

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 7, 2015**

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

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas Parra, Hammer, Monis, Simonian

City Staff Present: City Manager Elias, City Clerk Davis, Finance Director Wong, City Attorney Wolfe, Public Works Director Weisser, Police Chief Brand, Fire Chief Lopez, Building Official/Code Enforcement Officer Baxa

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by an invocation given by Mayor Cardenas. Roll call was taken. There were no public presentations.

PRESENTATION BY FRESNO HOUSING AUTHORITY

Tracewell Hanrahan, Deputy Executive Director of the Fresno Housing Authority, gave a Powerpoint presentation on their programs and projects. The Authority provides housing and support services for over 16,000 low income families, and this year marks their 75th anniversary. The presentation featured photos of brand new and renewed housing projects throughout various local cities. Ms. Hanrahan said that there are future plans to enhance their current housing complex in Fowler.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Elias mentioned the official grand opening of the Dollar General store on Saturday, April 11, 2015; and the upcoming SSJV Division of the League of California Cities general meeting in Visalia on April 16, 2015.

STAFF REPORTS:

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2015-03

City Manager Elias explained that Ordinance No. 2015-03 supports State law, which mandates recycling for commercial businesses and multi-family dwellings. The ordinance applies to businesses that discard 4 yards of waste or more per week and apartments that have 5 or more units. It also requires businesses to report their recycling, which will assist the City meet its waste diversion percentages. There are 28 businesses in the City that are currently not in compliance, and Waste Management will be sending them notification.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to waive the second reading and approve Ordinance No. 2015-02, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Fowler Adding Article 2, Recycling, to Chapter 2 of Title 6 of the Fowler Municipal Code Pertaining to Solid Waste Collection, and Making Other Conforming Amendments to Article 1 Definitions and Article 4 Violations." The motion carried by

unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis, & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Discussion: Governor's Statewide Mandatory Water Restrictions

City Manager Elias spoke of the Governor's recent Executive Order for mandatory water conservation due to the severe drought, which requires cities to reduce water usage by 25 percent. Clarification on implementing the restrictions will be forthcoming. It was discussed that the City's watering regulations might be further restricted to two-days per week rather than the current three day per week regulation. The topic will be an ongoing agenda item.

Update: Code Enforcement Activities

City Manager Elias briefly reported on code enforcement activities, noting that more focused efforts are taking place to bring properties into compliance with municipal code requirements.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Weisser said that staff has been busy on weed abatement tasks and pothole patching. A bid opening is being scheduled for a street improvement project.

Animal Control Update

Public Works Director Weisser mentioned that several citations have been issued to dog owners that have been allowing their dogs to roam. Second Chance Shelter in Selma is in the process of reviewing an agreement to provide animal control services to the City of Fowler.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Brand gave a statistical report for March 2015. There have been several incidents of theft of catalytic converters from vehicles.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Lopez said that the department is performing hose testing. There are now eight volunteer firefighters that are qualified to drive the fire engines.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Wolfe said that he will be setting up a conference call with representatives of U.S.D.A. to discuss items related to the City securing funding for a new fire station.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - April 7, 2015; B) Approve Minutes of the Fowler City Council Meeting - March 3, 2015 and Minutes of the Fowler City Council and Fowler Public Financing Authority Special Joint Meeting - March 3, 2015; and C) Approve Staff's recommendation to reject claim against the City of Fowler: Mario Munoz. Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hammer, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Monis, & Simonian. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cardenas reported on a recent COG meeting, where the Board appointed Mayor Pro-Tem Parra to the LAFCo Board. He attended a national vector control conference in New Orleans, as chairman of the Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District Board.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra mentioned the upcoming SSJV Division of the League of California Cities general meeting/legislative reception at the Visalia Convention Center. He said that the Fowler Lions Club will be handling Fowler's agricultural booth this year at the Big Fresno Fair.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Monis, to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p. m.