

MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 4, 2021

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:09 p. m. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Rodriquez, Kazarian, Mejia, and Parra

City Staff Present: City Manager Quan, City Attorney Cross, Police Chief Alcaraz, Public Works Director Dominguez, Fire Chief Lopez, City Planner Marple, City Engineer Peters, Deputy City Clerk Vasquez, Rebecca Molina

Others: Susie Rico-Vasquez

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Fowler resident Patric Jones, inquired as to when Council meetings will be open to the public to attend in person and when City Hall will be open to the public as well. Mayor Cardenas stated staff is currently working on an opening date. The public will be notified of a date in the near future.

PRESENTATION

Susie Rico-Vasquez of Fresno County Department of Public Health updated the Council on the progress of the Walk and Bike Safety Training and the projects that have been initiated since last year. In June 2020 the community attended a virtual workshop and walk-audit with twenty-five participants. In Fall 2020, California Walks and UC Berkeley SafeTREC provided a report with resident's concerns and recommendations for the City. Ms. Rico-Vasquez stated since then, she and Public Works Director Dominguez have been meeting to determine the next steps of funding and planning efforts to include walking and biking in the City of Fowler.

Ms. Rico-Vasquez reported during the training and walk-audit, participants virtually walked three routes: E. Merced Street, Golden State Blvd., and E. Adams Ave. After the walk-audit, participants shared some concerns such as: visibility challenges, missing curb ramps, and uncontrolled crossings. Ms. Rico-Vasquez shared some of the recommendations which include installing high visibility crosswalks, pedestrian signage, rectangular rapid flashing beacons, bike lanes and bike boxes in specific areas throughout the City. Next steps are to focus on bike and pedestrian signage and striping. Ms. Rico-Vasquez announced the California Department of Public Health has awarded the City of Fowler \$1,729 which can be used for bike and pedestrian signage and striping. Through the SPAN grant Ms. Rico-Vasquez can award the City of Fowler \$3,435 which can also be used for bike and pedestrian signage and striping. Ms. Rico-Vasquez's hope is through leverage funding and the final report of the training and walk-audit will help the City apply for ATP Cycle 6 Funds.

Councilmember Parra noted he thinks the bike lane is a good idea but doesn't think the potential bike box on Golden State is a good idea. Councilmember Kazarian stated he's impressed with all of the work going into this program and is looking forward to trails, similar to those in Clovis, as a potential next step. Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriguez and Mayor Cardenas thanked Ms. Rico-Vasquez for her time and effort as well as working with Public Works Director Dominguez and the partnership with our City.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

STAFF REPORTS

CITY PLANNER'S REPORT

City Planner Marple welcomed new Community Development Director, Thomas Gaffery. Ms. Marple thanked those who joined in last week's General Plan update workshop via Zoom. There were approximately 43-46 participants. There were great conversations and questions. Staff has completed the summary report of the meeting and has placed it on the General Plan Update website. The report includes polling results from the questions asked during the meeting. Ms. Marple noted the interactive story map and map with proposed land uses is still open for public comment until tomorrow. Staff will present the preferred alternative to Planning Commission June 3, 2021 and to Council on June 15, 2021; and will be looking for recommendations on the preferred alternative.

Ms. Marple reported staff is still conducting zoning code update stakeholder interviews and is moving forward with the interview summaries. Staff will present the zoning code use table to the Planning Commission this Thursday, May 6, 2021

Councilmember Mejia stated the General Plan update workshop was excellent and very interactive. The quickness of the reporting in real time was impressive. Councilmember Kazarian echoed Councilmember Mejia's comments.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2501 APPROVING THE 2021 HYDRAULIC WATER MODEL AND 2021 WATER MODEL REPORT.

City Engineer Peters briefed the Council on the development of the computerized hydraulic water model for the City's water system. The purpose of developing the model was for staff to have a tool to analyze the hydraulic performance of the City's water system. It helps staff understand current operations and identify any deficiencies in the system. Mr. Peters reported the hydraulic water model also provides a mechanism for staff to analyze future changes to the water system. Some of the characteristics of the system: serves approximately 2,100 customers, 200,000 feet of lineal pipeline in the

ground, six active wells, and the entire system is controlled by the SCADA system so staff can remotely monitor and control the system.

Mr. Peters reported staff prepared the water model using a computer program H2O Map. Staff looked at four different scenarios for performance in the system: average day demand, maximum day demand, maximum day plus a fire event, and maximum day with Well 8 out of service. City Engineer Peters reported after running the four scenarios in the model the findings are: the system can meet demands under the average day and maximum day demands, however the system was not able to meet demands under the maximum day with Well 8 out of service. There were also fire flow deficiencies under the maximum day both with and without Well 8 in service. Mr. Peters shared graphics with the Council on the different scenarios.

City Engineer Peters shared the recommendations of the report. Constructing a new municipal well on the west side of Highway 99. As well as constructing a new pipeline under the 99 connecting the west and east side of town would also resolve a lot of issues the City has. Adding a larger, new pipeline connecting the two sides of town would be very helpful. Another recommendation is to install back-up generators on the wells in addition to constructing 12 inch diameter water mains on a quarter-mile grid that will help provide a good distribution system for the water that's pumped throughout the City.

Mr. Peters requested approval of Resolution No. 2501 approving the 2021 hydraulic water model and 2021 water model report. Councilmember Kazarian stated he was pleased with the project and this is something that will benefit the City. Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriquez inquired if a well site has been chosen. Mr. Peters stated a particular well site has not been selected at this time. Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriquez also asked if it was possible to move water from the east side of town. City Engineer Peters stated in the short-term moving water from the east side to the west side of town could work, but unfortunately not in the long term. Councilmember Mejia asked what the distance of line needs to be replaced. Mr. Peters stated the recommendation of the report was to look at a strategic location to create an east-west cross connecting pipeline. The report recommends along the South Avenue alignment as a good location both hydraulically and physically.

Public Comment was opened. Mr. Ernie Escobedo commented staff did a great job and this would be a great tool for developers. Mr. Escobedo inquired about funding and/or timing for constructing the well. Mr. Peters stated the model does not address any funding for improvement projects and is merely an analytical tool.

Public Comment was closed.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2501 approving the 2021 hydraulic water model and 2021 water model report, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriquez. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Kazarian, Rodriquez, Cardenas, Mejia, Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

COVID-19 Update

City Manager Quan reported COVID-19 positive cases and death rate has not changed since last City Council meeting. Our vaccination rate continues to climb: 46.2 percent of residents are vaccinated. Staff continues to work with Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) on the mobile vaccination clinic.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Approval of Resolution No. 2499, a Resolution of the City of Fowler Approving Agreements with Sitelogiq, Inc. and Advanced Lighting Services, Inc. for energy conservation improvements pursuant to Government Code Section 4217.10, et. seq. (Item to be Continued to May 18, 2021 City Council Meeting)”

Public Works Director Dominguez requested Approval of Resolution No. 2499 item to be continued to May 18, 2021 City Council meeting. Staff is very close to finalizing the agreements. City Attorney Cross noted staff will post a notice outside council chambers and possibly on the City's website alerting the public that this item has been continued again.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriguez to continue approval of Resolution No. 2499, a Resolution of the City of Fowler Approving Agreements with Sitelogiq, Inc. and Advanced Lighting Services, Inc. for energy conservation improvements pursuant to Government Code Section 4217.10, et. seq. to May 18, 2021 City Council Meeting seconded by Councilmember Mejia. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Rodriguez, Mejia, Cardenas, Kazarian, and Parra. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Mr. Dominguez reported the water meter data collector is still down and being repaired. Staff expects to receive it very soon. Mr. Dominguez announced the back-up generator was received for the primary well site. Staff is working on getting all of the necessary permits. Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriguez inquired if residents' billing will be pro-rated. Mr. Dominguez stated if necessary, billing will be pro-rated again.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Alcaraz reminded Council the Virtual Business Awareness Discussion is Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Council is welcome to attend and invite guests. The event is also on the Fowler PD app calendar. Chief Alcaraz announced he is working with Community Development Director Gaffery on the camera project RFP.

Councilmember Kazarian raised his concern about how officers are using the prone method and how the method is addressed in the policy manual. Chief Alcaraz stated he recently spoke with Josh Bowling, Lead Defensive Tactics Instructor of the Fresno Police Department Regional Training Facility about Fowler officers going there for best practices training.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Lopez shared the call log for the last three months.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Cross reported on the special meeting items. There was no action taken on the three items that were discussed in closed session. Item number 1) Public Employee Performance Evaluation – City Manager; 2) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation: City of Fowler v. David Elias; 3) Conference with Real Property Negotiator – Property: 127 S. 6th Street (old Fire Station). The discussion for item 3 has not concluded; Council intends to resume discussion following tonight's regular City Council meeting. Mayor Cardenas recused himself from the discussion as he owns real property within 1,000 feet of the real property being discussed. Mayor Cardenas will recuse himself again when the discussion is resumed following the regular City Council meeting.

Discuss and consider Potential Removal of Planning Commissioner Cesar Rodriguez

Councilmembers Kazarian, Mejia, Parra, Mayor Cardenas, and Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriguez asked questions of Cesar Rodriguez and his involvement with specific projects in the City of Fowler. City Planner Marple was asked to provide clarifying information regarding Mr. Rodriguez's involvement in these projects. Mr. Rodriguez answered all the questions and provided copies of documents supporting his position. After deliberation, no action was taken by the Council.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – May 4, 2021; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting – April 20, 2021, and City Council Meeting – April 20, 2021; C) Award the Adams Avenue Reconstruction Phase II & III project to Don Berry Construction in the amount of \$1,198,278.00, and authorize the City Manager to sign the project construction contract; D) Approve and Authorize the City Manager to sign the Well 7 TCP Treatment Project Consultant Services Agreement with Provost and Pritchard in the amount of \$269,000.00.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas asked if staff could investigate installing sidewalk signage in the downtown area stating: no bicycles or skateboards on the sidewalk. Public Works Director Dominguez stated he will research further and work with City Engineer Peters as well. Mayor Cardenas also read Fowler resident, George Teraoka's Proclamation for his 100th birthday.

Councilmember Parra announced Legislative Days is May 12 and May 13, 2021. All are welcome to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember Kazarian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mejia to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Reconvened to **Closed Session** at 9:01 p.m.