

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 6, 2006**

Mayor Simonian called the meeting to order in the Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Simonian, Aguayo, Cardenas, & Nagata

Councilmembers absent: Shaw

City staff present: City Manager Elias, City Clerk Davis, Finance Director Wong,
Police Chief Jamgochian, City Attorney Wolfe

Chief Jamgochian led the Flag Salute and the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember Cardenas gave the invocation.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned the upcoming SSJVD League of California Cities general meeting on June 14, 2006, and an upcoming Council goal setting meeting on Thursday, June 15, 2006.

STAFF REPORTS

A) PRESENTATION REGARDING S. K. F. SANITATION DISTRICT'S SEWER FEE INCREASE

David Michel, General Manager of S. K. F. Sanitation District, gave a presentation to the Council about the District's proposed fee increase. The increase was based on recommendations from an independent study, and would cost approximately \$1.00 per month, per customer. He showed several pictures of S. K. F.'s 32 year old plant and aging or failing equipment that is in need of refurbishing or replacing. In addition to capital improvement needs, the high cost of electricity was another factor prompting the fee increase. Mr. Michel noted that S. K. F.'s sewer rates were near the average for the Valley.

B) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2047

City Manager Elias stated that the Engineer's Report and a resolution setting a public hearing for the levy of the Landscape and Storm Drainage District's annual assessments was before the Council for approval. The public hearing on the assessments would be scheduled for June 20, 2006.

Councilmember Nagata made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cardenas, to adopt Resolution No. 2047, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler of Intention to Levy and Collect the Annual Assessments for Landscaping and Storm

Drainage Facilities Maintenance District No. 1.” The motion carried on a 4-0-1 roll call vote with Mayor Pro-Tem Shaw absent.

C) DISCUSSION ON PLANNING AND RECREATION COMMISSION STIPENDS

City Manager Elias said that pursuant to a prior Council discussion, staff had conducted a survey on whether other local cities provide stipends to their Planning and Recreation Commissioners. The City of Selma provides \$50 for each Planning Commission meeting attended. The City of Sanger provides \$25 per meeting for both Planning and Recreation Commissioners.

The Council discussed incentives such as providing a meal or refreshments for the Recreation Commission meeting, and providing a \$25 stipend to the Planning Commissioners, based on meeting attendance. City Attorney Wolfe stated that the Council could implement the stipend by either an ordinance or a resolution. The consensus was to bring back a resolution at the next meeting.

D-F) There were no reports given by the City Manager, Community Development Director or Finance Director.

G) POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Jamgochian reported on the Fire Department’s recent response to a nearby fire that destroyed a garage and vehicle.

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe reported that several counties have sued the State to declare Proposition 215 - concerning Medical Marijuana - as unconstitutional, because Proposition 215 conflicts with Federal law.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - June 6, 2006; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting - May 17, 2006; C) Consider and approve staff’s recommendation to reject: Claim against the City of Fowler - Linda Herrera; D) Approve new Lease Agreement (to replace former agreement) for office space in the old Fowler Hospital building - Tenant: Doug Cockrell; E) Approve Lease Agreement for office space in the old Fowler Hospital building - Tenant: Angela Avila; and F) Approve Agreement to Provide Sewer Service and Annexation Agreement between the City of Fowler and Three Crowns Industrial Park. Councilmember Aguayo made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Councilmember Cardenas. The motion carried on a 4-0-1 roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Simonian reported on a COG meeting where they discussed implementing a county-wide plan to address the Valley's gang problem. He also asked that a discussion item be placed on the next agenda concerning a driveway approach problem at the R & R Auto Repair facility on Merced Street.

Councilmember Aguayo attended the opening ceremony for the Fresno County Fruit Trail. He attended the opening of the new Juvenile Hall facility on American Avenue, and a Blueprint Committee workshop. He announced that the City had been awarded an \$86,000 grant from CalTrans to help plan for improvements to the downtown area. He reported that the grand opening for the new Starbucks was scheduled for June 27, 2006.

Councilmember Cardenas said that he enjoyed the recent Mayor's Prayer Breakfast and report on the City's accomplishments over the past year. He attended a Fowler Chamber mixer at the Data Works facility. He also attended an event where Congressman Jim Costa spoke on Valley issues.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember Aguayo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Cardenas. The motion carried by unanimous consent and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p. m.