

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 7, 2017**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p. m. Roll call was taken.

Councilmembers Present: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriquez, Parra (arrived 7:09 p.m.)

City Staff Present: Interim City Manager/City Clerk Davis, Police Chief Brand, Public Works Director Weisser, City Attorney Wolfe, Fire Chief Lopez, Building Official Baxa, City Engineer Peters

The Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance were followed by a moment of reflection. There were no public presentations.

**PRESENTATION: SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT ON DEMOCRACY - SUTTER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Sutter Middle School teacher Lea Steele, along with 8th grade students Lucas and Bethany, spoke about projects they are working on to help both active military servicemen and veterans. One project is to help raise funds for a therapy program called Heart of the Horse, in which veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder work with horses to boost their recovery. The students invited the Council to attend a special fund raising event to benefit the program at Sutter School on March 3, 2017.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Interim City Manager/City Clerk Davis mentioned the upcoming general membership meeting of the S.S.J.V. Division of the League of California Cities on February 16, 2017 in Selma, and the City's annual dog clinic to be held Saturday, March 11, 2017 in the City Hall breeze way.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

— **Update: Police Chief Recruitment**

Interim City Manager Davis stated that a Chief of Police job announcement was placed in various advertisement publications and public safety job bank websites. The response has been slow, so she recently reached out to additional sources to post the announcement, and extended the application deadline. If the response does not improve, the Council may wish to try contracting with a recruitment firm. Ms. Davis noted that she has been working with Chief Brand on a contact list for a possible interim appointment, if necessary.

Ms. Davis reported that City Managers and staff from the cities of Fowler, Selma, Parlier, Sanger, and Kingsburg have been meeting each week to discuss the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), which the State has mandated to be in place

by June 30, 2017. Consolidated Irrigation District (CID) is in the process of forming a GSA that the cities have been invited to join, however, the language in their proposed agreement gives CID authority on certain items with which the cities have expressed concerns. CID has been unwilling to negotiate on the matter. As a result, a possible JPA agreement for the cities to form their own GSA, with CID, Fresno County and Del Rey and Caruthers Community Service Districts invited to join, may be forthcoming to a future agenda.

## **PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

No report was given.

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Interim City Manager Davis said that the Finance Director will be presenting a mid-year financial summary at the next meeting.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Brand distributed a statistical crime report for January 2017, and spoke of upcoming training opportunities for staff.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

No report was given.

## **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

### **— Consider approval: Placement of Interim City Manager on Step A of the City Manager Salary Schedule**

City Attorney Wolfe stated that at the last meeting, the Council approved appointing City Clerk Jeannie Davis as Interim City Manager. The Council directed that a salary adjustment to compensate Ms. Davis for performing the duties be placed on the agenda for approval at the next meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parra made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian, to place Interim City Manager Jeannie Davis on Step A of the City Manager salary schedule retroactive to January 16, 2017. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain/absent: None.

City Attorney Wolfe reported on a League of California Cities Proposition 64 briefing he attended.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Consent Calendar consisted of: A) Ratification of Warrants - February 7, 2017; and B) Approve Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting - January 24, 2017. Councilmember Hammer made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriquez. Noes: None. Abstain/absent: None.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Mayor reported on a banking forum he attended where a discussion took place on the bank closures that many local communities are dealing with. He spoke with banking representatives about the possibility of bringing a bank back to Fowler.

Councilmember Hammer attended the Blossom Trail Opening Ceremony at the Kingsburg Depot. He noted that there were representatives for the various local Chambers of Commerce in attendance, and spoke of the need for a Chamber in Fowler.

Councilmember Kazarian met with the owner of Mid-Valley Publishing to discuss the possibility of bringing back a local newspaper.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting adjourned to a closed session at 7:37 p. m. to discuss, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9: Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation, Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) or (3) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9.1 case (Claim filed on January 23, 2017 by Gordon Panzak).

The meeting reconvened to open session at 8:00 p. m. with the following reportable action taken: Councilmember Rodriguez made a motion to reject the claim for damages against the City of Fowler filed by Gordon Panzak. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Parra, and carried by unanimous voice vote: Ayes: Cardenas, Parra, Hammer, Kazarian, Rodriguez. Noes: None. Abstain/Absent: None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Councilmember Rodriguez made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kazarian, to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p. m.