

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 16, 2016 – 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 6:02 p.m.

Present:

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Mayor Fajardo

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

City Attorney Olivarez reported that Mayor Fajardo wanted to add an item to the agenda regarding a proposed amicus brief that's being filed with the Supreme Court. He explained that in order to add the item to an agenda after it was posted, two findings must be met (i.e., it came to the attention to the City after agenda was posted and there is a need to take immediate action before the next regular meeting). He also explained that it would take 4/5's vote to add the item to the agenda.

Mayor Fajardo gave a brief summary regarding this item.

Vice Mayor Ballin requested a five-minute recess to review the information provided.

**RECESS (6:07 P.M.)**

Mayor Fajardo called for a brief recess to allow time for his colleagues to review the information and determine whether to add the item, or not.

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**RECONVENE (6:13 P.M.)**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA (CONTINUED)**

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales, to add the above-mentioned item to the agenda as item No. 12.

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES:           Ballin, Gonzales, Lopez, Fajardo – 4  
ABSTAIN:       Soto – 1

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

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

Michelle Guijarro discussed traffic problems on Macneil St. and Brand Blvd. and urged Council to maintain red curbing to facilitate student drop-off and pick-up.

Michael Remenih alleged increased legal costs to the City as a result of Councilmember Soto's illegal and unethical activities and urged him to resign.

Chris Duran, Relay for Life spokesperson, announced upcoming events in the City of San Fernando, requested an additional date (April 17<sup>th</sup>) for their Parking Lot Sale and encouraged the public and local businesses to participate.

Dee Akemon referenced an item discussed at the last Council meeting regarding LAUSD, student drop-off and pick-up and the addition of red curbing to minimize negative effects on nearby residents. She urged Council to tell them to do better projects in the City.

Tommy Elmore spoke in support of the City's consideration of adding traffic and safety striping in front of Vista del Valle Elementary School.

Mary Mendoza spoke in opposition to the sale of San Fernando Hospital on Chatsworth, urged Council transparency and community input, discussed replacing the trees that were removed from So. Brand Blvd., requested a public meeting on the condition of the City's sewer system, and asked for a report on the Strategic Plan update.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilmember Lopez pulled Item No. 1 for further discussion.

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

- 2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 16-022 APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER
- 3) CONSIDERATION TO INSTALL STREET STRIPING AND MARKING IMPROVEMENTS ON ARROYO AVENUE ADJACENT TO CESAR CHAVEZ LEARNING ACADEMY
- 4) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING DIVISION 5 (TEMPORARY USES AND STRUCTURES) OF CHAPTER 106 (ZONING) OF THE CITY CODE IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS FOR UNATTENDED COLLECTION BOXES
- 5) CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HOUSING RELATED PARKS PROGRAM GRANT TO FUND LAYNE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

By consensus, the motion carried.

**Items Removed for Further Discussion**

- 1) REQUEST TO APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2016 – REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Vice Mayor Ballin, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales, to approve the minutes and the motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Ballin, Gonzales, Soto, Fajardo – 4  
ABSTAIN: Lopez – 1

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- 6) UPDATE ON COUNTYWIDE PARK NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Recreation and Community Services Director Ismael Aguila gave the staff report and replied to questions from Councilmembers.

Discussion followed regarding ten most-voted on projects, the possibility of building a skate park at an existing (appropriate) facility and the challenges, repairing and maintaining existing facilities beforehand, and prioritizing the correct projects. Ensuing discussion pertained to the possibility of installing artificial turf versus grass, Council's obligation to respect the list of projects generated from the assessment, the possibility of seeking grant funding for some of the projects, adding WiFi to all City parks, and adding field lights at Las Palma Park for increased safety.

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By consensus, Councilmembers provided direction to staff to move forward on the final recreation facility projects, as presented and discussed, prior to submission to Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. By consensus, the motion carried.

**7) PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

Finance Director Nick Kimball gave the staff report and replied to questions from Councilmembers.

Discussion followed regarding Measure A and its sunset, efforts to increase the City's surplus within the next five years, selling the City's properties at appraised values, the need to begin smart planning to cut expenses, the need for a line item showing Capital Improvement Projects and maintenance costs, being creative to fund deferred capital projects, the benefits of having multi-year contracts with bargaining units, and showing a breakdown of operating expenses and transactions of land sales in future presentations to Council.

Ensuing discussion pertained to the process for executing the Fire Station properties, considering future land sales, reviewing the risks associated with selling, the median age of City employees, the collaborative efforts staff and residents relative to Measure A and the need for a deferred maintenance schedule of capital projects.

By consensus, Councilmembers received and filed the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

**8) PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW AND FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BUDGET OUTLOOK**

Finance Director Kimball gave the staff report and replied to questions from Councilmembers.

City Manager Saeki reviewed Council's goals and priorities.

Discussion followed regarding past priorities and goals that need finality, the need to be mindful of the City's current financial situation, making goals and quantifying priorities to make sure they are attainable, addressing critical infrastructure needs, plans for the Lopez Villegas House, conducting a cost/benefit analysis of waiving fees for certain City events, reducing expenses for the City newsletter, the need to increase sewer and water rates in the near future, and considering budget impacts in terms of goals and priorities.

Motion by Councilmember Gonzales, seconded by Councilmember Soto, to adopt Resolution No. 7726, amending the City's Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget to include the proposed changes. By consensus, the motion carried.

**9) CONSIDERATION TO ASSESS THE POTENTIAL ENFORCEMENT OF EMISSIONS OF ICE CREAM TRUCKS AND RELATED VENDORS**

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Councilmember Soto provided background information and said that he wants to begin the process of identifying problems and concerns related to vehicle emissions (but not necessarily regulate at this time).

Discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers regarding emissions pertaining to ice cream and food trucks, gas and charcoal barbeques, fireplaces, the legal implications of regulating certain entities, and agreed to move forward but need more information.

City Attorney Olivarez suggested his office report back (i.e., provide a presentation) on some of the things that can be done. The discussion would have to be broad-based and not concentrate on specific types of vehicles (i.e., ice cream trucks). Then perhaps Council may choose to be a little aggressive in terms of regulations for vehicles, gas and charcoal barbeques, fireplaces, etc. (further discussions may have to be held in Closed Session).

By consensus, Councilmembers agreed to allow staff time to bring back additional information.

**10) CONSIDERATION TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY OF AMENDING THE SAN FERNANDO CITY CODE TO ESTABLISH DESIGNATED CHILDREN PLAYGROUND AREAS**

Councilmember Gonzales presented a report noting this provides the opportunity for the City to be proactive in protecting the community.

Discussion followed regarding security issues in City parks, the need to be vigilant in protecting children, and studying ordinances of other cities to determine what has worked and what has not.

By consensus, Councilmembers agreed to allow staff to return to Council with recommendations for an ordinance.

**11) CONSIDERATION OF OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 876 (LIU): HOMELESSNESS**

City Manager Saeki gave the staff report and recommended drafting the attached letter for Mayor's signature.

Discussion followed regarding the importance of maintaining local control.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales, to direct staff to draft a letter of opposition to SB 876, as attached to the staff report for the Mayor's signature. By consensus, the motion carried.

**12) CITIES AND COUNTIES PROPOSED AMICUS BRIEF: SUPREME COURT APPEAL ON IMMIGRATION EXECUTIVE ACTION**

Mayor Fajardo provided background information regarding this item.

Councilmember Soto spoke about needing more time to get input from the community.

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Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Ballin, to allow use of the City name and/or the City Attorney's name to sign onto the Amicus Brief.

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Gonzales, Ballin, Lopez, Fajardo – 4

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Soto - 1

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION LIAISON UPDATES**

Councilmember Gonzales noted an upcoming Library Commission meeting and gave an update regarding the ICA Winter Conference and announced the ICA Summer Conference.

Councilmember Lopez gave an update regarding Metropolitan Transportation Authority meetings and a recent SCAG meeting, including the availability of scholarships/internships and spoke about lobbying efforts in Sacramento.

Vice Mayor Ballin gave a brief update regarding a Metropolitan Water District meeting and noted an upcoming ICFA meeting.

Mayor Fajardo gave updates regarding COG and workshops related to City priorities for the area and some of the initiatives they are taking, including Measure R2, and will provide more information at the next Council meeting.

City Clerk Chávez gave an update regarding the activities of the Education Commission and reported that their regular meeting will be held next Tuesday.

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Soto talked about child safety, spoke in support of a skate park, and discussed the importance of Police Department visibility to keep the community safe.

Councilmember Gonzales thanked staff for all their hard work.

Councilmember Lopez looked forward to working hard to develop solutions to the City's current deficits.

Vice Mayor Ballin acknowledged a member of the public who expressed concerns about the condition of water fountains in City parks. She also voiced concerns regarding LAUSD's request to keep the gate at the charter school, open, as well as the parking situation at Cesar Chávez Learning Academy.

Mayor Fajardo thanked staff for their hard work and discussed unsafe conditions regarding parking at Cesar Chávez Learning Academy.

**STAFF COMMUNICATION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT (9:22 P.M.)**

Motion by Councilmember Gonzales, seconded by Councilmember Soto, 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 February 16, 2016, meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.*

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*Elena G. Chávez*  
*City Clerk*