

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 5, 2005**

Mayor Simonian called the meeting to order in the Council Chambers at 7:06 p. m.

Councilmembers present: Simonian, Shaw, Cardenas, Aguayo, Nagata

City Staff present: City Manager Elias, City Clerk Davis, Finance Director Wong, Police Chief Jamgochian, Community Development Director Deaver, Senior/Recreation Director Monis, City Attorney Riggs

The Flag Salute and the Pledge of Allegiance were followed by an invocation given by Mayor Pro-Tem Shaw. There were no public presentations.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias stated that the upcoming general meeting of the South San Joaquin Division of the League of California Cities would be held on April 13, 2005 in Coalinga. He mentioned that the Highway 99 Beautification Committee still needed an at-large member from the Fowler community.

STAFF REPORTS

A) CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

City Manager Elias said that the matter of formally approving an MOU with Kings River Conservation District (KRCD) for Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), was again before them. He reported that since the last Council meeting, no additional cities or counties have approved the MOU. There is a concern that if all of the 14 cities and 3 counties do not participate, it may end up costing more for those that have approved the MOU. He said that KRCD had offered to give the Council another presentation on CCA, if necessary. The consensus of the Council was to continue the matter to the next meeting.

B) DISCUSSION: EXECUTING AN AGREEMENT WITH FRESNO COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDGB)

City Manager Elias said that in the past, the City had customarily participated in Fresno County's CDBG program. The City discontinued participation in their program several years ago because it had become much more beneficial to apply directly to the State's CDBG program. The City was awarded several hundred thousand dollars in economic development grant funds from the State's program. The funds have been loaned to a number of local business projects. The repayment on these loans has brought back approximately \$500,000 to the City in what is known as "program income," which can also be loaned to businesses. He noted that the State will not allow the City to apply for any further grants until most of this program income is spent.

Due to the situation, City Manager Elias recommended participating again in the County's three-year CDBG program. Funds are allocated on a per capita basis and would amount to approximately \$50,000 annually. The funds can be used for economic development, housing, infrastructure, and possibly ADA compliance projects. Once the three-year contract period is over, the City would have the option to apply directly to the State again, if necessary. Fresno County has also agreed to put a mutual indemnification clause into the agreement, which was a prior concern. After a discussion, the consensus of the Council was to bring the agreement back for approval when the final draft with the updated indemnification language was received.

C) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 1998

City Manager Elias explained that Resolution No. 1998 was to approve annexation of Tract No. 5198, the R. J. Hill subdivision project, into the City's Landscape and storm Drainage Facilities Maintenance District for the 2005-2006 annual assessments.

Councilmember Nagata made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1998, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler, Fresno County, California, Approving Annexation to Landscaping and Storm Drainage Facilities Maintenance District No. 1 of the City of Fowler." The motion was seconded by Councilmember Aguayo, and carried on a 5-0-0 roll call vote.

D) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no report given.

E) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was no report given.

F) FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance Director Wong stated that there would be a Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2005 at 6:00 p. m. He reported that utility billing software had been installed and training completed in preparation of converting to a handheld meter reading system.

G) POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Jamgochian briefly discussed the police and fire statistical reports that had been previously provided in the agenda packets. He mentioned that a new police officer would be sworn in on Monday, April 18, 2005.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

There was no City Attorney's report given.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - April 5, 2005; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting - March 15, 2005; and C) Adoption of Resolution No. 1999, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Accepting Grant Deed" (Replacement well-site - West Star Construction, Inc). Mayor Pro-Tem Shaw made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Councilmember Aguayo. The motion carried on a 5-0-0 roll-call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Simonian attended a COG meeting where the proposed Highway 99 Interstate designation was discussed. He attended a Highway 99 Beautification Committee meeting and said the group was going full speed with plans for improvements. Mayor Pro-Tem Shaw commented on the success of the recent Springfest Celebration, and the dedication ceremony for Fowler High School's new all-weather track. Councilmember Aguayo attended a meeting with staff concerning downtown revitalization efforts and a Highway 99 Beautification sub-committee meeting. Councilmember Cardenas attended the recent ceremony for the Lopez home that was rebuilt with RDA funds. He mentioned the upcoming Lion's Club Band Review.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Cardenas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Aguayo. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p. m.