

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 21, 2009**

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

Councilmembers present: Simonian, Cardenas, Aguayo, Darling, & Parra

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

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance was followed by an invocation given by Councilmember Darling. There were no public presentations.

PRESENTATION BY FOWLER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - QUARTERLY REPORT

President Craig Mellon presented an update on Fowler Chamber operations. They have recruited five new members, including the Fowler Police Officer's Association. He commented on the success of the Annual Community Awards Banquet, and mentioned some upcoming events, including a monthly A.M. coffee mixer.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned an invitation to the S.K.F. Sanitation District barbeque luncheon the following day.

STAFF REPORTS:

A) APPROVE FIRST AMENDMENT TO SUBDIVISION AGREEMENT - TRACT NO. 5198 - R. J. HILL HOMES

Community Development Director Deaver stated that Developer Randy Hill had asked the City to consider deferring payment of the development fees at their subdivision project. The fees would be deferred on each home until a certificate of occupancy is issued upon completion. The approval process would require a formal amendment to the original subdivision agreement.

After a discussion, Councilmember Aguayo made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Parra, to approve the First Amendment to the Subdivision Agreement - Tract No. 5198, in the City of Fowler, Fresno County, California. The motion carried on a 5-0-0 roll call vote.

B) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

◆ **Legislative update**

City Manager Elias reported on the recent League of California Cities Legislative Action Days in Sacramento. The main topic was the economic crisis and the State's budget

problems. He attended meetings with legislators, and a water task force meeting, and conveyed Fowler's concerns. Governor Schwarzenegger also addressed the group regarding his commitment to a partnership with local government.

C) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Community Development Director Deaver gave a Powerpoint presentation showing a recent housing rehabilitation project from the Home Improvement Grant Program. There were several before and after pictures of improvements made to the home. He noted that the contractor, R.W. Stockton, performed additional work at his own cost, to further enhance the project.

He reported that the Quizno's sandwich shop had closed. The owner has discontinued the Quizno's franchise due to there being too many restrictions imposed, and plans to soon open a family owned restaurant or deli instead.

He also mentioned that the Microtel project has been cancelled.

D) PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

◆ Approve purchase of used 2000 Hyster H80XL Lift Truck (forklift)

Public Works Supervisor Weisser stated that the City was in need of a new forklift, as the current one is very old, in need of constant maintenance, and unsafe for use. He recommended purchasing a used 2000 Hyster forklift for \$9,500, using Water Enterprise reserve funds.

Councilmember Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Aguayo, to approve the purchase of a used 2000 Hyster H80XL Lift Truck (forklift). The motion carried on a 5-0-0 roll call vote.

◆ Update on Proteus workers

Public Works Supervisor Weisser reported that Proteus will be sending out two individuals to assist in Public Works activities for the next six months, as part of a grant program. Their wages and workers compensation costs will be paid for by Proteus through the grant. The workers must be trained in activities where they can learn new skills, and not for simple labor tasks.

E) FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Finance Director Wong gave a financial summary from July 2008 through March 2009. Sales tax has come in at \$769,653 for the period, which is \$30,000 less than what was received for the same period the prior year.

F) POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Jamgocian reported on six different grants that are being applied for, including a grant to help fund a community service officer, for conducting a team building session for the Police Department, and for needed equipment, such as a “jaws of life.” He also mentioned that Jim Martin, former Chief, had officially resigned his position as a police reserve officer.

A question was asked regarding skateboarders and public safety. It was mentioned that staff had drafted a skateboard ordinance some time ago, but had not brought it forward for approval. The consensus was to place the ordinance on the next agenda for consideration.

G) SENIOR/RECREATION DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Senior/Recreation Director Monis reported on an upcoming Recreation Commission bus trip to San Francisco, and preparations for the Springfest event.

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe reported that a pending legal matter for local cities, concerning implementation of a “Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee,” would be handled through a joint powers authority rather than by having the cities adopt the fee.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - April 21, 2009; and B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting - April 7, 2009 and Special Meeting - April 7, 2009.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cardenas made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Councilmember Aguayo. The motion carried on a 5-0-0 roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Simonian attended a much publicized “March for Water” along with elected officials throughout the region. More than 10,000 people attended, including Governor Schwarzenegger.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cardenas reminded the Council of the upcoming S.K.F. Sanitation District barbecue luncheon on April 22, 2009. He attended a League of California Cities SSJV Division meeting.

Councilmember Aguayo reported on the “March for Water” event he attended along with Mayor Simonian and other officials.

Councilmember Darling spoke of efforts to raise funds for a banner honoring the American Legion and supporting the local troops.

Councilmember Parra also attended the “March for Water.” He attended the League of California Cities SSJV Division meeting, where it was confirmed that Mayor Harry

Armstrong of Clovis and Mayor Armando Lopez of Parlier, were each appointed to a committee that will be working on water issues.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Simonian adjourned the meeting to a closed session at 8:50 p. m. to discuss, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 - Conference with Real Property Negotiators - Property: 2475 S. Temperance Ave. Fowler, CA 93625. Agency Negotiators: David Elias, David Weisser. Negotiating party: La Jolla Group. Under Negotiation: Price, terms.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 9:00 p. m. with the following action taken: Councilmember Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Aguayo, to approve the agreement to purchase the property at 2475 E. Temperance, Fowler, CA, for \$125,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Mayor Pro-Tem Cardenas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Darling, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.