

MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday September 21, 2021

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:01 p. m.

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

Councilmembers Absent: Parra

City Staff Present: City Manager Quan, City Attorney Cross, Police Chief Alcaraz, Public Works Director Dominguez, Community Development Director Gaffery, Recreation Coordinator Hernandez, Assistant Fire Chief Hernandez, Fire Chief Lopez, City Planner Marple, Finance Director Moreno, City Engineer Peters, Deputy City Clerk Vasquez

5. CEREMONIAL PRESENTATION

Send-off Erin Banks as he competes for the Mr. Olympia title.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriquez made a motion to approve the consent calendar, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Rodriquez, Kazarian, Cardenas, Mejia.

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

8-A. PLANNING

i. APPROVE Resolution No. 2514 Authorizing Submittal of a Grant Application for the Small Community Drought Program Funds.

City Planner Marple reported the grant is intended to assist small communities survive current and future droughts. She stated staff reviewed the program and it directly relates to the water model that was completed earlier this year. City Planner Marple stated staff proposes to construct a new well on the west side of State Route 99 and a 12-inch water main between South Golden State Boulevard and South Fowler Avenue along the South Avenue alignment and under State Route 99.

City Planner Marple reported there is no minimum or maximum funding under this grant application and does not require matching funds. She stated staff intends to submit the grant application following Council approval of the Resolution. City Planner Marple noted applications for funding are accepted on a first come first served bases until all funds are awarded or until December 29, 2023, whichever comes first. She stated the grant funding must be encumbered or expended by June 30, 2024.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriguez inquired how soon staff would turn in the application after Council approval. City Planner Marple stated the application is eighty percent complete. Councilmember Mejia inquired if the 12-inch main would compensate for the issue on Merced Street between the east and west side. City Planner Marple stated the components would assist with both water pressure and peak demands. Mayor Pro-Tem inquired where the well site would be located. Public Works Director Dominguez stated several city sites are being considered.

Fowler resident Steve Barela addressed the Council.

Councilmember Mejia made a motion to APPROVE Resolution No. 2514, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriguez. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Mejia, Rodriguez, Cardenas, Kazarian.

- ii. **Public Hearing to Consider Items Pertaining to Zoning (Prezoning) Ordinance Amendment No. 19-03, and Annexation Request No. 19-03, filed by Fowler Unified School District for property located on the west side of South Armstrong Avenue between East Adams and East Clayton Avenues.**

City Planner Marple provided an overview of the Marshall Elementary expansion project. She reported the annexation request from Fowler Unified is to annex approximately 2.97 acres for an expansion of Marshall Elementary School to accommodate a new pre-school and drop-off zone. City Planner Marple stated staff recommends the annexation include a small single-family residence that is between the existing school site and proposed expansion site which would provide a logical city boundary. She reported both parcels would be zoned Resource Conservation District (RCO) and the existing single-family residence would be considered a legal non-conforming use. City Planner Marple stated the residence can remain and the existing residential use can continue as residential dwellings are exempt from abandonment of legal non-conforming

use regulations. She stated staff has had discussions with the property owner.

City Planner Marple reported Fowler Unified prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines and circulated it for the required 30-day public review. She reported Fowler Unified School District (FUSD) adopted the MND for the expansion project on June 16, 2021. City Planner Marple reported FUSD named the City of Fowler as a Responsible Agency pursuant to CEQA Guidelines in order to carry out Zoning (Rezoning) Ordinance Amendment No. 19-03 and Annexation Request No. 19-03. She stated the City has prepared an Addendum to the 2021 Marshall Elementary School Expansion Project MND to facilitate the expansion of the annexation area.

Fowler resident Paul Bedrosian addressed the Council.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriguez made a motion to APPROVE Resolution No. 2515, a Resolution adopting an Addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration for Zoning (Rezoning) Ordinance Amendment No. 19-03 and Annexation Request No. 19-03, seconded by Councilmember Mejia. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Rodriguez, Mejia, Cardenas, Kazarian.

Councilmember Mejia made a motion to APPROVE Resolution No. 2516, a Resolution approving Annexation Request No. 19-03, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Mejia, Kazarian, Cardenas, Rodriguez.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriguez made a motion to APPROVE Ordinance No. 2021-04, an Ordinance approving Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. 19-03, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian. The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes: Rodriguez, Kazarian, Cardenas, Mejia.

8-B. RECREATION

i. 2021 Special Events Update

Public Works Director Dominguez provided an informational calendar of events and their road closure impacts for the remainder of the year. He reported staff will present Council a projected 2022 events calendar during a January or February meeting. Public Works Director Dominguez stated the City has not separately tracked the staffing and related costs involved with the City-sponsored and non-

City-sponsored events held in the City. He noted all staff costs incurred by the City for the events have been absorbed by individual departments and not specifically budgeted or charged to the various events. Public Works Director Dominguez stated staff will begin to track these costs and report this information to Council when the events calendar is presented. City Manager Quan noted the importance of supporting City events while tracking staff, hard, and road closure costs to put a process in place.

Mayor Cardenas thanked staff for the update and noted the importance of including the costs in the budget. Both Councilmembers Mejia and Kazarian echoed Mayor Cardenas' comments.

8-C. CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

i. COVID-19 Update

City Manager Quan reported that the Fresno County Department of Public Health's data shows Fowler's vaccination rate is 65% and staff continues to keep in close communication with FCDPH on any regulatory changes. She also reminded Council of the Employee Appreciation Dinner on Friday, October 22, 2021. City Manager Quan announced the Fire Station Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2021 and requested Council share with her any guests they'd like to be included on the invitation list.

9. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS – (CITY MANAGER)

9-A. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Alcaraz distributed DOJ crime statistics for the month of August 2021 and reported domestic violence numbers continue to rise. He reported last week Fowler Police Department hosted a round table with local Police Chiefs and Nicole Linder of the Marjaree Mason Center to discuss practices to assist domestic violence victims. Chief Alcaraz reported an Officer assisted with the Tom Flores event in Sanger last weekend. He also stated a recent Tik-Tok trend has caused some issues at area schools and Fowler PD is working closely with school administration.

9-B. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Lopez shared August call logs for a total of 68 events and 624 events for the year. He reported crews responded to two structure fires last week assisting Fresno County with one of the fires. Chief Lopez introduced firefighters Andrew

Venegas and Tomas Ramos and commended them for completing Cal-Fire Academy training.

9-C. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Community Development Director Gaffery thanked Council for participating in zoning text amendments one-on-ones. He stated the items will go before Planning Commission and Council in Fall.

9-D. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Public Works Director Dominguez updated Council on the Armstrong Avenue re-paving project and City Hall counter installation.

10. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mayor Cardenas requested assistance from the Council in obtaining Employee Appreciation Dinner raffle prizes from businesses.

Councilmember Kazarian announced South Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency approved the agreement for K Hovanian Homes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriguez reported the Fall Fest Yard Sale was well attended and a success. He commended Recreation Coordinator Hernandez for her hard work.

Councilmember Mejia inquired if there will be a Veteran's Day event this year. City Manager Quan stated staff will research and report back to Council at the next meeting.

11. CLOSED SESSION

No reportable action was taken on any of the three items.

12. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

13. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.