

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL AND
FOWLER PUBLIC AUTHORITY JOINT MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2020**

Mayor/Chairman Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:02 p. m. Roll call was taken.

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

City/PFA Staff Present: City Manager/City Clerk Davis, Finance
Director/Treasurer Uyeda, City Attorney Cross, Police
Chief Alcaraz, Public Works Director Dominguez, Fire
Chief Lopez, City Planner Marple, Senior/ Recreation
Coordinator Hernandez, Deputy City Clerk Burrola

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Patric Jones, Fowler resident said he was approached by several individuals who would like to donate to the new fire station. He asked if Help Furnish Fowler's Fire House 48 on Facebook is City based. Melissa Squeo, Fowler resident, addressed Mr. Jones' question. She said she is in charge of the fundraiser for the new fire station and he can contact her with any donations.

Accept/Approve Donation for the New Fowler Fire Station in the Amount of \$5,000 – Fowler Packing Company

City Manager Davis said the City received a request from Fowler Packing Company wanting to donate to the new Fowler Fire Station in the amount of \$5,000. Ross Parnagian, Fowler Packing Company joined via teleconference.

The Council thanked Mr. Parnagian and the Parnagian family for the donation to the new fire station.

Councilmember/Director Kazarian made a motion to accept the donation for the new Fowler Fire Station in the amount of \$5,000 from Fowler Packing Company, seconded by Councilmember/Director Rodriquez. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Kazarian, Rodriquez, Cardenas, Hammer, and Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing to Consider Zoning Text Amendment No. 20-01 to Amend Accessory Structure Standards and Allowed use Listings in the Fowler Zoning Ordinance

City Planner Marple said the City is undergoing a comprehensive Zoning Code update. Ms. Marple said late last year a grant opportunity was presented to the Council for SB2 funds. City staff identified the benefit of clarifying certain standards and uses. City staff recommends permitting grocery store in the C-1, C-3, and Form Based Code Zones to promote development of such uses. Staff also recommends clarifying the permitted uses in the M-1 zone to permit automobile repair. A missing oxford comma has also created confusion about agricultural uses being permitted in the M-2 zone. Adding the comma will clarify that agricultural uses are not allowed.

Mayor Cardenas opened the duly noticed public hearing on the matter at 7:25 p.m. There were no public comments from the public and hearing closed at 7:25 p.m.

First Reading of Ordinance No. 2020-06

Councilmember/Director Parra made a motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance No. 2020-06, An Ordinance of the City Council of The City of Fowler Amending Chapter 5 of Title 9 Section 05 to Article 21, Clarifying Development Standards of Accessor Buildings, Section 715 to Article 7, Clarifying Development Standards of the R-1 Zone District, Section 1003 and 1005 of Article 10, Allowing for Grocery Stores, Section 1203 of Article 12 Allowing Grocery Stores, Section 1402 of Article 14, and 1402 Allowing Automobile Repair, Section 1503 of Article 15 Clarifying Grammar of The Fowler Municipal Code” , seconded by Councilmember/Director Rodriguez. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Parra, Rodriguez, Cardenas, Hammer, and Kazarian. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2017 – 2018 FISCAL YEAR AUDITS – CORONA, FAETH AND ZAKARIAN

Auditor Gus Corona, of Borchardt, Corona, Faeth & Zakarian, presented the audits for the City of Fowler and Public Financing Authority (PFA). The PFA audit showed that there was an increase on net position of \$40,983 and overall revenues of \$163,992, which exceeded expenses of \$123,009. Total assets were \$2,327,049 and total liabilities were \$2,330,000 for 2018. Mr. Corona stated that everything is being accounted for properly.

The City’s audit showed a total positive net position of \$29,997,065 for the end of 2018, overall revenues and transfers totaled \$8,638,041 which exceeded expenses of \$6,336,589 by 2,301,452. This was an increase due to development fees and the increase of property tax assessments. Total liabilities decreased by a total of \$208,000. General Fund (GF) revenues totaled \$4,123,562 and total expenditures totaled 3,759,671 leaving a positive of \$330,863 at June 30, 2018. .

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager/Executive Director Davis reminded the Council of the upcoming Employee Appreciation Grab and Go BBQ luncheon, Friday, October 16, 2020.

STAFF REPORT

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

COVID-19 Update

City Manager Davis said the numbers are staying about the same; there are 238 total cases, 234 recovered/closed cases. She mentioned the Fowler Unified School District are working on the possibility of phasing in to opening the schools.

City Manager/Executive Director Davis said the City has been very busy with many projects. She said the City received a Section 130 Grant in the amount of 2.7 million to pay for the railroad crossing improvements and pedestrian crossing near the Maxco project.

She said the new fire station is nearly complete and the fire department is steadily moving in. She would like to have a ceremonial event of recognition but unsure due to the current events.

Ms. Davis mentioned the Jack in the Box project plans has been approved and they will possibly be breaking ground sometime in November.

The Buford Travel Center project is moving along.

The Panzak park ADA restroom project bid opening was delayed due uncompleted federal noticing; the new bid opening date has been scheduled for this Friday, October 9th at 11:00 a.m.

She said a new hotel project was tabled at a recent Planning Commission meeting as they requested more information on the design. The hotel will be located near 10th and Tuolumne Streets.

Councilmember Kazarian brought up the Great Plates program and asked Senior Center Coordinator, Ms. Hernandez what was the outcome and the guidelines as to getting more seniors to qualify for the program. Ms. Hernandez stated that she visited quite a few seniors who apparently did not qualify due to having in home services or who may have family members providing for them. Councilmember Kazarian said it seems there's some confusion on the guidelines and requirements for qualification, he expressed the willingness to work with Ms. Hernandez to hopefully make the program happen.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Public Works Director Dominguez said that before the Council tonight is a resolution to participate and pursue grant funding for a water meter improvement project. He said the Bureau of Reclamation announced a funding opportunity for WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2021 for projects that result in water conservation and improve water management, such as installing municipal smart water meters. The grant will have a cost sharing of 50% of the total cost of the project. This project will benefit the City while reducing the costs associated with meter reading and the continued ongoing maintenance of the existing aged meters, also to improve inconsistency. Mr. Dominguez said the project will consist of replacing approximately 1700 meters in a period of 5 years. The application package will be put together by California Consulting Inc. The approximate cost of the grant application package is \$12,000. California Consulting will be reimbursed by California Alliance for Jobs which is a company that focuses on helping municipalities achieve grants and help contracting companies built the projects.

Councilmember/Director Kazarian made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2479, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler to Ratify an Application for WATERSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2020 (BOR-DO-21-F001)" seconded by Councilmember/Director Parra. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Kazarian, Parra, Cardenas, Hammer, and Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Alcaraz said the Fresno County Sheriff's Department reduced their staffing in assisting with the 2020 creek fire. Staff will no longer be sent up to assist. He said the City should be receiving a reimbursement from Cal OES for the officers' mileage reimbursement.

He said he will be sending some officers, with the assistance of other agencies, to the City of Coalinga to assist on a rash of shootings they recently had.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Lopez (via teleconference) said the department is currently in the process of moving equipment into the new fire station.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Approval of City Manager Employment Agreement

City Attorney Cross said tonight's item is a proposed City Manager's employment agreement. City Manager Davis has announced her retirement and the agreement extends to December 30, 2020 which is her retirement date. A provision would allow an extension by mutual agreement of Ms. Davis and the Council. The salary proposal shall be placed at Step E of the City Manager position of the City's adopted salary schedule; she shall receive those benefits established by the City's Benefit's Resolution of the position of City Manager. Councilmember Kazarian said he would like to make a motion to divide the question and act upon the salary separate from the other parts of the agreement.

Councilmember/Director Parra made a motion to approve the City Manager Employment Agreement with exception of the Step Salary, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chairman Hammer. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Parra, Hammer, Cardenas, Kazarian, and Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chairman Hammer made a motion to approve the salary Step E of City Manager Employment Agreement, seconded by Councilmember/Director Rodriquez. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Hammer, Rodriquez, Cardenas, and Parra. Noes: Kazarian. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – October 6, 2020; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting – September 15, 2020 and City Council Special Meeting – September 29, 2020.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor/Chairman Cardenas mentioned the extension and reconstruction of Adams Avenue to 4th and Merced Streets. Selma-Kingsburg-Fowler Sanitation District (SKF) had opening bids for the sewer improvements on Adams Avenue; it was over the Engineer's estimate and was rejected. Rebidding for this project will be rescheduled at a later date.

Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chairman Hammers mentioned the Trunk or Treat event. Senior/Recreation Coordinator Yvonne Hernandez said the Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat is scheduled to take place at the Edwin Baldwin Senior Center on Thursday, October 29, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It'll be a family-friendly experience while social distancing and enjoying trunk or treats all from within the safety of their vehicles.

Councilmember/Director Kazarian said the South Kings Ground Water Sustainability (SKGSA) had available grant monies for recharge projects. They are working with other GSA's to divide the grant money for identified projects.

He said he spoke with David Wong regarding parking opportunities in the down town area. He also mentioned the possibility of putting in another handicap parking in front of CVS Pharmacy for Senior Citizens.

Councilmember/Director Parra said the League of California Cities virtual meeting started today.

Councilmember/Director Rodriguez said he received a complaint of limited parking in front of the Fowler Donut Shop.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember/Director Rodriguez made a motion, seconded by Councilmember/Director Parra to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.