

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 3, 2020 – 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 6:01 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Joel Fajardo (left at 7:28 p.m.), Vice Mayor Hector A. Pacheco,
and Councilmembers Robert C. Gonzales, Mary Mendoza, and Sylvia Ballin

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Director of Recreation and Community Services Julian J. Venegas

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Ballin, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza, to approve the agenda. By consensus, the motion carried.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Dee Akemon spoke regarding discussions at a previous Council meeting regarding pensions and asked that the information be simplified for increased understanding.

Liana Stepanyan, San Fernando Library, provided updates on upcoming Library programs and services.

Cesar Perez and Daniella, Teens for a Better Community, announced a fundraiser on Saturday, February 8, at Chipotle and invited the public to attend.

Michelle Vergara, Field Representative for Congressman Tony Cardenas, provided district information and updates on their activities and provided an overview of their services.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – February 3, 2020

Page 2

CONSENT CALENDAR

City Manager Kimball announced that Item Nos. 3 and 4 would be tabled to a future meeting.

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

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NOS. 20-012 AND 20-021 APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTERS OF JANUARY 21, 2020 AND FEBRUARY 3, 2020 RESPECTIVELY
- 2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION) OF THE SAN FERNANDO MUNICIPAL CODE BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE VIII (ELECTRONIC RECORDS AND SIGNATURES) ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR THE USE OF ELECTRONIC/DIGITAL SIGNATURES
- 5) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SAN FERNANDO POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION POLICE MANAGEMENT UNIT

By consensus, the motion carried.

Items tabled to a future meeting:

- 3) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT TO THE EXISTING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SAN FERNANDO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHING A DEFERRED COMPENSATION PROGRAM
- 4) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT TO THE EXISTING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SAN FERNANDO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION MAKING CHANGES TO THE CAFETERIA MEDICAL PLAN

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor Fajardo announced that he would be leaving early and reported that Item Nos. 8 and 9 would be moved up on the agenda.

- 8) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION SETTING THE STATUTORY MAXIMUM FOR CITY COUNCILMEMBERS' SALARY

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

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – February 3, 2020

Page 3

Discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers and each provided input and comments.

Vice Mayor Pacheco noted the City Council salary has not been raised in 20 years noting it is not so much about the money, but rather about the message it sends.

Councilmembers Mendoza and Ballin stated they would prefer to table the item to another City Council meeting.

Vice Mayor Pacheco suggested that the specific aspect (\$50 contribution) be voted on, separately.

Mayor Fajardo asked for clarification whether he meant reduced from the cafeteria plan or reduced from the insurance.

City Manager Kimball explained the motion on the table (“a” and “b” below) and addressed deferred compensation. He added the proposals relate to current Councilmembers.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Pacheco, to approve a salary increase to \$730 per month, effective December 1, 2020, per staff recommendation.

The motion failed with the following vote:

AYES: Fajardo, Pacheco – 2
NOES: Ballin, Gonzales, Mendoza – 3
ABSENT: None

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Pacheco, that:

- a) Classic PERS members (on the City Council) increase PERS contribution, effective December 1, 2020, at the same level as the Department Head Group. (i.e. 2% upon adoption, additional 1% on July 1, 2021 and an additional 1% on July 1, 2022); and
- b) For Councilmembers that participate in the City’s health care program, the program will be similar to the Police Officers Association, which will pay up to the third highest health plan. Councilmembers enrolling in a more expensive plan will pay the difference. Councilmembers enrolling in a less expensive plan will not receive any surplus funds back.

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Mendoza, Pacheco, Fajardo – 3
NOES: Ballin, Gonzales – 2
ABSENT: None

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – February 3, 2020

Page 4

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Ballin, to create an Ad Hoc Committee (Fajardo and Ballin) on the pay increase for Councilmembers and bring back at a future meeting. By consensus, the motion carried.

9) REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE CITY’S UNFUNDED PENSION AND RETIREE HEALTH BENEFIT LIABILITIES AND RELATED AD HOC RECOMMENDATIONS

City Manager Kimball introduced Julio Morales, consultant with Urban Futures Inc., who presented the staff report.

At this time (7:28 p.m.), Mayor Fajardo left the City Council meeting and Vice Mayor Pacheco took over as the presiding officer.

Discussion followed regarding impacts of increased healthcare costs, Measure A as a potential funding source, the importance of transparency, the need for further financial analysis, reducing property tax rates, moving forward on the pension obligation funds, impacts of issuing bonds to the City’s credit-worthiness, directing staff to continue working on the item and return with a report to Council at a future meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Gonzales, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza, to direct staff to move forward on the pension obligation bond process. By consensus, the motion carried.

6) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Vice Mayor Pacheco read the title of the item.

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

- a. Approve an Amendment to the City Manager Employment Agreement (Contract No. 1906(a)); and
- b. Authorize the Mayor to execute the Agreement.

By consensus, the motion carried.

7) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CLERK EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

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

- a. Approve the Fourth Amendment (Contract No. 1804(d)) to the City Clerk Employment Agreement; and
- b. Authorize the Mayor to execute the Amendment.

By consensus, the motion carried.

10) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 SALARY PLAN TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES IN THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION PLAN AND CHANGES IN MINIMUM WAGE FOR CERTAIN PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

Motion by Councilmember Ballin, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza, to:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 7980 amending the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Salary Plan to implement changes in the approved Executive Management Compensation Plan and changes in minimum wage for certain part-time employees; and
- b. Authorize the City Manager to make non-substantive corrections and execute all related documents.

By consensus, the motion carried.

11) DISCUSSION OF PROVIDING LETTERS TO LEGISLATORS REGARDING EXISTING AND PENDING HOUSING LAWS

Discussion followed regarding needing Council general direction in terms of staff's ability to quickly submit letters, both in opposition or in support of legislation, relative to housing policies and maintaining local control.

Councilmember Gonzales noted the importance of staff having the flexibility of writing on behalf of Council, the need to discuss Council's position on upcoming housing and other issues that take away local control, suggested that staff research best-practices in other cities and return to Council with a report.

Vice Mayor Pacheco commented on the need to closely monitor relevant issues, suggested the report include an analysis of laws that have been recently enacted, including the spirit and intent behind the laws, and why they would, and would not, work in the City.

Councilmember Gonzales discussed the importance identifying who the letter(s) will be sent to.

City Manager Kimball reported staff will return with consideration of ADUs as well as establishing policies, going forward, to help guide staff.

No formal action was taken.

STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES

Police Chief Anthony Vairo discussed the recent Homeless Connection event at Las Palmas Park and reported the department applied for an Office of Traffic and Safety grant.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – February 3, 2020

Page 6

Director of Recreation and Community Services Venegas reported that the Parks, Wellness, and Recreation Commission will meet on February 11 and will discuss the possibility of establishing a community theater. He addressed upcoming events at Las Palmas Park.

Deputy City Manager/Director of Community Development Timothy Hou provided an update of the City's application for an SB 2 planning grant and responses received to the City's RFQ for Parking Lot 3 as a mixed/blended use development opportunity site.

Interim Director of Public Works Martin Pastucha presented updates on several Public Works projects, and reported on an upcoming Transportation and Safety Commission meeting.

Director of Finance Diego Ibanez discussed preparation of the townhall presentation regarding Measure A and the 2019-20 CAFR.

City Manager Kimball thanked Council for addressing important long-term issues, announced an upcoming Explorer Recognition Dinner, and reported he will be attending the upcoming League of California Cities City Manager Conference.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Mendoza reported that she and Councilmember Ballin attended the League of California Cities Academy for Mayors and Councilmembers, commented positively on the event, and thanked the City Manager and staff for their help in guiding her as a new Councilmember.

Councilmember Ballin discussed recent and upcoming MWD meetings, addressed concerns by veterans that the banners were removed, urged staff to include the information on the City's website, and commented on the possibility of podcasting City Council meetings.

Vice Mayor Pacheco spoke about an upcoming Southern California Association of Governments meeting, addressed Parking Lot No. 3, and noted February is Black History Month.

Councilmember Gonzales provided updates regarding meetings he recently attended held by the East San Fernando Transportation Corridor, Independent Cities Association, and the Metro Board, and he reported speaking with the St. Ferdinand's Fifty's Club and the American Legion regarding the Veteran Banner Program.

ADJOURNMENT (8:30 P.M.)

Motion by Councilmember Gonzales, seconded by Councilmember Ballin, 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 3, 2020, meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

Elena G. Chávez, CMC
City Clerk