

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**JANUARY 7, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Joel Fajardo called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Joel Fajardo, Vice Mayor Sylvia Ballin, and Councilmembers Robert C. Gonzales and Hector A. Pacheco

Staff: City Manager Alexander P. Meyerhoff, Assistant City Attorney Richard Padilla and City Clerk Elena G. Chávez

Absent: Councilmember Antonio Lopez (notified staff that he was ill and would not make the meeting)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Police Chief Anthony Vairo

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Fajardo reported changes to the agenda including, deleting Item No.s 11 and 15, after the Consent Calendar, moving up Item No.s 13, 12, 8 and continue then items in the regular order.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Ballin, to approve the agenda as amended. By consensus, the motion carried.

**PRESENTATIONS**

The following presentations were made:

- a) PRESENTATION BY METRO ON FIRST/LAST MILE PLANNING FOR THE EAST SAN FERNANDO VALLEY TRANSIT CORRIDOR
- b) PROCLAMATION SAN FERNANDO SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK – JANUARY 20-26

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**DECORUM AND ORDER**

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

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

Arturo Garcia, field representative for Assemblymember Luz Rivas, provided information on their activities and gave updates.

Amy Fall talked about the “new wave” of allowing medical marijuana and cultivation and hopes the Council will see revenue benefits and people won’t have to travel to other communities to spend their money.

Dennise Mejia, local business owner and Vice President for the National Latina Business Women Association, said she is considering a chapter in the Valley and reported that she is running for Assembly 38<sup>th</sup> District.

Cathleen Arrellano talked about parking issues in her neighborhood (which borders Sylmar) and she said that City of L.A. residents move her trashcans away from the curb and, as a result, her trash does not get picked up.

Kristal Diaz Lautalo, reiterated the same concerns, said they live near a City of L.A. apartment complex, the residents have numerous cars and block their driveways, and said that she is willing to pay for City parking passes if necessary.

Tom Ross, San Fernando City Chamber of Commerce, said they’ve been involved with the cannabis issue and, in general, support the proposal. He also reported that the mall merchants do not have all-day parking for their employees and suggested parking permits.

Patty Lopez congratulated newest Councilmember Hector Pacheco, asked Council to pay more attention on the homeless issue, said we have to support the teachers, and reminded Council that they were elected to serve the people.

**CITY COUNCIL - LIAISON UPDATES**

Councilmember Gonzales gave an update regarding the San Fernando Valley Metro Service Council and reported that the Independent Cities Association conference will be pushed back to the first weekend in February.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilmember Gonzales requested to pull Item No. 7 for further discussion.

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Motion by Councilmember Gonzales, seconded by Vice Mayor Ballin, to approve the remaining Consent Calendar Items:

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO'S 18-122 AND 19-011 APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTERS OF DECEMBER 17, 2018 AND JANUARY 7, 2019, RESPECTIVELY
- 2) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH HDL SERVICES FOR TRANSACTIONS TAX AUDIT AND INFORMATION SERVICES AND ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HDL SERVICES TO EXAMINE SALES, USE AND TRANSACTION TAX RECORDS
- 3) CONSIDERATION TO PURCHASE A 2019 FORD TRANSIT VAN T-350 FROM THE NATIONAL AUTO FLEET GROUP
- 4) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2019 FORD SUPER DUTY F-250 SRW XL 2WD WITH CARB CERTIFIED DEDICATED 19 GGE CNG SYSTEM
- 5) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE PARTICIPATION IN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY REGION LAW ENFORCEMENT HOMELESS OUTREACH SERVICES TEAM GRANT PROGRAM
- 6) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE HOMELESS CONNECT DAY AND THE USE OF THE CITY SEAL

By consensus, the motion carried.

**Item Pulled for Further Discussion**

- 7) CONSIDERATION TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR SAN FERNANDO ROAD STREET IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN SOUTH HUNTINGTON STREET AND SAN FERNANDO MISSION BOULEVARD, CDBG PROJECT NO. 601994-18 JOB NO. 7606, PLAN NO. P-729

At the request of Councilmember Gonzales, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Yazdan Emrani provided a brief presentation.

Motion by Councilmember Gonzales, seconded by Vice Mayor Ballin, to approve the item. By consensus, the motion carried.

*The following items were moved up on the agenda.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- 13) CONSIDERATION TO REAPPOINT AN EDUCATION COMMISSIONER

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Councilmember Pacheco made a motion to reappoint Angel Zobel-Rodriguez as his representative to the Education Commission. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Ballin and was approved by consensus.

**12) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CITY COUNCIL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS AND AD HOC AND STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 2018-2019**

Mayor Fajardo reviewed and explained his suggested changes and requested input from Councilmembers and staff.

Discussion ensued and Councilmembers and staff provided their feedback.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Ballin, to approve the recommendations as stated in the report as well as the following:

Ad Hocs Committees:

- Member changes to *East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor*
  - Remove Ballin
  - Keep Pacheco and Gonzales
- Delete: *Mural, Ice Cream, and Disaster Relief Fund*
- Add: *Update to City General Plan*
  - Members are Pacheco and Ballin
  - Committee to review costs, timelines, and process
- Rename: *Financial Advisor Services for Pension and Retiree Health*

Liaison Assignments:

- Member changes to *San Fernando Downtown Mall Merchants*
  - Remove Gonzales

By consensus, the motion carried.

**9) CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT A CITY COUNCIL AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW RESPONSES TO A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR FINANCIAL ADVISOR SERVICES RELATED TO THE CITY'S PENSION AND OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT LIABILITIES**

By consensus, Councilmembers concurred to receive and file the report (this item was tied to Item No. 12).

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**8) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SAN FERNANDO MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO CITYWIDE MEDICINAL AND ADULT USE COMMERCIAL CANNABIS PROHIBITIONS AND REGULATIONS**

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Mayor Fajardo declared the Public Hearing open.

The City Council received a comprehensive report from Director of Community Development Timothy Hou, Deputy City Attorney Joaquin Vazquez and HdL Consultant Matt Eaton.

Discussion ensued and staff and the consultant replied to various questions from Councilmembers.

Mayor Fajardo called for public testimony and requested to incorporate comments made earlier by Tom Ross and Amy Fall.

The following individuals spoke in favor:

Nick DeSimone, Los Angeles area cannabis operator

Anna Quarres

Michael Long

John Bowman

Jonatan Cvetco, Angeles Emeralds & Member of LA County Cannabis Advisory Committee

Michael Petersen

Alex Renteria

Orlando Martinez, Law Offices of Felix J. Martinez

The following individuals spoke against:

Brenda Villanueva, Pueblo y Salud

Lucas Vigil, San Fernando High School student

Carmen Vigil, resident

Sergio Cuevas, resident, member of VFW, American Legion, and Marine Corp, said he's not completely opposed but expressed concern regarding regulation, the City's youth, and asked Council to consider other forms of revenue.

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

**RECESS (8:41 P.M.)**

Mayor Fajardo called for a brief recess.

**RECONVENE (8:53 P.M.)**

Discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers and staff.

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Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Ballin, to: a) to reopen the Public Hearing on the City’s consideration of an ordinance authorizing certain regulated cannabis business in the City; b) continue the Public Hearing to a date to be determined by the City Council and staff; and c) to refer the matter back to the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee (Mayor Fajardo and Vice Mayor Ballin) with instruction that the Ad Hoc Committee consider the testimony of the public and the comments and recommendations of Councilmembers and return sometime before July 2019 with a set of recommended modifications to the ordinance (as part of this effort the Ad Hoc Committee is asked to include parks and playgrounds within the definition of sensitive receptors and is asked to study and consider the desirability of imposing a 1,000 foot buffer requirement from parks and playgrounds; the desirability of putting a hard cap on the number of permits issued by the City; study whether the overall buffer requirements from sensitive receptors should be more similar to buffer requirements for establishments that sell liquor; and consider possible ballot measure options in connection with the regulation of cannabis in the City).

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Pacheco, Gonzales, Ballin, Fajardo – 4  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Lopez – 1

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (CONTINUED)**

10) REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Mayor Fajardo announced that this item would be postponed.

11) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

*Item removed under Approval of Agenda.*

14) DISCUSSION REGARDING A BALLOT MEASURE FOR CANNABIS REGULATION

Vice Mayor Ballin requested to remove this item.

15) CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CAMPAIGN REFORM  
ORDINANCE IN THE SAN FERNANDO MUNICIPAL CODE

*Item removed under Approval of Agenda.*

**STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES**

Police Chief Vairo gave update regarding recruitment, said his department received a certificate for National Night Out, they’re working closely with the school district regarding the teachers’ strike, and requested to adjourn the meeting in memory of an officer who was killed.

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Director of Recreation and Community Services Venegas reported that the Parks, Wellness, and Recreation Commission will be meeting tomorrow.

Director of Community Development Timothy Hou announced that the Planning and Preservation Commission would be meeting to address three major projects.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Yazdan Emrani said he would be providing a pavement management report at the next City Council meeting and he talked about the City's pavement condition index grade.

Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Nick Kimball reported that a few applications were received for the Measure A Advisory Committee, staff will continue to reach out, and will bring back to City Council in the future.

City Manager Meyerhoff wished everyone a happy and healthy new year.

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Pacheco thanked staff for their hard work and the public for providing input.

Councilmember Gonzales also thanked staff for their work and talked about how the City of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation plans for handling the teachers' strike and said that recreation centers and gyms will be open to the children.

Vice Mayor Ballin asked about the employee parking permit situation, inquired about a policy regarding green parking in front of (some) businesses, supports the teachers 100%, and thanked staff for their hard work.

Mayor Fajardo is looking forward to presentation by staff at the next meeting regarding streets, is happy to hear about the Police Department recruitment progress, and suggested adding a section on the blue speaker cards for the public to add their phone numbers as an option.

**ADJOURNMENT (9:19 P.M.)**

Motion by Vice Mayor Ballin, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales, to adjourn in memory of slain Police Officers Ronil Singh and Joseph Sinners. By consensus the motion carried.

*I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of January 7, 2019, meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.*

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*Elena G. Chávez, CMC*  
*City Clerk*