

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 1, 2019**

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

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Rodriquez

City Staff Present: City Manager/City Clerk Davis, City Attorney Cross, Finance Director Uyeda, Police Chief Alcaraz, Public Works Supervisor/Fire Chief Lopez, Deputy City Clerk Burrola

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by a moment of silence and reflection.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Justin Preas, Deputy CEO with United Health Centers, spoke about the property and vacant building located east of the United Health Center building. They have submitted a proposal to the City to potentially purchase the property for future parking needs. Mr. Preas said the United Health Center will be remodeled to add more space to its facility, plans have already been submitted to the City.

**CONSIDER AND APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2440 IN SUPPORT OF MAINTAINING LOCAL CONTROL OF ENERGY SOLUTIONS**

Colby Wells of Southern California Gas Company spoke about natural gas and Senate Bill AB 3232. Mr. Wells provided information at a prior meeting, Senate Bill AB 3232 was introduced last year, if passed it would require by January 1, 2022 that all new buildings in the State of California be electric and by 2030 all existing buildings, residential, commercial, and industrial to be converted to all electricity at the building owners expense. If passed the cost of adding new infrastructure to meet that need would be a large cost to the homeowners who would need to retrofit. By 2025 all new construction would be electric and by 2030 the conversion of all existing buildings and homes would be retrofitted. Mr. Wells said there is another possible alternative, renewable natural gas; he explained that this consists of methane which comes from composition of organic matter. Mr. Wells is asking the Council to consider Resolution No. 2440 to maintain local control of energy solutions so that municipalities should be able to decide how they would like to advance into the future and continue to utilize natural gas.

Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2240, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler, County of Fresno, State of California in Support of Maintaining Local Control of Energy Solutions" seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Davis reminded Council of the Big Fresno Fair opening ceremony tomorrow, October 2, 2019. The Horse Race Day for Fowler is Saturday, October 5, 2019.

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **APPROVE/APPOINT MR. DARIO DOMINGUEZ TO THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR POSITION**

City Manager Davis introduced Dario Dominguez, selected to the position of Public Works Director. She requested approval to place Mr. Dominguez at Step B of the Public Works Director range of the City's Salary Schedule, \$7,446.91 per month. Mr. Dominguez is a long time Fowler resident of over 30 years and said he is looking forward to providing services to the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Hammer made a motion to approve and appoint placing Mr. Dominguez at Step B of the Public Works Director range of the City's Salary Schedule; seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Rodriguez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

The meeting recessed for a brief reception welcoming Dario Dominguez and thanking Public Works Supervisor Manuel Lopez for all his hard work.

## **CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

### **◆ UPDATE ON SOUTH KINGS GSA**

City Engineer Peters provided update information on the South Kings Ground Water Sustainability plan. On September 3, 2019, South Kings GSA began the 90-day Public Review of the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The period will conclude with the public hearing in early December 2019. A meeting will be scheduled in early November to gather comments and input from the public in order to include in the plan. The South Kings GSA will consider all written documents received before and up through public hearing from beneficial users of groundwater or local stakeholders. As discussed in a prior meeting the agreement was to provide for a reservation of up to 17,000 acre feet of water per year which would allow every jurisdiction to build out their sphere of influence. CID has reconsidered that amount and it has been renegotiated to 8,000 acre feet per year. This will allow about 20 years of the growth rate anticipated; it should not have an impact on development, properties, or the ability to serve the citizens with water. Mr. Peters said the SKGSA Board meeting will take place in late October to consider approval of the water purchase agreement between South Kings and Consolidated Irrigation District (CID). The consensus of the Council is to direct the City's SKGSA Board representative, Karnig Kazarian, to vote in favor of entering into agreement between SKGSA and CID.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Davis reminded the Council that the General Plan Update Planning Commission workshop is this Thursday, October 3, 2019, it is open to the public and notices were mailed out in the water bill for public participation. She also said notices have been sent out in the mail for the new water payment cut off time. Effective December 1, 2019 the office will no longer be taking payments for the water bill after 4:30 p.m. this will provide enough time for balancing the books.

Ms. Davis said on September 16<sup>th</sup> a Planning Commission meeting was scheduled for the Woodside homes project but had to be canceled due to lack of quorum. The meeting is rescheduled for Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Public Works Supervisor Lopez circulated a list of projects the department has been working on to continue improving the City. He said an ADA parking stall has been placed at the parking lot of City Hall. An ADA compliant service counter will be placed at City Hall in the future.

Mr. Lopez expressed his gratitude for the opportunity he was given in supervising the Public Works department

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

No report was given.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Alcaraz said he is working with City Engineer Peters on resolving the traffic concerns on 4<sup>th</sup> and Vine and 4<sup>th</sup> and Nelson. He said in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Fowler Police Department will be selling pink patches to the public. All of the proceeds will go to support Central Valley Cancer Support. Patches are \$10.00 and can be purchased at the Police Department.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Fire Chief Lopez reported there have been several calls for structure fires.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

No report was given.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants – October 1, 2019; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting – September 17, 2019; C) Accept the City of Fowler 2019 Street Maintenance Project Constructed by Asphalt Maintenance Co. and Authorize the City Engineer to File the Notice of Completion. Councilmember Kazarian made a motion to approve the consent calendar, seconded by Councilmember Rodriquez. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Hammer said Trunk or Treat will be held on Wednesday, October 30, 2019 and will be the last day of the Fowler Farmers Market.

Councilmember Kazarian attended the Waste Management luncheon.

Councilmember Parra attended the Waste Management luncheon.

Councilmember Rodriquez said he received complaints on double parking on Nelson Street where the new apartment complex has been built.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting adjourned to a closed session at 8:19 p.m. 1) Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 - Public Employee Performance Evaluation. Title: City Manager: 2) Government Code Section 54956.8 - Conference with Real Property Negotiators: Property: 130 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Agency Negotiators

Mayor Cardenas left the closed session at 9:04 p.m. due to a conflict of interest on Item 2 due to owning property near the subject of closed session item 2.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 9:19 p.m. with no reportable action taken.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Councilmember Kazarian made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Rodriquez. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.