

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2007**

Mayor Simonian called the meeting to order at 7:18 p. m.

Councilmembers present: Simonian, Shaw, Aguayo, & Cardenas

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.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2076 - FRESNO COUNTY'S "BIG READ"

Fowler Library representative Terry Sterling asked the Council to approve a resolution supporting the Fresno County Library's "Big Read" campaign. The campaign invites residents to read the novel "The Joy Luck Club" to discuss the challenges facing immigrants and their children, which is one of the themes of the book.

Councilmember Aguayo made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2076, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Urging Support of the Big Read: "The Joy Luck Club" from February 8, 2007 Through March 15, 2007." The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cardenas, and carried on a 4-0-0 roll call vote.

PRESENTATION REGARDING UPPER KINGS RIVER WATER FORUM - ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2077

A representative from Kings River Conservation District spoke briefly about the Upper Kings Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. The plan involves public agencies and organizations that share water resources. The goals of the plan include management of surface water and ground water, water reliability, flood control, and water conservation.

Councilmember Cardenas made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2077, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler in Support of the Agreements-in-Principle for the Upper Kings Integrated Regional Water Management Plan." The motion was seconded by Councilmember Aguayo, and carried on a 4-0-0 roll call vote

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned an upcoming trip with the "One Voice" delegation to Sacramento.

STAFF REPORTS

A) AUTHORIZE BID PROCESS - FRESNO/3RD/MERCED STREET RESURFACING

City Engineer Hutchings explained the plans for resurfacing segments of Fresno Street between 2nd and 4th Streets, 3rd Street between Fresno and Main Streets, and Merced Street between 5th Street and Adams Avenue. The bid opening date is scheduled for March 1, 2007, with the project to begin in April.

After a discussion, Councilmember Aguayo made a motion to approve the plans and specifications and authorize advertising for bids for the Fresno Street/3rd Street/Merced Street resurfacing. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Shaw, and carried on a 4-0-0 roll call vote.

B) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Approve purchase of truck - Public Works Department

City Manager Elias recommended purchasing a Ford F350 crew cab truck with a dump bed for the Public Works/Water Department. The crew cab would allow for transporting the jail trustee crew, along with a much needed dump bed capacity.

Councilmember Aguayo made a motion to approve the purchase of the Ford F350 truck for the Public Works Department, seconded by Councilmember Cardenas. The motion carried on a 4-0-0 roll call vote.

C) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Community Development Director Deaver spoke of some possible dates for the Planning Commission to hold a joint meeting with the Council to discuss the Zoning Ordinance update. Three meetings would be needed to complete the discussions. The consensus was to meet on the dates of March 1, March 15, and April 5, 2007.

He reported on the status of the Storefront Improvement Program, and circulated a new brochure to advertise the program. Two applications were given to local businesses that were interested. He also reported on recent housing rehabilitation projects.

D) PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Weisser attended recent meetings with Fresno County regarding the offsite improvements for the new Fowler Library. The County expressed the need for more funding for the design work. He also reported on the Pavement Management Program.

E) FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance Director Wong asked to pull the agenda item regarding approval of a City purchasing policy. He reported on the status of the new meter reading/utility billing program. The new handheld meter reading devices are in use. The readings are successfully being downloaded into the computer billing system, but there are still about 1,300 older water meters that must be replaced in order to use the handheld devices for touch reading. These readings must still be manually entered into the device. City Manager Elias suggested that staff get a cost on retrofitting the old meters.

F) POLICE AND FIRE REPORT

Approve Purchase of Police Vehicles

Chief Jamgochian asked for the Council's approval to purchase three new police vehicles and related equipment with two to be funded by Development Impact funds, and one with

Utility Users Tax funds. The two vehicles would be for two new police officers, and one vehicle

would replace a car with high mileage. Staff will look into donating the car to another city that may be able to use it.

Councilmember Cardenas made a motion to approve purchase of three new police vehicles and related equipment, two to be funded with Development Impact Fee funds and one with Utility Users Tax funds. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Aguayo, and carried on a 4-0-0 roll call vote.

Chief Jamgochian reported on the status of the Emergency Plan update, noting that the Police Department had already started emergency response training with some of the City staff.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe reported that his law firm participated in the recent Councilmember training academy event in Hanford.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - February 6, 2007; and B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting - January 16, 2007. Councilmember Aguayo made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cardenas, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried on a 4-0-0 roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Upon the recommendation of Mayor Simonian, Councilmember Aguayo made a motion to appoint Andrea Clift to the Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cardenas, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Councilmember Aguayo reported that he would be leaving on the weekend to travel with the "One Voice" delegation to Washington, D. C. to lobby for local transportation projects.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember Cardenas made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Shaw, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p. m.