

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**APRIL 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 Joel Fajardo called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Joel Fajardo, Mayor Pro Tem 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**

Mayor Pro Tem Ballin requested that Item No. 9 be placed on the next agenda and City Manager Saeki suggested that Item No. 10 be carried over too since they are related items.

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

**PRESENTATION**

The following presentations were made:

- a) INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICE LIEUTENANT CHRISTIAN COLELLI AND NEW POLICE SERGEANT CJ CHIASSON
- b) CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION TO LETICIA CHÁVEZ AND ANDREA LEMUS
- c) ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

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**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

John Arroyo said that service hours need to be extended for the City Trolley and the Mission City Transit.

Leticia Chávez talked about individuals requiring special needs and reported that The Puzzle Pathway brings resources to the community.

Pablo Martinez talked about a non-profit organization that he co-founded, and they specialize in removing toxic materials (i.e., paint, computers, television sets, antifreeze, etc.) that are dumped in public spaces.

John Blue spoke about his exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam, reported that some areas at City parks need lighting, and noticed 55 gallon drums at the City Yard, adding that he hopes they are not full of dangerous chemicals.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilmember Gonzales pulled Item No. 2 for further discussion.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ballin, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales, to approve Consent Calendar Item No. 1:

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 15-042 APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER

By consensus, the motion carried.

**Item Pulled for Further Discussion:**

- 2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING A TUITION DISCOUNT PROGRAM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO AND THE UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE

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

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of the City hosting classes which would be available to City staff, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's and LAPD and the possibility of offering classes to residents.

Motion by Councilmember Gonzales, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ballin, to:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 7669 approving a Tuition Discount Program Agreement; and
- b. Authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement (Contract No. 1787) between the City and the University of La Verne.

By consensus, the motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**3) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE RECREATION SPORTS PROGRAMS PROPOSAL**

Interim Recreation Supervisor Joe Goss gave the staff report. He and Recreation and Community Services Director Ismael Aguila replied to questions from Councilmembers.

Discussion followed regarding doing a needs assessment of all facilities in the City, the need for a Park Master Plan, community outreach to promote swimming programs/classes, expanding adult co-ed sports programs, challenges with space and resources and additional staffing needs.

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

- a. Approve the Recreation Sports Programs Proposal; and
- b. Direct City staff to request funds for a Park Master Plan through the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget process at a cost of approximately \$60,000.

By consensus, the motion carried.

**4) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN OF TRAFFIC SAFETY AND LANDSCAPING ENHANCEMENTS AT PARKING LOT 5 AND TRUMAN STREET STREETScape FROM SAN FERNANDO MISSION BOULEVARD TO BRAND BOULEVARD**

Deputy City Manager/Public Works Director Chris Marcarello presented the staff report and introduced landscape architect Robert Nava. Both replied to questions from Councilmembers.

Discussion ensued regarding the design, Ficus trees, increasing the number of bike racks, trash bin enclosures and illegal dumping, ground cover, egress and ingress issues, non-compliance of businesses regarding trash pick-up, electric vehicle station, the retail property owner, parking, considering water conservation, the importance of avoiding removal of trees, increasing lighting, types of replacement trees, developer contributions for the improvements and the need for a Tree Master Plan.

Mayor Fajardo invited Mall Association President Tom Ross to provide feedback.

Tom Ross asked about the length of time for construction, noted trash is a big issue, suggested the possibility of installing a trash compactor, asked about the alley, said fixtures should match those in the rest of the mall, and spoke in support of installing landscaping that is easy to maintain.

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

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- a. Provide input and direction related to the proposed conceptual design for traffic safety and aesthetic enhancements at Parking Lot 5 and along Truman Street (from San Fernando Mission Boulevard to Brand Boulevard); and
- b. Authorize the City Manager to proceed with construction design plans for Parking Lot 5 and Truman Street Streetscaping Improvements.
- c. Add bike racks to the area and look at options of those businesses facing the street, and electric vehicle stations.

Mayor Fajardo offered a friendly amendment to include two conceptual designs which was accepted by Councilmembers Lopez and Gonzales.

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Lopez, Gonzales, Ballin, Fajardo – 4

NOES: Soto – 1

ABSENT: None

**5) SOLID WASTE FRANCHISE SERVICES ANNUAL REVIEW**

Deputy City Manager/Public Works Director Marcarello introduced Republic Services representatives Rafael Garcia and Tanya Ragland who presented a report.

Discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers and staff regarding non-payment provisions, the need for additional outreach to residents regarding billing, illegal dumping in alleys, increased bulky-item pickups, options for payments, showing a sense of pride in the City by including signage on waste trucks, promoting the recycling awards program, efforts made by Republic Services to improve service, challenges with commercial customers.

Tom Ross, Downtown Mall Association, acknowledged trash challenges in the business districts and discussed monthly billings and suggested tying waste billing with the water bill.

Discussion followed regarding Republic Services being in compliance with contract requirements.

City Attorney Olivarez reported no motion is necessary and suggested that Council receive and file the Solid Waste Franchise Services annual report.

The report was received and filed, without objection.

**6) UPDATE ON TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY ZONE PROJECT**

Community Development Director Fred Ramirez presented the staff report.

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Discussion ensued regarding items crucial to the City, the possibility of San Fernando becoming a "walking city", preserving the culture of the City, residents' aversion to low-income housing in the TOD overlay and the need to be inclusive.

Mayor Pro Tem Ballin reported Councilmember Lopez is better suited to be on the TOD Development Advisory Committee than she and suggested that he replace her on the TOD. It was noted staff will need to place the item on Council's next agenda for consideration and action.

Discussion continued regarding embracing a culture of diversity, consequences of Council not approving the TOD overlay as recommended, being inclusive and transparent in the process, and consideration by the Planning Commission.

There was no formal action taken on this item.

**7) CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL (HSR) PROJECT UPDATE**

City Manager Saeki presented the staff report and reviewed changes to a letter from City Council to the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of other cities joining in a lawsuit against HSR, discussing that issue during Closed Session, determining the desired level of public outreach, distributing information about the HSR at other City events, discussing HSR at every available opportunity, the need to hire a public relations firm to help the City develop and distribute its message, holding several big events to educate the public, working with existing coalitions to band together.

Motion by Councilmember Gonzales, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ballin, to:

- a. Approve the revised letter from the San Fernando City Council to the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors;
- b. Approve a letter from the North Los Angeles County Communities Protection Coalition to the California High Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors; and
- d. Provide direction related to future public outreach efforts and including suggested changes to the letter.

By consensus, the motion carried.

**8) SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG)  
APPOINTMENT TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL DISTRICT 67**

City Manager Saeki gave a brief report.

It was noted Councilmember Soto is not able to serve on SCAG.

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Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ballin, seconded by Councilmember Soto, to approve the appointment of Councilmember Lopez as the City's representative to serve on the Southern California Association of Governments Regional Council for District 67. By consensus, the motion carried.

- 9) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY COUNCIL PROCEDURAL MANUAL BY REVISING VARIOUS SECTIONS

*Item removed under Approval of Agenda.*

- 10) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE REGULATION OF BEHESTED PAYMENTS

*Item removed under Approval of Agenda.*

- 11) DISCUSSION REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY PERTAINING TO CITY COUNCIL CONTACTS

Mayor Fajardo noted this item fits in with the discussion on the City Council Procedure Manual and suggested tabling it to the next City Council meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Gonzales, seconded by Councilmember Lopez, to table the item to the next City Council meeting. By consensus, the motion carried.

- 12) DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY COUNCIL POLICY PERTAINING TO ATTORNEY SERVICES

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ballin, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales, to table the item to the next City Council meeting. By consensus, the motion carried.

- 13) DISCUSSION REGARDING THE MUNICIPAL EQUALITY INDEX REPORT FOR THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

Mayor Fajardo presented a brief report addressing recommendations from the Human Rights Campaign and suggested holding events in connection with the announcement from the Supreme Court related to marriage equality.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ballin, to have a liaison to the Human Rights Commission to address LGBTQ issues, assign a liaison to the City Manager and Mayor regarding LGBTQ needs in the community, assign a liaison to the Police Department and post it on the City's website, and codify a policy for vendors against discrimination of the LGBTQ community, by June 1, 2015. By consensus, the motion carried.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION LIAISON UPDATES**

Councilmember Gonzales discussed a recent meeting of the Los Angeles Library Commission (LALC) noting a problem with quorums and the possibility of assigning two elected officials and an alternate as part of the LALC, spoke about San Fernando hosting the next LALC meeting at City Hall, and reported the ICA met but did not have a quorum.

Councilmember Lopez provided an update of recent Metro meetings and items discussed.

Mayor Pro Tem Ballin reported Councilmember Gonzales will take the lead on the Ad Hoc Committee, noted a meeting will be scheduled, next week and stated that subsequently, meetings will be scheduled with members of the committee.

Mayor Fajardo discussed the HSR Ad Hoc Committee, addressed the need to work collectively for a better solution, and listed suggestions made by Mr. Dipinto.

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Gonzales stated he enjoyed the Arbor Day presentation.

Councilmember Lopez encouraged Council to be inclusive as San Fernando is a multicultural community and noted the City is constantly evolving and the need to be progressive and open-minded.

Mayor Pro Tem Ballin agreed with Councilmember Lopez noting Council represents everyone in the community (including guests), noted the need to embrace diversity and not create discrimination, and stressed that she is not part of a majority and will make her decisions based on their merits.

Mayor Fajardo agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Ballin and stated he would like to authorize the City Manager to make a selection between Councilmembers and/or Commissioners to review the Republic Services Scholarship applications.

City Manager Saeki stated he would prefer that Council make the decision, as a group.

City Attorney Olivarez recommended placing the matter on the next City Council agenda.

Mayor Fajardo offered to work with the City Manager to reinstate a State of the City address and Mayor Pro Tem Ballin stated she would like that on the next agenda for a full discussion.

**STAFF COMMUNICATION**

City Manager Saeki reported that relative to HSR, his request for a 100-foot right of way through the City was granted and addressed its specific location. Additionally, he reported Council priorities will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

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Deputy City Manager/Public Works Director Marcarello gave a brief update on a recent MWD meeting where discussion occurred regarding the Governor's declaration of an emergency water shortage and mandatory conservation measures.

**ADJOURNMENT (9:47 P.M.)**

Motion by Councilmember Gonzales, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ballin, to adjourn the meeting in memory of former Councilmember Ray Ojeda. By consensus, the motion carried.

*I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of April 20, 2015, meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.*

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*Cynthia Alba*  
*Deputy City Clerk/Management Analyst*