

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 2, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING**

City Hall Council Chambers  
117 Macneil Street  
San Fernando, CA 91340

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Sylvia Ballin called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Sylvia Ballin, Mayor Pro Tem Robert C. Gonzales, and Councilmembers Jesse H. Avila, Joel Fajardo, and Antonio Lopez

Staff: City Manager Brian Saeki, City Attorney Rick R. Olivarez, and City Clerk Elena G. Chávez

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Police Explorer Jose Figueroa

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Avila, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales, to approve the agenda. By consensus, the motion carried.

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

David DaPinto, Shadow Hills resident, said they recently discovered that the proposed High Speed Rail will be going their community too. They believe that the California High Speed Rail Authority has done a poor job of planning and communicating and he suggested that neighboring communities partner up.

John Blue talked about a subcontractor hired by the City's janitorial services contractor and non-payment to one of its workers.

Julia Arichiga and her husband said that the company she worked for treated her unjustly and the situation has affected her financially and emotionally.

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES – February 2, 2015**

**Page 2**

Mike Gonzalez, Pacoima Neighborhood Council, agreed with Mr. DaPinto and suggested that the California High Speed Rail Authority go back to the table, come up with an equitable route, and provide full disclosure of the whole process.

Linda Campanella-Jauron said this is the most important issue that the City has had to face in the last 35 years and she believes that the proposed route will rip San Fernando in half.

Tania Ragland, Republic Services, reported there will be a bulky item pick-up on February 21<sup>st</sup> at City Parking Lot 6N and they will also be giving away free compost.

Robert Ortega encouraged people to come to the City Council meetings and speak out.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Councilmember Lopez, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo, to approve the Consent Calendar Items:

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 15-021 APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER
- 2) CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE SUBMITTAL OF GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND THE CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL FOR FUNDING SUPPORT OF THE MARIACHI MASTER APPRENTICE PROGRAM

By consensus, the motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- 3) REQUEST CITY COUNCIL DIRECTION ON FUTURE ACTIONS RELATED TO THE CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT

City Manager Saeki presented the staff report and Finance Director Nick Kimball reported on the financial issues regarding this project.

Finance Director Kimball stated that the California High-Speed Rail Authority's proposal to expand the existing rail right-of-way, at Truman and First streets, would affect all adjacent properties. The City's direct revenue loss (between sales tax and Measure A) would be about \$1.3 million annually. This would equal a loss of approximately 7% to the General Fund and the City would need to find another revenue source (i.e., increase taxes) or cut services. In addition, dividing the City would cause broader economic losses by restricting residents' ability to move within the City and they'd have to go elsewhere for services. The broader economic impacts are more difficult to measure quantitatively but are significant and should be looked at as well.

Discussion ensued and staff replied to various questions and concerns from Councilmembers.

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES – February 2, 2015**

**Page 3**

In conclusion, City Manager Saeki clarified that City Council's direction was that staff draft a letter to the California High Speed Rail Authority stating complete opposition to the project coming *through* the City in any form, include economical and financial impact information, and bring back to the next meeting for City Council review and approval.

City Attorney Olivarez recommended that the City Council take a roll call vote on this item:

AYES: Ballin, Avila, Fajardo – 3

NOES: Gonzales, Lopez – 2

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION LIAISON UPDATES**

In response to Councilmember Avila's request, Community Development Director Fred Ramirez gave an update regarding a meeting of the Development Advisory Committee to the Transit Oriented Development Overlay Zone Project.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales gave an update regarding the Independent Cities Association conference that he recently attended.

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Fajardo asked if Police Chief Robert Parks could provide yearly updates regarding the following: 1) status on the homelessness in the City and how the City is addressing their needs; and 2) gangs and crime statistics in the City and what we're doing to improve the situation.

In response to his question whether Councilmembers prefer that this request be agendized for full discussion, Mayor Ballin said she doesn't have a problem with the updates although the one on gang activity should be quarterly.

In response to Councilmember Lopez' question, Community Development Director Ramirez reported that the homeless count was done on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Fajardo reported that there was a Valley Gay Pride event in Panorama City last year that will most likely be held in San Fernando this year. He requested that the meeting close in memory Michelle Vash Payne.

Councilmember Avila suggested having a community meeting to thank our retiring Police Chief and meet the new hires.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales asked that the meeting also adjourn in memory of Bobby Quinonez (an amazing kid and a true inspiration) that succumbed to cancer.

Mayor Ballin thanked the residents of Shadow Hills and Pacoima communities for attending our meeting and providing their input.

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES – February 2, 2015**

**Page 4**

**STAFF COMMUNICATION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT (7:28 P.M.)**

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales, to adjourn the meeting in memory of Yazmin Vash Payne and Bobby Quinonez. By consensus, the meeting was adjourned.

*I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of February 2, 2015, meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.*

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*Elena G. Chávez*  
*City Clerk*