

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**JULY 16, 2018 – 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 6:15 p.m.

Present:

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Personnel Manager Michael Okafor

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PRESENTATIONS

The following presentations were made in the following order:

- b) PRESENTATION TO FAMILY OF JULIO VARGAS
- a) PRESENTATION BY SENATOR ROBERT M. HERTZBERG

DECORUM AND ORDER

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

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PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

The following individuals spoke in support of Item No. 6 regarding Consideration to Adopt a Resolution and Ordinance to Place a Measure on the November Ballot to Extend the Existing Half-Cent Local Sales Tax:

Angel Granados

Ruben Quintana

Irwin Rosenberg (San Fernando Police Officers' Association)

Charles Leone

Michael Remenih

David Bernal

Dee Akemon talked about the 4th of July fireworks activity and complimented the Police Department for the work and the hours they put in on that busy day.

CITY COUNCIL - LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Gonzales talked about the highlights and discussion topics at the recent Independent Cities Association conference.

Vice Mayor Lopez followed up with additional comments regarding the ICA conference and reported that the information will be shared with all Councilmembers.

Mayor Ballin said that she also attended the ICA conference and gave an update regarding the Metropolitan Water District Board meeting and the Waterfix vote.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Ballin requested to pull Item No. 4 for further discussion.

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

- 1) REQUEST TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 2, 2018 – SPECIAL MEETING
- 2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER
- 3) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE SALARY PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

By consensus, the motion carried.

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PUBLIC HEARING

- 5) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE TO PLACE A MEASURE ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT TO EXTEND THE EXISTING HALF-CENT LOCAL SALES TAX

Mayor Ballin declared the Public Hearing open.

Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Nick Kimball presented the staff report and replied to various questions from Councilmembers.

Discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers.

In response to Councilmember Fajardo's request, Irwin Rosenberg (speaking as a private citizen) gave background information on how the residents' Measure A committee was formed and the process, and said that if other residents (that share the same mission/focus of the group) want to join, they would be welcome.

Councilmember Fajardo expressed several concerns and said that a large number of the people in the committee have made disingenuous comments. He asked whether any of the money raised by the committee will be used on advertisements to display anyone (or quotes from those) running for office.

Mr. Rosenberg replied that Fair Political Practices Commission guidelines prohibit the committee from campaigning on behalf of any individual and that the group does not intend to include photos in their advertisements but he cannot make that absolute commitment on behalf of the entire committee.

Mayor Ballin called for public testimony and the following individuals spoke in favor of the item:

Dee Akemon
Ruben Quintana
Charles Leone
David Bernal

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez, to close the Public Hearing. By consensus, the motion carried.

RECESS (8:10 P.M.)

Mayor Ballin called for a brief recess to allow staff to prepare copies of the various versions of the ballot question.

RECONVENE (8:17 P.M.)

Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Kimball distributed the previously approved resolution along with the various versions of the ballot question. Assistant City Attorney Padilla read each aloud and discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers.

Motion by Councilmember Gonzales, seconded by Vice Chair Lopez, to accept the title of ballot question version “A” and the body of version “B”, to read:

San Fernando Preservation and Beautification Measure

Shall the City extend the half percent (1/2%) transactions and use tax to continue to preserve funding for essential city services such as police, fire and ambulance services; street repairs, park beautification, and other public works infrastructure projects; cultural and recreational programs; economic development; staffing recruitment and retention; restoration of the City’s emergency “rainy day” fund; and other unrestricted general revenue purposes until voters decide to end it?

Discussion continued and Councilmember Soto requested to include acronyms and amend the ballot question to add “... SFPD, LAFD, and SFPW;” and “ ... retention, and wages;”.

Councilmember Gonzales accepted the amendment and Vice Chair Lopez again seconded the motion to approve the following proposed ballot question:

San Fernando Preservation and Beautification Measure

Shall the City extend the half percent (1/2%) transactions and use tax to continue to preserve funding for essential city services such as SFPD, LAFD, and SFPW; street repairs, park beautification, and other public works infrastructure projects; cultural and recreational programs; economic development; staffing recruitment, retention, and wages; restoration of the City’s emergency “rainy day” fund; and other unrestricted general revenue purposes until voters decide to end it?

In addition to the modification of the ballot question, the motion is inclusive of approving Resolution No. 7872 and Ordinance No. 1678.

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Gonzales, Fajardo, Soto, Lopez, Ballin – 5
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

Assistant City Attorney Padilla reminded City Council that Ad Hoc Committee Members Fajardo and Gonzales were working on the Ballot Argument in Favor and suggested bringing the item back to the City Council for consensus noting that the hard deadline is August 17, 2018.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

- 4) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE GENERAL PLAN HOUSING ELEMENT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017

Director of Community Development Timothy T. Hou presented the staff report and replied to questions from Councilmembers.

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

- a. Approve the General Plan Housing Element Progress Report for Calendar Year 2017; and
- b. Authorize staff to forward the 2017 Housing Element Progress Report to the California Department of Housing and Community Development and the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research.

By consensus, the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING (CONTINUED)

- 6) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION FOR THE PLACEMENT OF LIENS ON REAL PROPERTY FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES BILLINGS

Mayor Ballin declared the Public Hearing open

At this time (9:18 p.m.) Councilmember Soto exited the Council Chambers.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Yazdan T. Emrani presented the staff report. He and a representative from Republic Services replied to questions from Councilmembers.

Motion by Councilmember Gonzales, seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez, to adopt Resolution No. 7874 authorizing the placement of a lien against real property as a special assessment on property tax bills for the collection of delinquent solid waste billings. By consensus, the motion carried.

The Public Hearing was re-opened (below).

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 7) AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE - SERVING AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN CITY FACILITIES

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Director of Recreation and Community Services Julian Venegas presented the staff report and replied to various questions from Councilmembers.

Motion by Vice Mayor Lopez, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo, that the Ad Hoc Committee may confer with other bodies (or come up with solutions of its own), and report back to the City Council with tangible recommendations (no sooner than first meeting in September). By consensus, the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING (CONTINUED)

- 6) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION FOR THE PLACEMENT OF LIENS ON REAL PROPERTY FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES BILLINGS

Motion by Councilmember Gonzales, seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez, to open the Public Hearing.

Mary Mendoza shared her experiences dealing with Republic Services, Inc., said their billing system is very complicated and believes there is a possibility for error on the proposed list.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales, to close the Public Hearing. By consensus, the motion carried.

Motion by Councilmember Gonzales, seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez, to adopt Resolution No. 7874 authorizing the placement of a lien against real property as a special assessment on property tax bills for the collection of delinquent solid waste billings. By consensus, the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (CONTINUED)

- 8) DISCUSSION REGARDING REDUCTION OF PROPERTY TAXES IN SAN FERNANDO

Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Kimball gave a brief update and both he and Assistant City Attorney Padilla replied to questions.

Councilmember Fajardo recommended that staff report back (by August 20) with additional information regarding: the software mentioned by staff; research as to whether commercial tax can be separated from residential; scenario of a property tax reduction over a 50-year period; voter approval regarding tax (i.e., commercial, residential, aggregate the two). By consensus, Councilmembers agreed.

DEPARTMENT HEADS - COMMISSION UPDATES

City Clerk Chávez reported that the candidate nomination period opened today and will close on August 10.

Police Chief Anthony Vairo provided information regarding the upcoming Homeless Connect Day event, Neighborhood Watch meeting, and the memorial tribute for Julian Vargas.

Director of Recreation and Community Services Venegas provided updates regarding activities in his department.

Director of Community Development Hou reported that the Planning and Preservation Commission will be meeting and he gave an update on the vaccination, microchip and licensing clinic for pets.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Emrani reported that there is potential funding from FEMA; a hazard mitigation grant for the upper reservoir has been approved and staff will submit the application. He also gave an update regarding the Esri User Conference he recently attended.

Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Kimball reported that the City has received the Government Officers Finance Association (GFOA) award for the 27th year in a row.

City Manager Meyerhoff gave updates regarding various meetings and activities that he has participated with staff and several organizations.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Gonzales thanked both Mayor Ballin and Vice Mayor Lopez for attending the ICA conference and he talked about the upcoming bike clean up event.

Councilmember Fajardo thanked Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance Kimball and Assistant City Attorney Padilla their hard work for shepherding the Measure A issue (it's great that all five voted in favor) and he talked about the promotion of campaign materials.

Vice Mayor Lopez also thanked staff and replied to Councilmember Fajardo's comments asking what is the issue and said that he will use whatever campaign material that he can legally use.

Mayor Ballin thanked staff including Senior Accountant Sonia Garcia (GFOA award) and Director of Public Works/City Engineer Emrani on the FEMA grant update.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

None.

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ADJOURNMENT (10:14 P.M.)

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales, to adjourn the meeting. By consensus the motion carried.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of July 16, 2018, meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

Elena G. Chávez, CMC
City Clerk