

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 16, 2007**

Mayor Pro-Tem Shaw called the meeting to order at 7:04 p. m.

Councilmembers present: Shaw, Aguayo, & Cardenas

Councilmembers absent: Simonian & Nagata

City staff present: City Manager Elias, City Clerk Davis, Police Chief Jamgochian, Finance Director Wong, Community Development Director Deaver, Senior/Recreation Director Monis, City Attorney Wolfe, Public Works Superintendent Weisser, City Engineer Hutchings

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 announced that the first meeting of the Land Buffer Task Force would be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2007. Also, a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new local restaurant, Jocy's, formerly the Ritz Bar, would be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2007. City Clerk Davis mentioned that the Grand Opening for the R. J. Hill Homes project was scheduled for Sunday, February 11, 2007 from 1:00 to 4:00 p. m.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**A) APPROVE PLANS/SPECIFICATIONS - 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
SIDEWALK/LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS**

City Engineer Hutchings explained the plans and specifications for installing sidewalks and landscaping along 10th Street, between Merced and Tuolumne Streets. The project would be funded with 2006/2007 Community Development Block Grant funds. Improvements would include decorative stamped concrete and street lights, sidewalks, and a raised median island. In conjunction, improvements were to be made to sidewalks, curb returns and alley approaches at various locations near Fowler High School, along with repair work and retrofitting of curb returns on Main, 8th and 9th Streets. The bid opening date would be scheduled for February 22, 2007.

Councilmember Aguayo made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cardenas, to approve the plans and specifications, and advertise the 10th Street Sidewalk/Landscape Improvements and Fowler High School Area Pedestrian Facilities for bids. The motion carried on a 3-0-2 roll call vote with Mayor Simonian and Councilmember Nagata absent.

**B) APPROVE INCREASING RETAINER - CALIFORNIA CONSULTING, LLC**

City Manager Elias noted that about a year ago, the Council approved entering into a month to month agreement with California Consulting, to assist with lobbying for State funding for local projects. At the time, California Consulting agreed to a lower

introductory fee schedule, while the City evaluated the company's performance. To date, they have garnered over \$265,000 in grants for the City. They have requested an increase of their monthly retainer from \$1,240 to \$2,000 per month, which is comparable to what other local agencies are paying for their services.

After a discussion, Councilmember Aguayo made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cardenas, to approve increasing the retainer for California Consulting, LLC. The motion carried on a 3-0-2 roll call vote.

**C) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

No report was given.

**D) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Community Development Director Deaver reported that a site plan review for a new business, Valley Ice Company, was being finalized. He said that he and Public Works Supervisor Weisser had been meeting with Fresno County to discuss offsite improvements for the new library.

**E) FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Finance Director Wong gave a financial update for the first six months of the fiscal year. The General Fund expenditures were at 43 percent and the revenues were at 44 percent. The year-to-date receipts from the Utility Users tax totaled \$150,000.

**F) POLICE AND FIRE REPORT**

Chief Jamgochian gave an update on the condition of Lieutenant Jim Soles, who had suffered a heart attack and remained in the hospital. He also mentioned that the Department was taking steps to address several recent graffiti incidents in town.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

City Attorney Wolfe reported that he had expanded the AB 1234 Ethics Training to include a cultural diversity component.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - January 16, 2007; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting - January 2, 2007, and Special Meetings - December 4, 2006 and December 18, 2006, and Special Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission - December 18, 2006; and C) Adoption of Resolution No. 2076, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Adopting City Standard M-2, ST-14, ST-15, ST-16, W-1 and W-8."

Item C, concerning the update to the City Standards, was removed for further discussion. It was decided that more clarification was needed and the item should be brought back at a future date. Councilmember Cardenas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Aguayo, to approve items A and B of the Consent Calendar. The motion carried on a 3-0-2 roll call vote.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilmember Aguayo attended a Recreation Commission meeting where the date was set for the Annual Springfest Celebration - Saturday, May 12, 2007. He attended a League of California Cities Transportation Committee meeting, and a meeting regarding the Metro Rural Loop project. He mentioned a recent Valley Blueprint workshop, also attended by Planning Consultant O'Neal and City Attorney Wolfe. At a recent Fowler Library Committee meeting, it was discussed that the targeted completion date for the new library would be June 2008.

Councilmember Cardenas attended the installation and reorganization ceremony for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, and a swearing-in ceremony for new Sheriff Margaret Mimms. He also attended an S. K. F. Board meeting where they are continuing to discuss planning for expansion of sewer capacity, due to local city growth patterns. He attended a Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District meeting, and circulated a report on the West Nile Virus.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Councilmember Aguayo made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cardenas, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p. m.