

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2009**

Mayor Pro-Tem Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p. m.

Councilmembers present: Cardenas, Aguayo, Darling, & Parra

Councilmembers absent: Simonian

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

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by an invocation given by Councilmember Darling.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Fowler resident Murray McManus asked about the Recreation Commission's upcoming farmer's market. Recreation Director Monis stated that the opening day was scheduled for Saturday, August 15, 2009, and it will be held every Wednesday at 4:00 p. m. thereafter, until November.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned an invitation from the Big Fresno Fair for the Council to attend Fowler's horse race day scheduled for Monday, October 12, 2009.

STAFF REPORTS

A) CONSIDER AND APPROVE REAL PROPERTY PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT - 219 S. 5TH STREET

City Manager Elias said that the City had been negotiating the purchase of a small piece of property at 219 S. 5th Street, next to the City's public works yard, at a cost of \$45,000. The property is where the old La Tapatia tortilleria building had been for many years.

Councilmember Parra made a motion to approve the Real Property Purchase and Sale Agreement and Joint Escrow Instructions for 219 S. 5th Street. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Aguayo, and carried on a 4-0-1 roll call vote, with Mayor Simonian absent.

B) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Elias asked about scheduling a budget workshop for the following week. He also mentioned that the City had recently advertised for individuals to serve on the Design Review Committee, but only two applications have been received. Councilmember Aguayo

said that he would contact an individual that had expressed interest in serving.

C) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

◆ Consider and approve First Amendment to License Agreement - Bratton Group

Community Development Director Deaver explained that the Bratton Group, developers of the Carmel Coffee kiosk currently under construction near Manning and Highway 99, have asked to amend their existing license agreement for use of the City's excess right-of-way. The amendment would allow for a ten-year option on the agreement after the end of the ten-year period specified in the agreement. The reason for the change is to satisfy a request from the developer's lender.

Councilmember Aguayo made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Darling, to approve the Amended License Agreement between the City of Fowler and the Bratton Group. The motion carried on a 4-0-1 roll call vote, with Mayor Simonian absent.

Community Development Director Deaver reported on the progress of downtown facade improvements. It was asked that staff add an item to the next agenda to discuss expansion of the Storefront Improvement Program boundaries.

D) PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Weisser reported on street resurfacing projects that will be starting soon.

E) FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance Director Wong gave an update on the State budget. The City will lose \$84,000 from property tax revenue that the State will borrow, to be repaid in a few years with up to 6 percent interest. He mentioned that there may be further loss of property tax revenue from re-assessments, due to lowered values caused by the downturn in the housing market.

The State will also take approximately \$337,106 from the Redevelopment Agency's tax increment funds. They decided not take the Highway Users Tax funds as proposed, but will delay payment until January 2010.

F) POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Jamgochian reported that the Fresno County Housing Authority is hosting a "National Night Out" at their Fowler housing project, and the Police and Fire Departments will participate in the event.

G) SENIOR/RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Senior/Recreation Director Monis reported that the Recreation Commission has been preparing for the upcoming Elvis in the Park/Farmer's Market event, and the "End of Summer" pool party.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report was given.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - August 4, 2009; B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting - July 21, 2009; C) Approve Reimbursement Agreement - Parcel Map No. 07-02, Roger Anthony & Jo Ellen Anthony, Trustees Under the Roger & Jo Ellen Anthony Revocable Living Trust Dated December 20, 2005 - City of Fowler, Fresno County, California. Councilmember Aguayo made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Parra, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried on a 4-0-1 roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Cardenas mentioned the upcoming S.K.F. luncheon for retiring General Manager David Michel. He reported that at a recent Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District Board meeting they discussed building a new central facility, possibly in Fowler.

Councilmember Aguayo mentioned the upcoming End of Summer Bash and the Elvis in the Park/Farmer's Market.

Councilmember Darling commented on the good feedback he received from the City's assistance with the Cal Ripkin/Babe Ruth tournaments.

Councilmember Parra mentioned the upcoming general meeting for the SSJV Division of the League of California Cities on August 13, 2009 in Clovis.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Councilmember Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Darling, to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p. m.