

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 20, 2007**

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

Councilmembers present: Simonian, Shaw, Aguayo, Cardenas & Zadourian

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

PRESENTATION TO MRS. L. V. MARGARET COWINGS

Mayor Simonian presented a resolution to longtime Fowler resident Mrs. L. V. Margaret Cowings, naming the City park near 9th and Merced Streets in her honor. At a prior meeting, Mrs. Cowings son had asked the Council to provide a proclamation in recognition of her 90th birthday on March 30, 2007. The Council directed that a resolution be brought forth naming the City park after Mrs. Cowings in honor of this special occasion. Mayor Simonian read the resolution aloud, and adjourned the meeting to a brief reception for Mrs. Cowings.

The meeting was reconvened, and Councilmember Aguayo made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2078, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Naming the City Park Near 9th and Merced Streets as "Mrs. L. V. Margaret Cowings Park." The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cardenas, and carried on a 5-0-0 roll call vote.

STAFF REPORTS

A) AWARD OF CONTRACT - FRESNO/3RD/MERCED STREET RESURFACING

City Engineer Hutchings reported that the City recently held a bid opening for the Fresno Street/3rd Street/Merced Street resurfacing project. Seven bids were received, with the lowest being \$273,745.80, submitted by Garcia Paving. The Council discussed the timing of the project, set to begin in mid to late April, in conjunction with other scheduled City events.

Councilmember Cardenas made a motion to award the contract in the amount of \$273,746.80 to the low bidder, Garcia Paving, for the Fresno Street/3rd Street/Merced Street resurfacing, authorize a contingency fund in the amount of 10% of the contract cost (\$27,400), and authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Aguayo, and carried on a 5-0-0 roll call vote.

B) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2079

City Manager Elias recommended that the Council approve a resolution to change three two-way stop intersections, into four-way stop intersections. The location of the intersections included 7th and Merced Streets, 5th and Main Streets, and 6th and Main Streets. The reason for the change was due to visibility problems created from diagonal parking in the areas, and additional traffic from National Raisin Company's expansion and the City's population increase.

Railroad safety signs would also be installed on Merced Street to warn vehicles not to stop on the tracks.

After a discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Shaw made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2079, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fowler Designating the Following Intersections as Four-Way Stop Intersections: 5th Street and Main Street, 6th Street and Main Street, 7th Street and Merced Street; and Requiring the Installation of Railroad Safety Signs on Merced Street." The motion was seconded by Councilmember Aguayo, and carried on a 5-0-0 roll call vote.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

◆ Update on purchase of Grange Hall

City Manager Elias gave an update on the response from the California State Grange regarding the City's offer to purchase or lease the Grange Hall. Their response conveyed the concern that the City's plans for the facility would interfere with interest in re-establishing the local Grange group. Mr. Elias spoke with a Grange representative to inform them that the use of the building would be limited to community needs such as a cooling or warming center, or food give-away center. He also assured them that the City would promote the re-establishment of the local Grange, and would not allow other local non-profit groups to use the facility. The Grange expressed interest in leasing the property under those terms.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Weisser reported on the newly installed playground equipment in Panzak Park.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance Director Wong gave an update on the fiscal year revenues and expenditures. He said that projections show that sales tax revenue should come in approximately \$267,000 over what

was budgeted. The report showed that the General Fund expenditures were at 65.9 percent, and revenues were at 78.61 percent, to date.

POLICE AND FIRE REPORT

Chief Jamgochian reported that the Neighborhood Watch Program had begun, and the City had distributed notices with the monthly water billing. Future notices will be sent out addressing animal control procedures and graffiti reporting.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe reported on a case that determined that public employees were immune from defamation lawsuits related to press releases on the arrests of crime suspects.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The consent calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - March 20, 2007; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting - February 20, 2007, and Special Meetings - February 27, 2007 and March 1, 2007; and C) Approve Agreement between the City of Fowler and Connect CTY. Councilmember Aguayo made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Councilmember Zadourian. The motion carried on a 5-0-0 roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Shaw reported on a committee meeting he attended with Councilmember Aguayo regarding a future sports/recreation complex.

Councilmember Aguayo attended a Fowler Library Committee meeting, noting that half of the funds have been raised for the new library. He attended a Highway 99 Beautification meeting, and a Recreation Commission meeting. The annual Springfest event was scheduled for Saturday, May 12, 2007.

Councilmember Cardenas attended an S. K. F. meeting where the board reorganized, and they received a brief report on the sewer bottleneck problem. A consultant will be performing a study on matters such as treatment capacity, operations and maintenance practices, staffing and effectiveness, growth accommodation, and rate structure. The District will be contracting with Steve Samuelian of California Consulting to help locate funding and grants for wastewater treatment and water recycling. He mentioned that the Council was invited to S.K.F.'s barbecue on April 12, 2007 at 11:00 a. m.

Councilmember Cardenas also reported on a Consolidated Mosquito Abatement meeting where they discussed a large expansion of the district's territory. He distributed a vector report.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember Aguayo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Shaw. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p. m.