

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 15, 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, Finance Director Uyeda, Public Works Director Dominguez, Peters, Fire Chief Lopez, Senior Coordinator Hernandez, Deputy City Clerk Burrola

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Patic Jones, Fowler resident, had a question as to why the City's fire department did not respond in assisting the current wild fire at Big Creek.

Fire Chief Lopez responded to Mr. Jones' question. He said he denied the request due to the length of time the volunteer firefighters will need to attend due to them having full time jobs and other responsibilities. Chief Lopez said they are assisting in covering the remaining cities for fire calls.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2020-05**

City Manager Davis said this ordinance streamlines the City's truck routes to minimize widespread deterioration of the local road system as a result of heavy truck traffic and to minimize traffic hazards and nuisance factors on streets adjacent to schools, residential parcels, parks and other areas not particularly compatible with heavy truck traffic. The ordinance has been amended to eliminate nineteen of the twenty three truck routes in the City including Adams Avenue.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to waive the second reading and approve Ordinance No. 2020-05, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Fowler Amending Sections 4-4.601 and 4-4.602 of the Municipal Code Relating to Changes in Designated Truck Routes within the City of Fowler", seconded by Councilmember Rodriquez. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

## **City Manager's Report**

### **COVID-19 Update: Great Plates Update and Restaurant Seating Area Discussion**

City Manager Davis provided an update on the current COVID-19 cases in the City; there are 231 total cases, 216 closed and 2 deaths, leaving 15 open cases remaining in the City.

She said Finance Director Uyeda and Senior Coordinator, Yvonne Hernandez will be providing an update on the Great Plates Program. Finance Director Uyeda said FEMA is offering a food program known as the "Great Plates" for eligible seniors' food to be provided by local vendors' and managed by the City. Mr. Uyeda said the program requirements and procedures are lengthy. In order to be eligible, senior citizens must be at high risk or unable to provide for themselves. Three meals are provided per day at a total cost of \$66.00; the City advances the funds and receives reimbursement as follows: FEMA 75%, State 18.75%, and the balance of 6.25% are the City's responsibility. He said the City of Sanger is currently the only city utilizing this program since March 2020. At this time the City of Sanger has not yet received any reimbursement and has accepted the fact that reimbursement may not happen until next year. Councilmember Kazarian asked how many participants the City currently has. He said he was provided with about 12 to 15 participants during the last meeting.

Senior Coordinator Hernandez joined via teleconference and said the City is currently serving forty seniors. Out of the forty, there are seven plus the two Councilmember Kazarian provided totaling to nine seniors that would qualify for the Great Plates program. Ms. Hernandez said the program has requirements in order to qualify and the City must certify their eligibility. Councilmember Kazarian expressed that he would like to move forward with the current total of seniors to participate in the program and add more participants as the program continues month to month. Councilmember Parra suggested continuing to talk to the restaurant owners and see if other restaurants would like to participate. A discussion took place on the participating restaurants and the guidelines to participate. The consensus of the Council is to direct staff to move forward in the participation of the program.

### **Restaurant Seating Area Discussion**

City Manager Davis said during the last meeting, Council agreed to postpone the additional second seating area and bring it back to the Council for further discussion. Councilmember Kazarian addressed the chain of events that transpired during that last meeting. A discussion arose on whether or not the restaurant owners were in favor of the second seating enclosure. Mayor Cardenas said during the last meeting it was agreed to postpone the second seating enclosure in order to see if there was enough funds in the budget.

## **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Public Works Director Dominguez said he is preparing a State Water meter grant opportunity to present for the next Council meeting. He said the water meters will be replaced if the grant is approved. This will eliminate issues that are currently happening with the water meters and inconsistent billing cycles. Mr. Dominguez stated that he is making sure that this issue is a priority and he is working on correcting it.

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **Discussion/Direction on Cares Act Funding Allocation**

Finance Director Uyeda said the Federal Government issued COVID financial assistance to the States to offset the fiscal impact of the Covid-19 virus. The State decided that only major metropolitan cities would receive a portion of the funds. He said the City of Fowler's allocation is \$79,688 this is issued in 6 monthly installments that began July 31, 2020.

Initially the only expenditure that was fully authorized was Public Safety. He said the City had not received the full \$79,688 and the City was in limbo on what the State would approve. Instead the City decided to advance some funding in hopes that said expenditures would meet State expectations or be covered by the still to be distributed CDBG CARES funding. He said none of the funds were used to offset the shortfall in City Sales Tax Revenues. Mr. Uyeda attached a report showing current and anticipated costs related to the \$79,688. He said the March 2020 to June 2021 projection was requested by the State in hopes of obtaining additional CARES funding.

Councilmember Kazarian said if the second area seating enclosure has already been allocated in the report plus what the Chamber of Commerce contributed this would cover the costs for the second enclosure, he expressed that the City can now move forward with the enclosure. Mayor Cardenas thanked Mr. Uyeda for providing the information and expressed the importunacy on where the funds are being distributed. A discussion took place on the current and anticipated costs related to the allotment amount funded. The consensus of the Council is to move forward with the second outdoor seating enclosure and to utilize the CARES funding allotments provided.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Police Chief Alcaraz said he is sending available officers to the Big Creek fire to assist with law enforcement services.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Fire Chief Lopez provided information on year to date call statistics.

He provided additional information on the current situation regarding the Big Creek fire.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

No report was given.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – September 15, 2020, 2020; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting – September 1, 2020; C) Adoption of Resolution No. 2477, “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler in the Matter of Approving A CalPERS Industrial Disability Retirement”; D) Adoption of Resolution No. 2478, “A Resolution of the Fowler City Council Accepting Tract 5834 Improvements”

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No reports were given.

The meeting adjourned to a closed session at 8:22 p.m.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 - Public Employee Performance Evaluation  
- Title: City Manager

The Council reconvened into open session at 8:41 p.m. with no reportable action taken.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Councilmember Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Rodriquez to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.