

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**AUGUST 21, 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 6:05 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Sylvia Ballin, Vice Mayor Antonio Lopez, and Councilmembers Jaime Soto, Joel Fajardo, and Robert C. Gonzales

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Cultural Arts Supervisor Virginia Diediker

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales to approve the agenda and close the meeting in memory of Heather Heyer. By consensus, the motion carried.

DECORUM AND ORDER

Assistant City Attorney Padilla provided a brief summary of the rules.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Dee Akemon said that name calling and shouting at meetings is counterproductive and everyone should be able to speak in an orderly manner and a little decorum would be very welcome.

Michelle Guijaro thanked the Council for approving the Police Chief's salary increase, said that the Public Works crews are staying on top of sewer system repairs and tree trimming and said that the City is moving in the right direction.

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Ricardo Benitez talked about a letter that was submitted at the last meeting that mentioned his name and he spoke about the community work done by former Assemblymember Patty Lopez.

Charles Leone, SEIU Local 721, hopes they can work with the new City Manager for the betterment of the City, said that the world we live of abundance and there's enough to go around for everyone, and talked about upcoming contract negotiations.

Lee Milligan talked about the need for proper care and maintenance of the City's streets and sidewalks, said there are many overlapping businesses (i.e., bridal shops, furniture stores, etc.) and there is a need for improvements to the downtown mall.

Renee Milligan also talked about sidewalks, trees, lack of parking enforcement, infrastructure improvements and weed abatement issues, and said that the Police Department has been quick to reply.

Robert Ortega talked about his displeasure with Councilmember Soto.

Myriam Flores said she's concerned about a neighbor who she believes is a sex offender and keeps trespassing into her backyard. She said that she's written letters to the Police Department about her concerns.

Paul Luna said he's a little confused and concerned about comments made by speaker Ricardo Benitez regarding the settlement against the City and again wanted to set the record straight about his letter that was read during public comments at the last meeting.

Benita Rivera talked about recent incidences (including a murder) at Las Palmas Park, said the Police Department needs to pay more attention, is concerned about the lack of maintenance at the park, and she said there've been accidents due to drivers using the parking lot as a two-way street.

Marcela Rodriguez said that her neighbor has been constructing a garage next to her kids' room, talked about the need for sidewalk repair, and said that portions of Maclay and Brand streets do not comply with handicap laws.

Michel Remenih said he's not seen a better example of the community coming together than the National Night Out event and reminded everyone to attend the City's Neighborhood Watch Program to voice their concerns.

Mary Mendoza asked that Council vote against changing the election date and expressed her dissatisfaction with Closed Session items held in the middle of City Council meetings (it's an inconvenience for the public to have to wait for Council to reconvene and violates the spirit of open government).

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CITY COUNCIL - LIAISON UPDATES

Interim Community Development Director Jack Wong invited everyone to the upcoming workshop regarding the City's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Overlay Zone Corridors Specific Plan Amendment at Las Palmas Park.

Councilmember Gonzales gave an update regarding Metro Service Council activities.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- 1) REQUEST TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF:
 - a) MARCH 7, 2016 – REGULAR MEETING
 - b) AUGUST 4, 2017 – SPECIAL MEETING
 - c) AUGUST 5, 2017 – SPECIAL MEETING
 - d) AUGUST 7, 2017 – SPECIAL MEETING
 - e) AUGUST 7, 2017 – REGULAR MEETING
 - f) AUGUST 11, 2017 – SPECIAL MEETING
- 2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 17-082 APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER
- 3) CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE A NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR THE ALEXANDER STREET IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN FIRST STREET AND LIBRARY STREET, CDBG PROJECT NO. 601819-16 JOB NO. 7596, PLAN NO. P-723
- 4) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A PURCHASE ORDER WITH RELIABLE FENCE TO INSTALL TWO FEET OF WROUGHT IRON FENCING ON TOP OF EXISTING WALL AT POLICE DEPARTMENT
- 5) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF TWO 2017 FORD POLICE INTERCEPTOR UTILITY VEHICLES

By consensus, the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

The following two items were moved up on the agenda.

- 7) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE SITE FOR 2018 OPEN STREETS GRANT

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Interim City Manager Nick Kimball presented the staff report. Both he and Christina Cardenas, Evan Brooks Associates, replied to various questions from Councilmembers.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales, to approve staff's recommendation and the site for the March 31, 2018 Metro Open Streets Event. By consensus, the motion carried.

14) CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT A CITY MANAGER AND APPROVAL OF RELATED EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Interim City Manager Nick Kimball presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez, to:

- a. Appoint Alexander P. Meyerhoff as the City Manager;
- b. Approve a five-year Employment Agreement (Contract No. 1864) with Mr. Meyerhoff; and
- c. Authorize the Mayor to execute the Agreement.

By consensus, the motion carried.

6) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO MOVE THE DATE OF GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS FROM MARCH OF ODD-NUMBERED YEARS TO NOVEMBER OF EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS BEGINNING NOVEMBER 6, 2018 AND TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY BUDGET TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR THE COST OF ISSUING A NOTICE TO CITY VOTERS REGARDING THE ELECTION DATE CHANGE

City Clerk Chávez presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Gonzales, seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez, to:

- a. Adopt, by title only and waive full reading, Ordinance No. 1668, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando, California, Repealing Ordinance No. 1452 and Moving the Date of General Municipal Elections from the First Tuesday after the First Monday in March of Odd-Numbered Years to the First Tuesday after the First Monday in November of Even-Numbered Years Beginning November 6, 2018"; and
- b. Adopt Resolution No. 7809 amending the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 adopted budget to appropriate \$7,000 for the cost of preparing and issuing a bilingual notice regarding the election date change to City voters.

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Gonzales, Lopez, Ballin – 3
NOES: Fajardo, Soto – 2
ABSENT: None

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8) CRIME STATISTICS UPDATE

9) DISCUSSION ON THE IMPACTS OF ASSEMBLY BILL 109, PROPOSITION 47 AND PROPOSITION 57 AND CONSIDERATION TO SUPPORT THE *TAKE BACK OUR COMMUNITY* EFFORT

Police Chief Anthony Vairo presented Item No's 8 and 9 simultaneously. Both he and Interim City Manager Kimball replied to various questions from Councilmembers.

Interim City Manager Kimball reported that these items are for informational purposes only (no Council action is required) and staff will provide another update in the next few months.

10) CONSIDERATION TO DETERMINE A CITY POSITION ON THE 2017 LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES RESOLUTIONS

Interim City Manager Kimball presented the staff report and replied to questions from Councilmembers.

Discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers.

Motion by Councilmember Soto, seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez, that staff report back with an item pertaining to enhancing public safety (police and fire) and invite City of Los Angeles Fire Department to make a presentation. By consensus, the motion carried.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales, to allow Vice Mayor Lopez to continue to study issues and as the City's Voting Delegate, "vote his conscience" regarding the City's position on each resolution. By consensus, the motion carried.

11) CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS AWARDED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES FOR THE SAN FERNANDO REGIONAL PARK PROJECT – PLANNING PHASE

Public Works Management Analyst Kenneth Jones presented the staff report and a brief discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers.

Joe Bellomo, Willdan Group Inc., replied to various questions from Councilmembers.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales, to:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 7812, accepting funds in the amount of \$425,000 awarded to the City by the State Department of Water Resources (State) for the San Fernando Regional Park Project – Design Phase; and
- b. Authorize the Interim City Manager, or designee, to negotiate and execute a Grant Agreement with the State (Contract No. 1862) and if necessary, make non-substantial changes to agreement language; and

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- c. Authorize the Interim City Manager, or designee, to negotiate and execute a Cooperative Agreement (Agreement No. 1863) and make non-substantial changes to agreement language, with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, for the contribution of matching funds under the grant program based on a shared interest in recharging the Upper Los Angeles River Area groundwater basin; and
- d. Adopt Resolution No. 7813 amending the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 adopted budget appropriating the grant expenditures and revenues for the San Fernando Regional Park Project - Design Phase.

By consensus, the motion carried.

12) CONSIDERATION TO SUPPORT SENATE BILL 349 DIALYSIS CAREGIVERS AND DIALYSIS PATIENT SAFETY ACT

Councilmember Fajardo presented the staff report and a brief discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales, to adopt Resolution No. 7814 in support of Senate Bill 349. By consensus, the motion carried.

13) CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO ORGANIZE A VETERANS' RECOGNITION EVENT IN THE CITY

Mayor Ballin presented the staff report and Councilmembers each provided comments.

Motion by Mayor Ballin, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo, to appoint Councilmembers Gonzales and Soto to an Ad Hoc Committee to organize a veteran's recognition event in the City. By consensus, the motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEADS - COMMISSION UPDATES

Interim City Manager Kimball also encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming TOD meeting at Las Palmas Park and invited Councilmembers to stop by at their leisure.

Public Works Management Analyst Jones reported that sewer repair work was scheduled at the alley, north of San Fernando Rd. and between Brand Blvd. and Maclay Ave., and that the area would be temporarily closed off.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Gonzales said he was pleased with the recruitment process and the final selection of the City Manager that was unanimously approved by the City Council. He's excited that the individual has a lot of experience and that desperately needed staff will be hired soon.

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Councilmember Fajardo thanked Interim Finance Director Sonia Gomez-Garcia and Interim City Manager Kimball for their extraordinary work these past nine months. Mr. Kimball accomplished a lot under much stress and the City is very lucky to have him. He said he looks forward to the new City Manager starting and said that the Charlottesville rally was very disheartening.

Councilmember Soto wished new City Manager Alex Meyerhoff the best. He also commended Cultural Arts Supervisor Virginia Diediker, Public Works crews and other staff members for their work and he wished everyone the best.

Vice Mayor Lopez said that appointing Nick Kimball as Interim City Manager was one of the best decisions made by this Council. Mr. Kimball remained unbiased, kept Council well informed, and Vice Mayor Lopez is very appreciative of the work he accomplished.

Mayor Ballin talked about Heather Heyer and Fred Smith and offered condolences to both families.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Police Chief Vairo reiterated Council comments regarding Nick Kimball and thanked him for the work he's done.

ADJOURNMENT (9:13 P.M.)

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales, to adjourn the meeting in memory of Heather Heyer and Fred "Freak Smith". By consensus, the meeting was adjourned.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of August 21, 2017, meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

Elena G. Chávez, CMC
City Clerk