

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**APRIL 2, 2012 – 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING**

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Brenda Esqueda called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Brenda Esqueda, Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Lopez, and Councilmembers Maribel De La Torre, and Sylvia Ballin

Staff: City Administrator Al Hernández, City Attorney Michael Estrada, and City Clerk Elena G. Chávez

Absent: Councilmember Mario F. Hernández (notified staff that he is out ill)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Esqueda

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Administrator Hernández requested that, since Councilmember Hernández was not present for his item, to table Item No. 10.

Motion by Councilmember De La Torre, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez, to approve the agenda as amended. By consensus, the motion carried.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

John Arroyo (resident): 1) is concerned about a potential fire at a house on Newton St. and Brand Blvd.; 2) said Neighborhood Watch volunteers could use identifying badges or reflective vests; and 3) congratulated both the new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

Dee Akemon (resident): 1) said recall efforts are going well (people are very interested in what's going on); 2) certain Councilmembers are going around telling people not to sign the petitions

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – April 2, 2012

Page 2

because it will cost the City money (she said it won't cost anything if they resign); and 3) said that the Council majority was seen recently eating together at a local restaurant.

Renato Lira (resident): 1) believes the wrong Mayor was elected (no bio on the City's website and asked what is she bringing to the City); 2) suggested appointing someone else to the Budget Committee; and 3) talked about when Councilmember De La Torre was working as a loan officer.

Councilmember De La Torre replied that there has never been a complaint against her with the Department of Real Estate and suggested that Mr. Lira file a police report so she can go after him for making false accusations.

Mr. Lira continued and said that lots of people are signing the recall petitions and it is time for those Councilmembers to leave.

Jesse Sahagun (Public Works Maintenance Worker), speaking on behalf of the employees, said: 1) they have not had a full crew for many years, yet maintain the same levels of service; 2) the equipment they deal with is 10-20 years old; 3) they have not had a pay increase in three years; and 4) have had to pay more for health and retirement benefits.

Ramiro Arias (Public Works Senior Maintenance Worker) reported that: 1) one employee reads 5,000 meters, collects parking meter money and does all meter repairs; 2) two employees maintain four reservoirs, four wells, seven booster pumps, collect daily/weekly/monthly water samples; 3) four employees maintain 565 fire hydrants and 1,100 valves; and 4) employees are saving the City a lot of money by handling all of this in-house (water, sewer, and trees).

Dale Warren (Public Works Field Supervisor II) said that in the last two years, he combined two crews (used to be 11 employees, but now five) doubling up their responsibility which includes maintaining: 7,500 trees, 40 miles of streets and sewers, 80 miles of sidewalks, 80 miles of curbs and gutters, all City alleys and manholes, 55 bus stops, mall maintenance (seven days a week), all curb painting/markings, street closures for special events, and 12 parking lots.

Mimi Soto, SEIU Local 721, said she represents the Public Works employees who support the proposed water and sewer rate increases and she urged Council to take control, protect the City and residents by supporting the proposed increases.

David Hernández said he was running for Congress and, if elected, he will make sure that that the City receives its share of capital expense money from the Federal government.

Patty Lopez (resident): 1) asked if it was true that Councilmember De La Torre does not pay for using the pool; 2) talked about fair housing and if any assistance is provided; 3) asked about education issues being addressed by the EPAH Standing Committee; and 4) said that (certain) Councilmembers do not show respect for Spanish-speaking residents (the City should provide a translator at all meetings).

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – April 2, 2012

Page 3

Jesse Avila (resident) said staff's summary (regarding water and sewer rates) raised more questions than answers and said there's a lot of misunderstanding and misinformation.

Linda Campenella-Jauron (resident), speaking on behalf the Public Works employees, said they've had to suffer for a number of years due to poor management, mismanagement, and the lack of leadership. As long as the Council majority fails to step aside, they will continue to work toward their solution.

(Female speaker - did not state name) said: 1) she believes that the new Police Chief will make a change; 2) Jeff Eley is a good cop (she interviewed over 20 officers who believe he was set up); 3) businesses are leaving; and 4) the Mayor's "chair" belongs to Antonio Lopez.

Paul Luna (resident) talked about FPPC charges against Councilmember De La Torre and how he believes it is reminiscent of things happening now in the City.

Robert Ortega (resident): 1) talked about Police Sgt. Castellon and how he does not want to see him on the street); 2) said people don't come here because they are afraid; 3) asked how much the City is behind in payments to Los Angeles Fire Department; and 4) said that Council is not hearing the people.

Carolina Perez: 1) said the three Councilmembers do not learn from their mistakes; 2) talked about translating at meetings (City should hire a certified translator); 3) asked about the number of lawsuits and costs; and 4) said that items should be placed on the agenda (in writing) because people do not believe what (certain) Councilmembers say.

Stormy Haupt (resident) said there is a disconnect between what staff stated and the number of employees in Public Works and he asked if it was true that the pool was operated by San Fernando Fire and Rescue and whether Councilmember De La Torre pays to use the pool.

Councilmember De La Torre reported that she does not get favors and is a paying member just like everyone else that uses the Aquatics Facility.

Paulino Guevara (business owner) said they want to support and be proud of the leaders of the City but it's a mess and it's time for them to leave.

Samuel Beltran (resident) said that Councilmembers' days are numbered and told Councilmember De La Torre to not come to his home or he will get his pit bull on her.

Because of this threat, Mr. Beltran was escorted out of the Council Chambers.

Julian Ruelas (resident): 1) congratulated Mayor Esqueda; 2) said that three unemployed Councilmember are running a multi-million dollar business; 3) is concerned about the perceptions of Brown Act violations (which continue to bother the residents); and 4) said he doesn't understand why these things continue to happen.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Ballin pulled Item No. 3 for further discussion.

Motion by Councilmember De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember Ballin, to approve the remaining Consent Calendar Items:

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2012 – REGULAR MEETING
- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO 12-041
- 4) ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1612 – APPROVING ZONE CHANGE FOR FERMOORE-HARDING APARTMENTS
- 5) RE-APPOINTMENTS TO THE DISASTER COUNCIL AND TREE COMMISSION

By consensus, the motion carried.

Items Removed for Further Discussion:

- 3) FINANCIAL STATEMENT – FEBRUARY 2012

In response to Councilmember Ballin's question, City Administrator Hernández stated the volume of court appearances have diminished in San Fernando (they've been moved to Chatsworth), therefore there are less opportunities to cite (fewer parking citations are being issued).

Motion by Councilmember Ballin, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez, to approve Item No. 3.
By consensus, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- 6) SELECTION OF TWO MEMBERS OF THE OVERSIGHT BOARD TO THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE SAN FERNANDO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

City Administrator Hernández presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember Ballin, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Federico Ramirez, City Planner, and Edgar Arroyo, Assistant Planner, to the Oversight Board to the Successor Agency to the San Fernando Redevelopment Agency.
By consensus, the motion carried.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – April 2, 2012

Page 5

7) **DIRECT STAFF TO PUBLISH REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR NEW BUS SHELTERS DESIGN**

Public Works Director Ron Ruiz presented the staff report and responded to questions from Councilmembers.

Motion by Councilmember Ballin, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez, to approve the bus shelter design styles prior to staff publishing an RFP for new bus shelters design and installation. By consensus, the motion carried.

8) **POOL OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING UPDATE**

Recreation and Community Services Operations Manager Ismael Aguila presented the staff report. He and Pool Supervisor Joe Goss responded to questions from Councilmembers.

Motion by Councilmember De La Torre, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez, to receive and file this update on the San Fernando Regional Pool Facility operations and programming. By consensus, the motion carried.

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

9) **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) AND GRANTS – STAFF UPDATE**

In response to Councilmember Ballin's questions, City Administrator Hernández reported that the IT RFP will go out before the end of next week (a conclusion will be reached in about a month) and the accounting firm RFP has been mailed out (should have a selection to present to City Council by the end of May).

In response to her question regarding solid waste consulting services, Public Works Director Ruiz said the process is moving slowly (but the RFP will be out by the end of this month).

Councilmember Ballin would like that the grant update include more information such as; the date the grant was awarded, status, target completion, and when the funds are collected. She said target dates are important, it appears that some grants were encumbered some time ago, wants to make sure we don't lose any money, and she said it seems we are moving slowly.

Public Works Director Ruiz said a point has been reached where (limited) staff cannot keep up with these projects (some were already de-obligated and others were pushed out further), and there are cash flow issues (cannot match the grants). Staff needs direction and will start discussing, with Standing Committees as to how to proceed.

Councilmember Ballin said that his responses concern her and she will have a discussion with City Administrator Hernández regarding our options.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – April 2, 2012

Page 6

In response to questions from Councilmembers, Mr. Ruiz said that many cities are struggling (there is no longer a Redevelopment Agency), ongoing problems with Caltrans, and the Brand Blvd. project and EECGB grant reimbursements have not been received (i.e., \$270,000 and \$100,000 respectively).

10) DISMISSED PARKING TICKETS FOR ALL OF 2011

This item was removed (tabled) under Approval of Agenda.

STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

No. 1 Budget, Personnel and Finance (BPF)

Councilmember Hernández – not present.

No. 2 Housing, Community & Economic Development and Parking (HCEP)

Councilmember De La Torre – no updates.

No. 3 Natural Resources, Infrastructure, Water, Energy and Waste Management (NRIW)

Councilmember Ballin – Public Works Director Ruiz said the meeting had to be rescheduled due to the Town Hall meeting.

No. 4 Public Safety, Veteran Affairs, Technology and Transportation (PVTT)

Mayor Pro Tem Lopez – no updates.

No. 5 Education, Parks, Arts, Health and Aging (EPAH)

Mayor Esqueda – no updates.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

In response to Councilmember De La Torre's questions, staff replied that: 1) American Recovery & Reinvestment Act dollars were used for handicap accessible ramps and street signs; 2) the City is not behind on payments to the City of Los Angeles for fire services; 3) information regarding fair housing can be found in the Community Development Department; and 4) gym hours were cut due to low attendance (users were redirected to the other parks)

Councilmember De La Torre added that: 1) the Education Commission meets quarterly (information is on the City's website); 2) when asked to translate for the public speakers, Councilmembers do the best they can; 3) she would like to see a report regarding fatalities on

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – April 2, 2012

Page 7

Maclay Ave. (she is aware of one over the past several years); 4) said she has not dined at Heavenly Pancake within the past two weeks with one or more Councilmembers; 5) she does not get special treatment at Aquatics Facility; and 6) regarding a comment made earlier that three Councilmembers are unemployed, it is not true and she doesn't know where these rumors are coming from but it is really sad and unfortunate that people will lie.

Councilmember Ballin: 1) expressed disappointment that Joe Lillio was not present (she wanted to congratulate him) it is sad that the City is losing him; 2) is looking forward to settling the water rates issue at our next meeting; 3) in response to her question, Mr. Ruiz reported that the speed limit study was delayed due to vandalized counters; 4) would like to see departmental organization charts; 5) would like to see action minutes to identify and track items requested at City Council meetings; 6) in response to her questions, Mr. Ruiz reported that rain gutters are handled before every rain storm (street sweeping is daily) and the Cesar Chávez monument maintenance is intensive (cuts were made years ago - no people power); 7) said people want to meet the new Police Chief (maybe schedule before a Council meeting); and 8) asked about her City-issued phone (she doesn't see the bill and wants to make sure it is not a problem down the road). City Administrator Hernández will send a report to each Councilmember.

Mayor Pro Tem Lopez asked that staff look into the gang graffiti on Brand Blvd. (between Truman and San Fernando Road). In response to his question, Mr. Aguila invited everyone to the Eggstravaganza event to be held on Saturday at Las Palmas Park.

Mayor Esqueda said she wanted to address some of the public comments made: 1) she was not at Pancake Heaven with another Councilmember/s; 2) as far as she knows, there were not three Councilmembers on the corner of Alexander Street; 3) no recent deaths on Maclay Ave.; 4) no closure of parks; 5) she welcomed Police Chief Gil Carrillo (she was not trying to bring in someone from Arizona); 6) respects her colleagues (she would not laugh at them); 7) she does not make fun of people that do not speak English well; 7) she thanked Public Works employees; and 8) said she attended the Police Explorer Banquet last Friday and the City was presented with an appreciation plaque.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

City Administrator Hernández: 1) reported that staff will be busy working on next year's priorities, business plan and budget, and will continue to monitor cash flow to ensure everything is proper; and 3) will continue to work on the Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (per AB X1 26) to ensure compliance.

City Planner Fred Ramirez announced there is an upcoming workshop (Get Home Now) geared toward lenders/realtors and said that the Community Development Department is happy to discuss with residents any housing issues they may have.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – April 2, 2012

Page 8

ADJOURNMENT (8:36 P.M.)

Motion by Councilmember Ballin, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lopez, 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 April 2, 2012 meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

Elena G. Chávez
City Clerk