

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 18, 2019**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p. m. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriquez. Councilmember Parra joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference (Fresno Yosemite International Airport – Gate, 5175 E. Clinton Way, Fresno, CA 93727)

City Staff Present: City Manager/City Clerk Davis, City Attorney Wolfe, City Attorney Cross, City Attorney Mary Lerner, City Engineer Peters, Police Chief Alcaraz, Finance Director Uyeda, Deputy City Clerk Burrola

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by the Invocation delivered by Pastor Brian Mays.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Jim Martin, Fowler Resident, announced his retirement from the Fowler Recreation Commission. Mr. Martin served on the commission for 13 years.

Gail Cruz, Fowler resident, expressed her concerns regarding the heavy traffic on 4<sup>th</sup> and Vine Street, she inquired if stop signs will be placed at this location.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW OFFICERS AND BADGE PINNING CEREMONY**

Police Chief Alcaraz gave an introduction of new police officers, Officer Cameron Phillips and Reserve Officer Vincent Jimenez.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF POLICE OFFICERS**

Chief Alcaraz recognized Fowler Police Officers, Sergeant Keith Berry, Officers Marco Solian, Arthur Duron, and Cameron Phillips for their outstanding service in the line of duty.

Chief Alcaraz called a recess for a brief reception in honor of the newly sworn in police officers.

**PRESENTATION: FRESNO COUNTY'S 5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR THE CDBG PROGRAM**

Kristi Johnson, Jonathan Avedian and Yvette Quiroga of Fresno County Community Development Department, spoke about the Community Development Block Grant. Ms. Johnson explained the consolidated plan is a five year outline identifying community development needs in the unincorporated portions of the County and the six partner

cities. The needs identified in the plan are addressed each year through various grant applications by Cities, Districts, community groups and individuals. CDBG is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants are used for eligible housing community and economic development activities such as infrastructure, community facilities, housing rehabilitation and public services. Ms. Johnson said some examples of CBDG activities can include economic development, residential and commercial building rehabilitation; water and sewer system improvements, storm drain improvements, and other public works improvements such as streets and sidewalks. She said approximately \$1,300,000 of CDBG funds have been invested in Fowler since 1975. Recent CDBG projects include ADA curb and sidewalk improvements, pedestrian improvements; there is a future project to install an ADA compliant bathroom at Panzak Park. Fresno County also needs to prepare an analysis of impediments to fair housing choice; these include governmental policies or procedures, language barriers, lack of affordable housing options, ADA accessibility issues, or anything else that restricts availability of housing options to all residents.

Yvette Quiroga spoke about the new Magill Terrace housing projects currently in progress. Ms. Ourigoa said the previous apartments had 20 units and the newly built apartments now have 60 units total, the apartments will possibly be completed in the next 30 days. Ms. Quiroga said there are programs for low income families for home repairs or to purchase a home. Fresno County Housing Assistance Rehabilitation Program (HARP) can help eligible homeowners improve the quality of their homes. She provided information on Homebuyer Assistance Program (HAP) this is a program for first time homebuyers who may qualify for assistance to purchase a home. Ms. Quiroga provided pamphlets with further information.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Davis said the free youth summer lunch program began Monday, June 10, 2019 at the Edwin Blayney Senior Center from 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Summer Swim Program started Monday, June 17, 2019. She mentioned the League of California Cities will be having a 2019 Annual Conference & Expo in Long Beach on October 16 – 18, 2019.

Councilmember Parra left the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

#### **Discussion/Direction to staff regarding agreement between the South King's Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Consolidated Irrigation District**

City Engineer Peters said the South Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SKGSA) has been negotiating with the Consolidated Irrigation District (CID) to enter into an

agreement for procuring surface water to be used in groundwater recharge efforts. The keys provisions of the agreement are as follows: Cost of the water is \$395/acre foot; SKGSA will calculate the overdraft (amount of water to be purchased from CID) as 42% of gross groundwater pumped; CID will endeavor to deliver an annual allotment of water; water purchase will begin immediately and ramp up to full volume within a 5-year period; CID will reserve an appropriate amount of water for SKGSA such that the 4 cities and CSD can build out to their current sphere of influence; the agreement allows for joint project and/or grant applications to be pursued between the SKGSA and CID to provide mutual benefit. A draft agreement has been reached in principal between these two agencies. A GSA board meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 27, 2019; the board will actually meet and vote on approval of this agreement. The City's representative is Councilmember Kazarian. It was asked if the cost of water per acre foot would change yearly. Mr. Peter's noted the costs would increase yearly depending on the increase of fees on annual bases to keep up with inflation. The consensus of the Council is to direct SKGSA Board representative Karnig Kazarian to vote in favor of entering into agreement between the SKGSA and CID for procuring surface water to be used in groundwater recharge efforts.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Davis said she was contacted by the Fowler Improvement Association (FIA) who would like to provide a beautification project for the Senior Center by planting shrubbery and flowers.

Deputy City Clerk Burrola has been in contact with the Browning family to set up a date and time for the pickle ball court dedication ceremony, a tentative date is set for Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

### **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

City Manager Davis said Supervisor Lopez has prepared and completed the Consumer Confidence Report that will be going out in July's water bills.

### **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- ◆ **Approve payment of additional bond counsel billing fees of \$50,000 for fire station project from contingency fund**

Finance Director Uyeda said he received the final billing for the bond counsel fees from Lozano Smith for a total of \$79,398.41. Lozano Smith discounted the costs by \$29,000 which leaves an outstanding balance of \$50,000. It would appear that the \$50,000 might be tied to the "initial draw down" of the USDA loan. Mr. Uyeda said he received the draw down documents and while it might be construed as such, further readings do not support it. In addition Sally Tripp had advised that the draw down is a requirement of the State for such loans and was nothing more than an advance against the loan to be held in reserve until the City's portion of the costs was paid in full. He discussed with Ms. Tripp and they agreed the best option would be to charge against the contingency

budget of \$124,619. This would leave a balance of \$74,619 in the contingency fund. Mr. Uyeda said he prefers to leave the current \$22,200 bond counsel budget until billings are current.

Councilmember Rodriquez made a motion to approve the Amendment to Agreement for Bond Counsel Services by and between City of Fowler and Lozano Smith, LLP, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hammer. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Parra.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Police Chief Alcaraz said the department will be hosting a meeting Thursday, June 20, 2019 in the Council Chambers. The City of Fresno FBI Field Office will be providing a Social Media Predator presentation for the Youth Cheerleading Organization and their family members.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

No report was given.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

City Attorney Wolfe expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the City of Fowler. Scott Cross will be attending future Council meetings and Mary Lerner will be attending the Planning Commission meetings.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – June 18, 2019; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting – June 4, 2019; C) Approve Agreement of Professional Legal Services with Lozano Smith; D) Approve Agreement/Engagement Letter for Auditing Services: Borchardt, Corona, Faeth and Zakarian; E) Approve Resolution No. 2019-2434, “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler in Support of the County of Fresno Homelessness Priorities for Calendar Year 2019”

Sonia De La Rosa, with the Fresno County Administrative Office, explained Item E, Resolution No. 2019-2434. She said on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the County of Fresno Board of Supervisors adopted homelessness priorities for calendar year 2019. The County of Fresno has met with cities and used the input provided by city representatives and the County's Department of Behavioral Health, Public Health, and Social Services to compile a list of priorities to strategically address homelessness countywide. Approval of the recommended action will show the City's support for the County's priorities to reduce the homelessness countywide.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hammer. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Parra.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Cardenas met with the Fresno County Transportation Agency regarding the Measure C funding on Tuesday, June 17, 2019.

Mayor Pro Tem Hammer said the Recreation Commission is busily preparing for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. Farmer's Market will begin July 31<sup>st</sup> and will run every Wednesday until October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Rodriquez mentioned the Fresno County Library in Fowler will begin its Summer Reading program on June 10<sup>th</sup> to July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Cardenas recommended reappointment of Monique Lopez and Joe Alvarez to another term on the Recreation Commission, as their terms will expire on June 30, 2019, and appoint Henrietta Martin to the Commission due to Jim Martin retiring from serving on the Commission as of June 30, 2019.

Councilmember Rodriquez made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hammer, to re-appoint Monique Lopez, Joe Alvarez and Henrietta Martin to a new term on the Recreation Commission. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Parra.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Hammer made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.