

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2021**

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

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Rodriquez, Kazarian, Mejia and Parra (via teleconference)

City Staff Present: City Manager Davis, City Attorney Cross, Public Works Director Dominguez, Fire Chief Lopez, City Engineer Peters, Planning Commissioner Mellon, Deputy City Clerk Burrola

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Craig Mellon, Fowler resident and Chairman of the City of Fowler’s Planning Commission, voiced his concerns regarding the current vacancies on the Planning Commission.

Ryan Bedrosian, Fowler resident, recited the Deprivation of Rights, Color of Law, Section 242 of Title 18.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT**

**Consider / Adopt Resolution No. 2486 Approving Final Tract Map No. 6274 and Accepting Street Dedication and Easements**

City Engineer Peters provided a PowerPoint presentation and gave background information on Tract 6274 final map. The applicant, Woodside Homes, is proposing to develop a 99 lot subdivision in the northeast corner of Sunnyside and Sumner Avenue. The applicant has complied with the conditions and a subdivision agreement has been prepared for the development. Mr. Peters noted the typo in the Agreement under “Reimbursement” to state Sumner Avenue not Walter Avenue. The subdivision agreement requires that the applicant post bonds or instruments of security with the City in order to guarantee the construction of the improvements, which have been submitted to the City.

He said the applicant has submitted the public improvement plans and the final map to the City and has been reviewed and approved by the City Engineer. A request by the Council for another access onto Sumner Avenue has been incorporated into the final map and improvement plans. The access will be a right-in / right-out only access in order to manage traffic at this intersection. Mr. Peters said the subdivision is required to develop a neighborhood park, the applicant has submitted a conceptual plan for the development of the park. The Council is required by law to accept the final map unless they can site deficiencies in the final documents. Following acceptance of the map by the City, the City Engineer shall deliver the final map to the Fresno County Recorder’s office.

The Mayor opened the discussion for public comments on the matter.

Ryan Bedrosian, Fowler resident, said it would be a good addition to the City.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2486, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Approving Final Tract Map No. 6274 and Accepting Street Dedication and Easements as amended; seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriquez. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Kazarian, Rodriquez, Mejia, Parra, Cardenas. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **COVID-19 Update**

City Manager Davis said the City applied for a Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) grant. LEAP provides one-time grant funding to cities and counties to update their incentives, resources, and accountability to meet housing goals. The City was awarded \$65,000 which will be used to assist with the General Plan update.

She said a pre-construction meeting for the Main Street project is scheduled to take place on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the City Council Chambers.

City Manager Davis said she was unable to get this week's COVID updates, but as of December 28<sup>th</sup> the City is currently at 508 total cases, 117 close contacts, 229 community spread, 6 travels, and 28 are under investigation.

Ms. Davis said Interim Finance Director Sanchez and Temporary Accountant Lisa Sherman submitted an application to Fresno County on the CARES Act funding allocation and the City was awarded \$112,000 by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

## **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Public Works Director Dominquez commended this staff for all their hard work and dedication during these current events.

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

City Manager Davis said the Finance Department is working on getting the 2019 audit and budget completed.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

No report was given.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Fire Chief Lopez provided the monthly calls stats for the month of October and November 2020. In November there were 812 event calls, there has been an increase in medical calls due to COVID.

He said he will be having training for his staff and will provide the 2021 training schedule to the Council.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

City Attorney Cross said that he will be conducting a workshop on the changes to the Brown Act at a future meeting.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – January 5, 2021; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Special Meetings – December 8, 2020 and December 15, 2020

Councilmember Parra pulled Item A and recused himself due to not being present in person and not having a copy of the warrants in hand.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Rodriquez made a motion to approve Item A of the consent calendar, seconded by Councilmember Mejia. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Rodriquez, Mejia, Cardenas, Kazarian. Noes: None. Abstain: Parra. Absent: None.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Board / Committee Assignments**

Mayor Cardenas confirmed Council assignments to various committee and boards:

Fresno County Council of Governments (COG)... David Cardenas – alternate: Dan Parra  
Highway 99 Beautification Committee..... ..Mark Rodriquez – alternate: Juan Mejia  
S.K.F. Sanitation District.....David Cardenas – alternate: Dan Parra  
Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District..... David Cardenas  
Five Cities Economic Development Authority Karnig Kazarian – alternate: Mark Rodriquez  
Southeast Regional Solid Waste Commission..... Mark Rodriquez – alternate: Dan Parra  
Fowler Recreation Commission ..... Juan Mejia  
Friends of the Fowler Library ..... Juan Mejia  
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Special City Selection Committee.....Mark Rodriquez – alternate: Karnig Kazarian  
South Kings Ground Water Sustainability Agency .....Karnig Kazarian  
Finance Committee.....Dan Parra and Karnig Kazarian

## **Reappointment of Planning Commissioners**

Mayor Cardenas recommended reappointment of Craig Mellon and Kevin Kandarian to another term on the Planning Commission, as their terms expired on December 31, 2020. Councilmember Mejia made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriquez, to re-appoint Craig Mellon and Kevin Kandarian to a new term on the Planning Commission. The Motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Mejia, Rodriquez, Cardenas, Kazarian, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Mayor Cardenas said it was brought to his attention that the neon letters on the FOWLER sign at the intersection of Golden State Boulevard and Merced Street are out. Fire Chief Lopez said it's been a constant issue with the cold weather affecting the lighting of the sign. A discussion took place to get the sign fixed.

Councilmember Kazarian attended a South Kings GSA meeting; they are in the process of trying to move forward with a project that would qualify for a grant for the Kings sub-basin.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Cardenas adjourned the meeting to a closed session at 8:03 p.m. to discuss pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d) (1) conference with Legal Counsel – existing litigation City of Fowler v. David Elias, Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 19CECG04298 and Government Code Section 54956.8 conference with Real Property Negotiators, Property: 131 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street (Christian Church) Agency Negotiators Jeannie Davis, City Manager. Negotiating Party: Prodigy Health Care under Negotiation: Price and terms.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 8:37 p.m. with no reportable action taken. Direction was given to staff.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Councilmember Kazarian made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro- Tem Rodriquez to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.