

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL
FOWLER REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
AND FOWLER PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
MAY 31, 2005**

Mayor/Chairman Simonian called the meeting to order in the Council Chambers at 5:40 p. m. Roll call was taken.

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

City/Agency Staff present: City Manager/Executive Director Elias, City Clerk/Secretary Davis, Finance Director/Treasurer Wong, Community Development Director Deaver, Police Chief Jamgochian, Senior/Recreation Director Monis, City Attorney Wolfe

DISCUSSION: PROPOSED 2005-2006 FISCAL YEAR BUDGETS

City Manager Elias said that since the proposed budget had already been distributed for their review, Finance Director Wong would be presenting some of the highlights, including an overview of capital expenditures. Mr. Wong briefly explained some of the General Fund revenues. He noted that the budget included a 2 percent cost of living increase, and funding for a full-time building inspector, public works supervisor, and two police officer positions. He explained the allocation of employee salaries to the General Fund, Water Enterprise Fund and Redevelopment Agency (RDA). Finance Director Wong noted that due to higher health insurance costs, staff recommended increasing the monthly cap for City paid health insurance from \$800 to \$850 per month. Mr. Wong also circulated a list of suggested adjustments to the draft budget that included funding for a planning secretary position and for re-carpeting and painting the City Hall complex.

Capital projects included a new air conditioning unit for City Hall, a new roof for the Public Works building, slurry seal funds, a new gazebo for Panzak Park and a new truck for the Public Works Department. City Manager Elias added that although the proposed budget included some costly building maintenance expenses, they have been long overdue. He said he would delay some projects until early 2006 to ensure that revenues come in as expected.

Councilmember Cardenas left the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

The budget was discussed in further detail. City Manager Elias explained some of the RDA projects, which included a storm drain on 10th and Merced Streets, slurry seal on 6th Street and various repairs. Funding for projects such as downtown revitalization and Golden State Corridor improvements, perhaps with the assistance of grants, was discussed.

City Manager Elias stated that the draft budget would be updated to reflect the recommended changes and would be ready for adoption at the second meeting in June.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember/Director Aguayo made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem/Vice-Chairman Shaw, to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p. m.