

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:11 p. m. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Parra, Rodriguez, Kazarian and Mejia joined via teleconference

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

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

There were no public presentations.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

**Consider/Adopt Resolution No. 2490 Approving Final Tract Map No. 6188 and Accepting Street Dedication and Easements**

Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriguez recused himself due to being within the 500-foot radius.

City Engineer Peters provided a PowerPoint presentation and gave background information on Tract 6188 final map. The applicant, Sunshine Raisin Corporation, is proposing to develop a 76 lot subdivision in the northeast corner of Adams Avenue and Armstrong Avenue. The applicant has complied with the conditions of approval. These conditions, in addition to many other requirements, direct the project to mitigate its project traffic impacts to the intersection of Adams Avenue and Armstrong Avenue through the payment of a fair share contribution to future capacity improvements at the intersection. Mr. Peters said the project will direct drainage to an off-site drainage basin adjacent to the proposed subdivision. A Retention Basin Agreement has been developed between the developer and the City to ensure the basin property will be operated and maintained consistently to accept drainage discharges from the project.

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. 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 and authorize the City Manager to execute both the Subdivision Agreement and Retention Basin Agreement on behalf of the City.

Councilmember Mejia asked about the undergrounding of the overhead facilities along Armstrong Avenue. He said during his term on the Planning Commission citizens expressed their concerns regarding the underground public utility facilities and how it would affect the households along Armstrong Avenue. City Engineer Peters said it stops a little shy as you get near Adams Avenue on Armstrong Avenue. He said it would have been extensive to try to modify all of the structures to accept underground services; therefore the household will not be affected.

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

Mark Rodriguez, Fowler resident, expressed his concerns regarding the traffic flow along Adams Avenue and Main Street in front of the Fowler High School. City Engineer Peters said staff identified that as an issue when the tentative tract map was being evaluated. He said it was required that the development contribute a fair share towards future traffic improvements at that intersection as a condition of approval of the tentative map.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2490, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Approving Final Tract Map No. 6188 and Accepting Street Dedication and Easements"; seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Kazarian, Parra, Cardenas, Mejia Noes: None. Abstain: Rodriguez. Absent: None.

### **Approve Retention Basin Agreement for Tract 6188 and Authorize the City Manager to Execute on Behalf of the City**

Councilmember Parra made a motion to approve Retention Basin Agreement for Tract 6188 and authorize the City Manager to execute on behalf of the City, seconded by Councilmember Mejia. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Parra, Mejia, Cardenas, Kazarian. Noes: None. Abstain: Rodriguez. Absent: None.

### **First Reading of Ordinance No. 2020-01**

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to waive the first reading and approve Ordinance No. 2020-01 " An Ordinance of the City of Fowler Amending the Title of Chapter 2 of Title 7, and Adding Chapter 4 to Title 7 of the Fowler Municipal Code Pertaining to Requirements for Installation and Relocation of Utility Facilities Underground", seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Kazarian, Parra, Mejia, Rodriguez, Cardenas. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

### **Provide Staff Direction Regarding Parking Strategies with the Downtown Area of Merced Street between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street**

City Engineer Peters said with the recent addition of outdoor dining areas, and in an effort to add additional parking in the downtown area, he and Public Works Director Dominguez have performed field studies to observe handicap and standard parking stall use along the corridor. As a result, possible improvements have been identified to improve the parking in the downtown area.

Mr. Peters provided visual photos of the proposed parking strategies along Merced Street between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. He said a parking stall has recently been converted to a handicap parking stall located on the south side of Merced Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. He is recommending some potential improvements to consider upgrading existing handicap stalls, adding new handicap stalls, and additional timed parking.

Councilmember Kazarian said he is in support of the proposed changes and is proposing to look at undeveloped properties for additional parking in the downtown area. Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriguez expressed his concerns on the planters installed at the end of each parking structure that are causing limited parking. Public Works Director Dominguez said the planters will be removed in order to make the new upgraded ADA ramps compliant.

A discussion took place on the placing of timed limit parking stalls in specific areas. The direction of the Council is to providing a blanket of 2 hour maximum parking on Merced Street between 7<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Street for those dining and having shorter time parking periods for the south side of Merced Street between 7<sup>th</sup> Street and the alleyway.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **COVID-19 Update**

City Manager Davis said the City is currently at 863 total cases. In the last 30 days there have been 168 cases, and 60 cases are pending. She said the County Health Department is working on ordering vaccines; their goal is to get 75 percent of the population vaccinated by July 31, 2021. COVID-19 assistance and information is provided and updated daily on the City's webpage.

She said the draft development fee study has been completed and a special workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Davis said a General Plan Update workshop is planned to be scheduled sometime in April 2021.

She said the new City of Fowler mobile phone app is now up and running and residents can now download to access City information.

## **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Public Works Director Dominquez said staff has been working on tree trimming and the removal of malicious trees which were affecting sidewalks. He said, weather permitting, sidewalk repairs will resume.

He said staff has also been patching potholes due to the recent rains.

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

No report was given.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Police Chief Alcaraz said the department has hired a few new officers and would like to have a formal introduction and ceremony sometime soon.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Fire Chief Lopez provided the 2021 training scheduled for the Fire Department. He also provided the calls stats for the year ending in 2020; there were 884 events for the year.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

No report was given.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – February 2, 2021; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Special Meetings – January 5, 2021, January 12, 2021, and January 26, 2021; C) Adopt Resolution No. 2487, “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Declaring Real Property Located at 131 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street to be Surplus Property and Directing the City Manager to Send Notices of Availability Pursuant to Government Code Section 54220, ET SEQ.”; D) Approve Resolution No. 2488, “ A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler, County of Fresno, State of California Confirming Assessments for Nuisance Abatement Costs for Violations for Property Related to a Public Nuisance as Provided Within Section 5, Chapter 23 of the Fowler Municipal Code; 403 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Fowler, CA, APN No. 343-253-09”; E) Approve Resolution No. 2489, “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Approving Development and Planning Fees for 2021”; F) Approve the City of Fowler’s Fire Station Project Construction by Klassen Corporation and Authorized the City Engineer to File the Notice of Completion.

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Appointment of Planning Commissioners**

Mayor Cardenas recommended appointing Cesar Rodriquez and Adriana Prado to the two unscheduled vacancy terms on the Planning Commission expiring on December 31, 2022.

Councilmember Mejia expressed his concerns appointing Cesar Rodriguez’s business in design and engineering, due to conflict of interest. Mr. Cesar Rodriguez said would recuse himself from participating in any discussion of the matter and from voting on that matter.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriguez expressed his concerns appointing Mr. Rodriguez to the Planning Commission.

The Mayor opened the discussion for public comments on the matter. There were no public comments.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriguez made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Parra to appoint Adriana Prado to the unscheduled vacancy on the Planning Commission expiring on December 31, 2022. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Rodriguez, Parra, Cardenas, Kazarian, Mejia. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Councilmember Parra made a motion, seconded by Mayor Cardenas to appoint Cesar Rodriguez to the unscheduled vacancy on the Planning Commission expiring on December 31, 2022. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Parra, Cardenas, Kazarian. Noes: Rodriguez, Mejia. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Councilmember Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mejia to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.