

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**JUNE 5, 2017 – 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 6:17 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Sylvia Ballin, Vice Mayor Antonio Lopez, and Councilmembers Joel Fajardo, and Jaime Soto

Staff: Interim City Manager Nick Kimball, Assistant City Attorney Richard Padilla, and City Clerk Elena G. Chávez

Absent: Councilmember Robert C. Gonzales

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Public Works Management Analyst Ken Jones

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Soto, seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez, to approve the agenda. By consensus, the motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

The following presentations were made:

- a) COMMUNITY INVESTMENT/RECYCLING REVENUE SHARING FUND – VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
- b) PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIP CHECK BY SEIU LOCAL 721
- c) GALINDO – 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Ricardo Benitez, Sylmar, said that San Fernando doesn't have much homelessness and believes it's cheaper to have motorcycle officers rather than paying overtime.

Patty Lopez has concerns regarding communicating budget information to residents and said she doesn't see any data to prove that there is a housing need.

Jackie Freedman, Coalition of Veterans Land, said they were not given notice that their project (Mullen House) was on the agenda and is concerned that the project may be targeted for discriminatory treatment.

Marina Diaz, One LA, talked about the lack of low-income housing and asked how they can work with the City Council regarding the possibility of converting garages.

Esmeralda Castellanos talked about the housing crisis, lack of affordable housing, and the need to legalize garage conversions in the City.

Raul Gomez said that many are in situations where individuals don't have the means to pay high rental costs and he asked how could he obtain a permit to convert his garage.

Brenda Perez talked about her daily experiences in dealing with homeless veterans and said she does not want them down the street from her home.

Marcala Rodriguez thanked the Education Commission for the scholarship provided to her daughter and talked about the parking problem and housing crisis in the City.

Margarita Cervacio said there is crime activity at the park on Eighth St., she needs to have a tree cut down, there's a lack of parking in her neighborhood, and would like to know how can she convert her garage too.

Michael Remenih reported that Neighborhood Watch meetings are held monthly and the Police Department will work with residents on a one-on-one basis regarding some of the issues mentioned.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- 1) REQUEST TO APPROVE MINUTES OF:
 - a) AUGUST 4, 2014 – REGULAR MEETING
 - b) MAY 15, 2017 – SPECIAL MEETING
 - c) MAY 15, 2017 – REGULAR MEETING

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d) MAY 22, 2017 – SPECIAL MEETING

- 2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER
- 3) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR COMPREHENSIVE FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
- 4) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A SUBAWARD AGREEMENT FOR THE 2016 URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE GRANT PROGRAM

By consensus, the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

- 5) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. U-1666 MAKING FINDINGS AND ESTABLISHING AN INTERIM MORATORIUM PROHIBITING NEW ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (CURRENTLY REFERRED TO AS “SECOND DWELLING UNITS” IN THE ZONING ORDINANCE) EXCEPT THOSE MEETING SPECIFIED DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS NOTED IN SAID URGENCY ORDINANCE CONSISTENT WITH RECENTLY ADOPTED STATE LAW

Mayor Ballin declared the Public Hearing open.

Interim Senior Planner Humberto Quintana presented the staff report and Housing Consultant Karen Warner, Karen Warner Associates, provided a detailed presentation.

Councilmembers Fajardo and Soto (Ad Hoc Committee members) also provided input regarding their meetings with Ms. Warner and staff.

Discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers and staff.

BRIEF RECESS (8:27 P.M.)

Mayor Ballin called for a brief recess.

RECONVENE (8:30 P.M.)

Mayor Ballin called for public testimony.

Gabriela Castellanos said there are many families living together and it's tough because her dad is the sole provider for her family and their rent is not affordable.

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Patty Lopez talked about garage conversions in her neighborhood and said that City Council should not rush this and allow for more feedback from the residents.

Marisela Rodriguez said that people earning minimum wage can barely afford to live in converted garages and have no money left over for the remaining costs.

Julie Cuellar talked about issues living on a crowded street and there isn't any more room in this 2.4 square mile city for more housing.

Brenda Perez said that people are renting garages for \$1,200+ per month, there are already subsidized seniors at "affordable" apartments, and asked what's the rush for this moratorium that will put people in worse situations.

Adriana Gomez said this should have been handled in December, asked about the 20 applications submitted thus far, and asked why Councilmember Fajardo (who is one of the applicants) is sitting on the Ad Hoc Committee that is making recommendations.

Jenny Perez, Planning & Preservation Commissioner, said that this is a bad idea and it should not be rushed. She had hoped this would have come before the Planning Commission or the Transportation & Safety Commission.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Mayor Ballin, to close the public comment portion of the Hearing. By consensus, the motion carried.

Discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers.

For clarification purposes, Assistant City Attorney Padilla reported that it is not a decision that is left to the City (it is state legislature) and the very essence of this process is to include public input. Currently, there is no ordinance or regulations in place and the very type of proliferation expressed, will occur if no action is taken.

Discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers whether to take a vote now (since four-fifths vote is required for adoption) or wait until all five Councilmembers are present.

Motion by Vice Mayor Lopez, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo, to continue the item to the next meeting. By consensus, the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

By consensus, the following item was moved up on the agenda.

- 7) CONSIDERATION TO ESTABLISH A SAN FERNANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT CLERGY COUNCIL

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Councilmember Fajardo and Police Chief Anthony Vairo provided background information regarding this item and the proposed Clergy Council Guidelines.

Reverend Sandie Richards and Chief Vairo replied to various questions from Councilmembers.

Discussion ensued but no action was taken (receive and file item).

6) OVERVIEW OF THE REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Interim Senior Planner Quintana presented the staff report. Both he and Interim City Manager Kimball replied to questions from Councilmembers.

Discussion ensued but no action was taken (receive and file item).

8) CONSIDERATION OF PARTICIPATION IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON STREET LIGHT ACQUISITION PROGRAM

Public Works Management Analyst Ken Jones presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Soto, to approve staff's recommendation to forego the participation in the Southern California Edison Street (SCE) Light Acquisition Program and gather additional information for future consideration by City Council on the LS-1 Option E Program (i.e., allows customers to ask SCE to replace current technology SCE owned LS-1 street lights with LED technology). By consensus, the motion carried.

9) FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 BUDGET STUDY SESSION NO. 3

Interim Finance Director Sonia Gomez-Garcia presented the staff report. Interim City Manager Kimball provided additional information and both replied to questions from Councilmembers.

Discussion ensued and Councilmembers each provided input.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Soto, that: 1) each Councilmember receive an appropriation of \$2,500 for Special Event Fee Waivers to award at their discretion; 2) interested individuals will be required to complete an application to be circulated to all Councilmembers; 3) maximum fee waivers will not exceed \$5,000 per event; and 4) include an appropriation of \$20,000 to be used towards the continuation of the holiday lighting and electrical upgrades. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Fajardo, Soto, Ballin – 3
NOES: Lopez – 1
ABSENT: Gonzales – 1

10) DISCUSSION REGARDING FEMALE VETERAN HOUSING AND ADDITIONAL APARTMENTS LAND USE IN SAN FERNANDO

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Councilmember Soto stated that he met with Laura Lake and Jackie Freedman about a year ago and he let them know that he was on board but needed more information regarding the proposed project. He added that the public needs be made aware so that they could provide input and stated that it would not be responsible to proceed with the project until infrastructure is addressed. He stated that he was also perturbed with the City Attorneys and began to talk about a letter that was provided during Closed Session.

At this point, Assistant City Attorney Padilla stated that Councilmember Soto was disclosing confidential topics, reminded him of his duty to comply with the Brown Act, and implored him to stop.

Dialogue continued between Councilmember Soto and Assistant City Attorney Padilla who expressed concern regarding matters of confidentiality being disclosed.

Mayor Ballin announced that Assistant City Attorney made it very clear and is on record.

Councilmember Soto continued to talk about the letter and believes that the City Attorney is not acting responsibly and transparently. Again he stated that, at this time, the City is not prepared for veteran housing (of any kind) due to the current state of the City's situation.

Councilmember Fajardo thanked Ms. Friedman for coming today and reported that he has not made any kind of judgment on the project until all information has been received. He said he has full faith and confidence in our City Attorneys (Olivarez Madruga).

Both Mayor Ballin and Vice Mayor Lopez chose to not make statements regarding this item.

No action was taken on this item.

CITY COUNCIL - LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Fajardo gave an update regarding recent meetings with the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments and the Valley Economic Alliance.

Vice Mayor Lopez provided information regarding a Southern California Association of Governments meeting that he attended.

DEPARTMENT HEADS - COMMISSION UPDATES

Public Works Management Analyst Jones announced that there will be a Transportation and Safety Commission meeting this week.

Interim Senior Planner Quintana reported that the Planning and Preservation Commission will have their regular meeting tomorrow.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Soto expressed his displeasure with the City Attorney and encouraged the public to organize and make demands. He thanked City staff for all they do.

Councilmember Fajardo again complimented the City Attorney's office (Olivarez Madruga) and said that Interim Senior Planner Quintana is doing an excellent job.

Vice Mayor Lopez thanked staff for being at this meeting so late.

Mayor Ballin thanked staff and suggested creating an Ad Hoc committee (consisting of her and Councilmember Soto) to review the City Manager applications to narrow down the pool of City Manager candidates.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

None.

ADJOURNMENT (11:06 P.M.)

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez, to adjourn the meeting. By consensus, the meeting was adjourned.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of June 5, 2017, meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

*Elena G. Chávez, CMC
City Clerk*