. Main Street, Fowler by calling 800-492-4227 prior to testing.

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2466

City Engineer Peters said on May 5, 2020 the City Council passed a Resolution of Intent, approving the Engineer's report for the Landscaping and Storm Drainage Facilities Maintenance District, set the public hearing for May 19, 2020, and authorized proceedings for the annual levy and collections of assessments. In addition to receiving public comments staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution setting the assessments and instruct the City Engineer to transmit the assessments to the Assessor's office for fiscal year 2020-2021.

Mayor Cardenas opened the public hearing for any public comments at 7:12 p.m. There were no public comments, the public hearing closed at 7:12 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Hammer made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2466, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler, California Confirming Diagram and Assessment Annual Levy – 2020-21 Landscaping and Storm Drainage Facilities Maintenance District No. 1", seconded by Councilmember Kazarian. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Rodriquez.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

COVID-19 Update and Discussion

City Manager Davis said Raul Gonzalez and David Pomaville, from the County of Fresno Department of Public Health have reached out to the City and they have had weekly discussions on COVID-19 issues and updates. Ms. Davis said they are attending via teleconference tonight to provide information and answer any questions on the reopening process.

David Pomaville, Director of Public Health, said the department has been communicating weekly with City government agencies. Mr. Pomaville stated there is a lot of confusion on reopening businesses during this pandemic. On March 19, 2020, the California State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health ordered all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence, which closed most of the schools and most work places, except for essential needs as needed to maintain continuity of operation of the federal critical infrastructure sectors.

On May 4 the state announced some retailers - clothing stores, florists, and bookshops - will be allowed to reopen with curbside pickup and physical distancing. Associated manufacturing and supply chains for those retail businesses will also be able to get back to work.

As of May 8, the stay home order was modified. We are now in the first phase of **Stage 2**. This means in addition to essential activity, curbside retail is allowed, along with the infrastructure to support it. Moving deeper into the governor's second phase of reopening allows eateries to host in-restaurant dining and permits shopping malls to open. A question has been brought up on allowing fireworks stands; Mr. Pomaville expressed concerns on how the firework stands operate and the safety of the public.

Raul Gonzalez, Fresno County Department of Public Health, said he has been meeting with the City Manager and Fire Chief weekly to provide current status on any new data. He said the City showed six totaled confirmed cases, one has recovered, leaving five open cases remaining in the City.

Ms. Davis said that EOC will be providing the Summer Lunch Program for kids starting June 8th.

She said the City received several thousand disposable masks donated by Central California Community Foundation. She also mentioned that the City was able to participate today with Fowler Unified School District's cap and gown pick up.

Ms. Davis expressed her gratitude to India Express, who provided a luncheon last Tuesday, in appreciation, of the City of Fowler staff.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Approval of Sidewalk Repair Agreement

Public Works Director Dominguez spoke on the Sidewalk Repair Agreement stating that the agreement had not been implemented due to the issues of costs and the property owners' responsibility of maintaining the sidewalk. Mr. Dominguez said the City is willing to share in the costs of the project for necessary repairs by providing the labor and covering any associated costs for the necessary repairs, provided that the property owner pays for the cost of material for the necessary repairs.

City Manager Davis said recently it's been a goal of the City Council to bring back the sidewalk repair program. She said the City Attorney went through and revised the agreement. Ms. Davis said the City now has staffing and have hired individuals who can actually perform the sidewalk repairs.

Councilmember Kazarian said he's pleased that the agreement was brought to the Council but expressed his concerns on the language not being clear on tree removal and grinding of the tree stump, and asked if the City will be covering the costs for grinding the tree, or will it be on a case by case basis. He suggested that the language is necessary that the City would be covering the cost to a certain level of grinding without the full removal of the tree. Mayor Cardenas said it should be clarified whether the cost will be covered by the City or the property owner.

City Attorney Cross said the language can be amended to state, "Owner is responsible for and shall pay all costs of tree removal as part of the Project, including labor, equipment, materials, and the costs of an arborist whether such work is performed by City's own forces or a contractor(s). If it is determined that a tree need not be removed as part of the Project, but some other less invasive means such as grinding the tree roots is available to address the damaged sidewalk, such work shall be performed at the City's cost, including the labor, equipment, materials and the costs of an arborist for any such tree maintenance not including tree removal".

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve the City's Sidewalk Repair agreement as amended, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hammer. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Rodriquez.

Approve Proclamation Recognizing May 17-23, 2020 as "National Public Works Week"

Public Works Director Dominguez said National Public Works Week is a celebration of thousands of men and woman in North America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as Public Works. National Public Works Week is observed each year during the third full week of May. Through NPWW it is to raise the public's awareness of public works issues and to increase confidence in public works employees who are dedicated to improve the quality of life for present and future generations.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve proclamation recognizing May 17-23, 2020 as "National Public Works Week", seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hammer. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Rodriquez.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Finance Director Uyeda was not present but did provide a nine month financial summary and important notes on the COVID-19 situation regarding the City's budget.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Alcaraz was not present but did provide the DOJ Part 1 Crime statistics for the month of March 2020.

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 – May 19, 2020; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting – May 5, 2020.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Hammer said he spoke with Recreation Coordinator, Yvonne Hernandez; she is waiting to hear on the Governor's directions for 4th of July event.

He said she has been visiting other local cities on how they are handling their Farmer's Market event during this pandemic.

Councilmember Parra expressed his gratitude to Fresno EOC for their food drive they provide on Wednesday, they'll continue to provide for the food drive every first Wednesday of the month.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Hammer made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.