

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**APRIL 18, 2016 – 6:00 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Robert C. Gonzales called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Present:

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by San Fernando Police Explorer Anderson Valera

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

The following presentations were made:

- a) DMV/DONATE LIFE CALIFORNIA MONTH - APRIL
- b) PRESENTATION TO HILDA CASAS FOR HER SERVICE TO THE CITY AND THE SAN FERNANDO LIBRARY

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**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

Dee Akemon discussed traffic problems related to the Los Angeles Unified School District on the northeast corner of the City.

Michael Remenih alleged muckraking by Councilmember Soto and stated he has cost the City more than \$43,000 because of his illegal and unethical activities.

Dave Di Pinto, Shadow Hills, thanked the City for partnering with them against the threat of high-speed rail and commended the City Council for raising awareness.

Tom Ross, San Fernando Downtown Association, referenced Item No. 8 and urged Council to consider a similar ordinance for the enforcement of trash payments due by businesses, as there is a problem with delinquency and business licenses.

Margarita Cervacio said she was representing over 100 parents of students at Vista del Valle Elementary School and asked that the City remove the red curb on Eighth Street to avoid potential accidents.

Mary Mendoza submitted a letter from the San Fernando Community Coalition in support of Item No. 5.

Steve Bravo thanked Councilmember Soto for his newsletter informing residents of the J.C. Penney situation, commented positively on the recent high-speed rail meeting in Anaheim, and recommended using apprentices from Local 300 to help repair City streets.

Maria Santos, representing parents of students at Vista del Valle Elementary School, urged the City Council to remove the red curb on Eighth Street to avoid potential accidents.

Jacqueline Elliot spoke in support of the request to remove the red curb on Eighth Street near Vista del Valle Elementary School.

Megan McGary spoke in support of the request to remove the red curb on Eighth Street near Vista del Valle Elementary School to increase pedestrian safety.

Ricardo Benitez, on behalf of Assemblywoman Patty Lopez, announced upcoming workshops and events.

Hermes Ayala, on behalf of Assemblywoman Patty Lopez, announced an upcoming earthquake-preparedness event at North Hollywood Park.

Lupita Camacho inquired regarding the status of Neighborhood Watch meetings for residents and business merchants, noting increased robberies and excess trash near her business.

Michelle Gujarro spoke in opposition to removing the red curb near Vista del Valle Elementary School and suggested students should walk to school.

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Irwin Rosenberg, San Fernando Police Officers' Association, spoke in support to Item No. 5.

Eduardo Torres spoke in opposition to the development of high-density apartments in the City, discussed concerns regarding increased traffic, crime and use of limited City resources, and services, and suggested the City consider implementing rent control.

Baltazar Martinez, Farmers Insurance, spoke about his participation as a City ambassador in the Mobility Academy 2016 and addressed the subjects discussed.

Dave Bernal provided an update of events he attended as part of his participation as a City ambassador in the Mobility Academy 2016.

City Clerk Chávez read two letters from Margaret O'Malley in support of removing the red curb near Vista del Valle Elementary School and another from Dolores O'Malley thanking the City for agreeing to a trial run of the drop-off and pickup behind Vista del Valle Elementary School.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilmember Lopez pulled Item No. 1, and Councilmember Soto pulled Item No. 4 for further discussion.

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

- 2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER
- 3) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A SUB-AWARD AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES AND THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO FOR THE 2015 URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE GRANT PROGRAM

By consensus, the motion carried.

**Items Pulled for Further Discussion**

- 1) REQUEST TO APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2016 – SPECIAL MEETING

Councilmember Lopez declared he was absent at the meeting and therefore, abstaining from voting on these minutes.

Motion by Vice Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Ballin, to approve the minutes. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Ballin, Fajardo, Gonzales, Soto – 4  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: Lopez – 1

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- 4) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING IN ITS ENTIRETY DIVISION 6 (PURCHASING) OF ARTICLE IV (FINANCE) OF CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION) OF THE SAN FERNANDO CITY CODE RELATING TO THE PROCEDURES FOR PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING

Councilmember Soto had questions regarding the definition of a purchasing agent/officer. It was noted the City Manager is typically the Purchasing Officer and the Finance Director would be the Purchasing Agent.

Discussion followed regarding bid-opening procedures, formal bidding procedures, publication of notices, access to The Sun newspaper and requirements to publish in a general circulation newspaper, the definition of a "general circulation newspaper", using other forms of advertising requests for proposals/bids, and leaving some discretion for staff to make determinations in which newspapers/media to advertise.

Ensuing discussion pertained to signing authority limits by the City Manager, Department Heads, and City Council.

Motion by Councilmember Ballin, seconded by Councilmember Lopez, to waive full reading of Ordinance No. 1653, and adopt by title only, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando, California Amending in Its Entirety Division 6 (Purchasing) of Article IV (Finance) of Chapter 2 (Administration) of the San Fernando City Code Relating to the Procedures for Purchasing and Contracting."

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Ballin, Fajardo, Gonzales, Lopez – 4  
NOES: Soto – 1  
ABSTAIN: None

Mayor Gonzales moved up the following item due to the high number of people in attendance wishing to hear the item.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- 10) REVIEW OF PILOT PROGRAM LOCATION FOR STUDENT LOADING/UNLOADING ZONE ADJACENT TO VISTA DEL VALLE DUAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY

Deputy City Manager/Public Works Director Chris Marcarello introduced Edward Paek, representative from LAUSD Office of Environmental Safety, who provided details of their traffic assessment report and replied to questions from Councilmembers.

Discussion followed regarding impacts to the neighborhood from parents dropping off their children, previous assurances by LAUSD, future impacts from development of multi-family housing, the need to address busing, the possibility of LAUSD purchasing land adjacent to the

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school for parking, threats to property values of residences adjacent to the school, allowing handicap parking in the area, and the possibility of implementing a parking permit program in the future.

Ensuing discussion pertained to enforcement of the proposed valet program and costs, developing an MOU with LAUSD, engagement by PUC Schools, extending the pilot program and incorporating PUC Schools in the study, lack of resources for parking enforcement in the area, use of volunteers, engaging School Police and obtaining additional input from the community.

Motion by Vice Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Ballin, to extend the pilot program, to include the valet program, execute all necessary documents, and to explore the possibility of land acquisitions and other solutions, as presented, and to work in connection with LAUSD and PUC Schools to effectuate those recommendations.

The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**RECESS (8:48 P.M.)**

At this time, Mayor Gonzales called for a brief recess.

**RECONVENE (9:04 P.M.)**

Motion by Councilmember Ballin, seconded by Vice Mayor Fajardo, to postpone the following agenda items to a future meeting: Items No. 7, 8, 9, and 11. By consensus, the motion carried.

Councilmembers were requested to turn in their goals and priorities to the City Manager, prior to the next regularly-scheduled City Council meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- 5) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 22 (BUSINESSES) AND CHAPTER 106 (ZONING) TO EXPRESSLY PROHIBIT MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARIES, MEDICAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION, MEDICAL CANNABIS DELIVERIES, AND ALL COMMERCIAL CANNABIS ACTIVITIES IN ALL AREAS OF THE CITY

Community Development Director Fred Ramirez presented the staff report and replied to questions from Councilmembers.

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Discussion followed regarding the importance of considering people needing cannabis for medical purposes and those who do not have the ability to get it, themselves, understanding alcohol-related crimes versus cannabis-related crimes, and considering requiring conditional use permits for specific types of businesses.

City Attorney Olivarez indicated that implementing the ban will not preclude Council from revisiting this issue in the future and noted the importance of having regulations in place. He added that the State is still considering what regulations to put in place.

Discussion followed regarding crime related to dispensaries, the use of marijuana for numerous medical conditions, access to dispensaries in surrounding cities, and the possibility of forming an ad hoc committee to discuss the item further and return with a report to Council at a special meeting.

Mayor Gonzales declared the Public Hearing open.

City Attorney Olivarez stated that Mary Mendoza's prior comments would be submitted into the record for this Public Hearing.

Mary Mendoza provided additional comments regarding the number of dispensaries in cities surrounding San Fernando, deliveries into the City, and reiterated her support of the ordinance, as recommended by staff.

Mayor Gonzales closed the public comments.

The City Council concurred to form ad hoc committee to review the item further and return with a report to the City Council at a Special Meeting on April 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. when the Public Hearing will continue.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (CONTINUED)**

- 6) CONSIDERATION TO RATIFY CITY COUNCIL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS LIST FOR 2016-2017

Motion made by Councilmember Ballin, seconded by Councilmember Lopez, to ratify the City Council Liaison Assignments list for 2016-2017, as presented.

*The following Items No. 7, 8, 9 and 11 were postponed, by City Council consensus, earlier in the meeting.*

- 7) REPORT UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 415 (VOTER PARTICIPATION) AND REQUEST FROM CITY COUNCIL REGARDING PROSPECTIVE ELECTION CYCLE
- 8) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO COLLECT DELINQUENT RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

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**FEES ON THE ANNUAL TAX ROLL PURSUANT TO HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 5473 AND 5473A**

- 9) FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 CITY-WIDE STRATEGIC GOALS AND CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES
- 11) LOPEZ-VILLEGAS HOUSE UPDATE
- 12) REQUEST TO FORM AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY AND PROPOSE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE ROLES, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITY EMPLOYEES WHO REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Ballin recommended that the Mayor and Vice Mayor form an ad hoc committee to study and propose recommendations regarding the roles, duties, and responsibilities of City employees who report directly to the City Council.

Direction was given accordingly, without objection. No formal action was taken.

- 13) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Motion by Vice Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Ballin, to adopt a resolution commemorating the victims of the Armenian genocide, fly the flag at half-mast on April 24, 2016, and close in memory of the Armenian genocide victims. By consensus, the motion carried.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION LIAISON UPDATES**

Councilmember Soto reported currently looking to fill a vacated position in the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Councilmember Lopez provided an update of upcoming Metro meetings and events and the upcoming SCAG General Assembly.

Councilmember Ballin discussed a meeting with a Board Member at AQMD.

Vice Mayor Fajardo reported on an upcoming Chamber of Commerce meeting and thanked everyone for attending the Metropolitan Water District high-speed rail meeting.

Mayor Gonzales gave an update regarding Los Angeles County Library activities and the Independent Cities Association.

City Clerk Chávez announced an upcoming Education Commission meeting.

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**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Soto discussed the possibility of considering an emergency alert system for residents and commented on the need to be compassionate in considering the cannabis ordinance.

In reply to Councilmember Lopez's question, Police Chief Anthony Vairo addressed the use of social media for emergency alerts.

Vice Mayor Fajardo thanked the public for attending and in response to his question, Chief Vairo discussed the status of Neighborhood Watch meetings in the City.

Mayor Gonzales thanked City staff for their excellent work and residents for their attendance, and announced upcoming events, including a Business Mixer.

**STAFF COMMUNICATION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT (10:24 P.M.)**

Motion by Councilmember Ballin, seconded by Mayor Gonzales, to adjourn the meeting in the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide and in memory of Robert Gutierrez. By consensus, the motion carried.

*I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of April 18, 2016, meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.*

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*Elena G. Chávez*  
*City Clerk*