

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**JANUARY 20, 2015 – 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 6:05 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Sylvia Ballin, Mayor Pro Tem Robert C. Gonzales, and Councilmembers Jesse H. Avila, Joel Fajardo, and Antonio Lopez

Staff: City Manager Brian Saeki, Assistant City Attorney Joaquin Vasquez, and City Clerk Elena G. Chávez

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Police Explorer Alfredo Mendoza

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Ballin requested to move Item No. 6 to the end of the agenda and City Manager Saeki reported that Item No. 2 had an incorrect attachment (Council was provided a corrected version at the dais).

Motion by Councilmember Lopez, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo, to approve the amended agenda. By consensus, the motion carried.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Miguel Martinez, District Director for Assemblymember Patty Lopez, spoke about increasing communication with the City, offered to respond to questions, and urged the City to contact them with any concerns.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – January 20, 2015

Page 2

Linda Campanella-Jauron spoke in opposition to the High Speed Rail Project, pointed out flaws in the underground option, and encouraged residents to lobby the High Speed Rail Authority and remind them there is a better alternative than a High Speed Rail coming through San Fernando.

Mary Mendoza expressed concerns with her inability to locate 2014 agendas, minutes and meeting audios on-line. Finance Director Nick Kimball reported the current agenda is on the City's website and noted the inclusion of a link to access archived agendas. City Manager Saeki reported staff is working to make the City website user-friendly.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales, to approve the Consent Calendar Items:

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NOS. 14-122, 15-011, AND 15-012 APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTERS OF DECEMBER 15, 2014, JANUARY 5, 2015 AND JANUARY 20, 2015, RESPECTIVELY
- 2) FACILITY FEE WAIVER POLICY UPDATE
- 3) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT EXTENDING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE SAN FERNANDO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
- 4) PROPOSED METRO CALL FOR PROJECTS GRANT APPLICATION – TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS AND SYNCHRONIZATION
- 5) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE UPPER LOS ANGELES RIVER AREA WATERMASTER

By consensus, the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 7) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH ATHENS SERVICES FOR STREET SWEEPING SERVICES

Management Analyst Kenneth Jones presented the staff report and replied to questions from Councilmembers.

Discussion followed regarding Athens Services' responsiveness to the community, staff's efforts in cutting costs, including street-sweeping services, base-service versus reduced-service levels,

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – January 20, 2015

Page 3

costs related to maintaining the present level of service, Council's option to approve the contract based on the base service level and distribution of the RFP.

Dan Edwards, Executive Vice President, Athens Services, reported Athens has been in business for over 50 years.

Motion by Councilmember Lopez, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo, to go with the base bid (staff will look into the \$14,000 during mid-year) and

- a. Approve a contract between the City and Athens Services for a fixed annual cost of \$174,591.56 (Contract No. 1776) to provide Citywide street sweeping services for a three-year term, with a City option to renew for two additional years; and
- b. Authorize the City Manager to execute the Contract.

By consensus, the motion carried.

8) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AND EXECUTE CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY (HSRA) AND PROVIDE DIRECTION REGARDING FUTURE OUTREACH EFFORTS

City Manager Saeki presented the staff report and responded to questions from Councilmembers.

Councilmember Fajardo discussed a recent meeting in Shadow Hills regarding the High Speed Rail and suggested holding a forum in San Fernando or inviting the HSRA to make a presentation in the City, spoke about the need for the City to spend money on this matter to match the effort of the HSRA, suggested that staff listen to the recordings of the recent Shadow Hills meeting, and noted the need for additional information to sign the letter and fully vet the project.

City Manager Saeki reported at this point, the project is going through an environmental assessment process and discussed the intent of the proposed letter.

Councilmember Avila spoke about offering an alternative that is less-intrusive to the community and noted the more the community responds, the more the HSRA will pay attention to the community's concerns. He reported that the letter will not stop the City from being able to offer alternatives to the project.

Discussion followed regarding HSRA's willingness to work with the community, the possibility of creating a committee of stakeholders, the need for the City to do extensive community outreach, the need for consistency in the message, the feasibility of the underground option, the need for more information and acceptable alternatives and the need for increased community participation.

Mayor Ballin voiced her opposition to sending the letter as she believed it sends out the wrong message, spoke in opposition to the project, noted the need to form a coalition with other

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – January 20, 2015

Page 4

opposing cities and stated she would have preferred for staff to have brought the item before Council prior to generating the letter.

Discussion followed regarding delaying the item until the next City Council meeting to obtain additional information, avoiding giving the impression the City is favorable to the project, using strong language in the letter clarifying the damage that the project would have on the City, and getting other elected officials, representing San Fernando, to support the City's position.

By consensus, City staff was directed to return with more information including strong language in the letter, making the City's position clear, to the next City Council meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the need to give community outreach, more thought, postponing the discussion on outreach to the next City Council meeting and having one person in charge of communicating the City's message.

9) **CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION FOR OFFICE SPACE IN CITY HALL**

City Manager Saeki presented the staff report and responded to questions from Councilmembers.

Discussion followed regarding getting input from City staff who will be impacted, security and lighting, parking availability, hours of operation, determining better uses for the space than what is being proposed and credit union membership qualifications.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales, seconded by Councilmember Lopez, to authorize the City Manager to negotiate a lease agreement between the City and the United States Postal Service Federal Credit Union for office space in City Hall. By consensus, the motion carried.

6) **PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

Finance Director Kimball presented the staff report and responded to questions from Councilmembers.

By consensus, the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report was received and filed.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Avila noted many agencies are planning and waiting for the upcoming election.

Councilmember Lopez discussed upcoming TOD meetings and noted the importance of increased public participation and addressed a recent Metro Service Council meeting where he was appointed to be on the Blue Ribbon Committee, overseeing a three-year outlook.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – January 20, 2015

Page 5

Councilmember Fajardo congratulated Councilmember Lopez on his appointment, discussed upcoming meetings of the Tree Commission, and spoke about discussions he will bring up at the next Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales discussed a recent Independent Cities Association meeting as well as an upcoming ICA conference.

Mayor Ballin congratulated Councilmember Lopez and Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales for their recent appointments, addressed the importance of representing the City and attending board meetings, and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Avila addressed the importance of TOD and encouraged residents to engage and participate.

Councilmember Fajardo discussed the need for preliminary research on costs related to raising the minimum wage and noted he looks forward to a good 2015.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

City Manager Saeki provided an update on the upcoming TOD meetings and announced Chief Parks is retiring on March 19, 2015.

Chief Parks spoke about his son's hockey team winning a recent tournament and reported his retirement party will be at the Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills.

Director of Recreation and Community Services Ismael Aguila discussed the Christmas Tree-Lighting ceremony, noted staff is working on the "Eggstravaganza" and addressed the start of CERT training in the City.

ADJOURNMENT (8:13 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 January 20, 2015, meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

*Elena G. Chávez
City Clerk*