

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**JULY 20, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING**

TECONFERENCE – PER GOVERNOR’S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Joel Fajardo called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Joel Fajardo, Vice Mayor Hector A. Pacheco, and Councilmembers Sylvia Ballin (Arrived at 6:04 p.m.), Robert C. Gonzales and Mary Mendoza

Staff: City Manager Nick Kimball, Assistant City Attorney Richard Padilla, Chief of Police Anthony Vairo, Deputy City Manager/Director of Community Development Tim Huo, and City Clerk Julia Fritz

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Mayor Fajardo

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales, to approve the agenda.

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES:	Mendoza, Gonzales, Pacheco, and Fajardo - 4
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Ballin - 1
ABSTAIN:	None

It was noted that Councilmember Sylvia Ballin joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

a) RECOGNITION OF THE LAS PALMAS SENIOR CITIZENS’ CLUB 50th ANNIVERSARY

Councilmember Mary Mendoza presented a proclamation to Las Palmas Senior Citizens’ Club in recognition of their 50th Anniversary.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – July 20, 2020

Page 2

b) UPDATE REGARDING THE 2020 CENSUS

City Manager Nick Kimball displayed videos regarding the 2020 Census and located on the City's website and social media; presented examples of the door hanger encouraging the public to complete the Census and discussed the upcoming Census Caravan.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN

City Clerk Fritz read a statement submitted by:

Arturo Garcia-Mendoza, Field Representative for the office of Assemblymember Luz Rivas, discussed the Assemblywoman's activities and programs.

Cyndi Lopez, Residents for a Better San Fernando, referenced Item No. 7; discussed the LCDA Homeownership program; urged City Council to reconsider the project and respect the wishes of the community.

Severyn Aszkenazy referenced Item No. 7; discussed the importance of public input on the project; urged City Council to extend the outreach period to 90 days after the COVID-19 pandemic is declared to be over.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1) REQUEST TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF:

APRIL 6, 2020 – SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 20, 2020 – SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 4, 2020 – SPECIAL MEETING

2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER

3) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A SAFE AND ACTIVE STREETS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

4) CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE THE NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR THE GLENOAKS BOULEVARD STREET SEWER AND WATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, JOB NO. 7608, PLAN NO. P-730

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – July 20, 2020

Page 3

- 5) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A SPECIAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES:	Mendoza, Gonzales, Ballin, Pacheco, Fajardo – 5
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 6) DISCUSSION REGARDING COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS AND APPROVAL OF PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

Deputy City Manager/Director of Community Development Hou presented an update on the recent orders on COVID-19 and including planning, response, enforcement, education efforts, and related policy initiatives.

City Manager Kimball addressed questions by Councilmembers regarding current hospitalization rates; spoke about outdoor dining and operations and provided an update on the recent opening of the swap meet.

Councilmembers discussed their concerns over the opening of the swap meet and their ability to maintain health order guidelines. Discussion concluded and no formal action taken.

- 7) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN EXCLUSIVE NEGOTIATION AGREEMENT WITH AZURE DEVELOPMENT, INC., FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY SITE AT PARKING LOT NO. 3

Deputy City Manager/Director of Community Development Tim Huo presented the staff report.

Representatives from the City’s Economic Development Consultant, Kosmont Company, narrated PowerPoint presentations with details of the Exclusive Negotiation Agreement (ENA) and addressed next steps.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Ballin, to approve:

- a. Exclusive Negotiation Agreement (Contract No. 1959) with Azure Development, Inc. to provide a specified period of time to attempt to negotiate a development agreement; and

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – July 20, 2020

Page 4

- b. Authorize the City Manager to make non-substantive edits and execute all related documents.

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES:	Gonzales, Ballin, Pacheco, Fajardo – 4
NOES:	Mendoza - 1
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

- 8) CONSIDERATION TO PLACE A QUARTER-CENT LOCAL SALES TAX AND/OR TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX MEASURE(S) ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020, GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

City Manager Kimball presented details of the staff report.

Discussion followed regarding the process for implementing a TOT, doing a study of hotels in surrounding areas, the need to consider the possibility of another entity increasing sales taxes, community input obtained in townhall meetings and expected increases in liabilities.

City Council concurred to direct staff to return with an ordinance and ballot language at a Special Meeting on July 27, 2020, and to bifurcate the subjects on that agenda with TOT as a separate item for discussion.

- 9) DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CITY’S OPPOSITION OF ICE DETENTION FACILITIES

Councilmember Ballin referenced a prior request to send a letter to President Trump and Members of Congress repudiating this Administration’s cruel and inhumane treatment of immigrant families and children and demanding that Congress act immediately in terms of immigration reform.

Motion by Councilmember Ballin, seconded by Mayor Fajardo to direct staff to send a letter to President Trump expressing City Council’s outrage at his immigration policies, with a copy of the letter sent to Vice President Biden and to Senator Mitch McConnell and return to City Council for approval at the August 3, 2020, meeting.

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES:	Mendoza, Gonzales, Ballin, Pacheco and Fajardo – 5
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – July 20, 2020

Page 5

- 10) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT NO WOMEN SHOULD BE SUBJECTED TO PHYSICAL ASSAULT AND URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST VANESSA GUILLEN AT FORT HOOD, TEXAS

Councilmember Mendoza discussed the recent murder of United States Army Specialist Vanessa Guillen.

Motion by Councilmember Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Ballin to:

Adopt Resolution No. 8018 to resolve that no women should be subjected to physical assault and urging the Department of Defense (DoD) to conduct an Independent Investigation into the death of United States Army Specialist Vanessa Guillen; and

Authorize the City Manager to forward copies of the resolution to the City’s State and Federal Legislative Representatives and to appropriate officials within the Department of Defense; work with local veterans’ groups for resources and send a copy of the letter to local VFWs, American Legions, the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, and the U.S. House Armed Services Committee.

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES:	Mendoza, Gonzales, Ballin, Pacheco and Fajardo – 5
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES

None

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES

Mayor Fajardo spoke on Councilmember Gonzales’s decision to not re-run and noted he will be missed.

Councilmember Gonzales thanked City Council colleagues, City staff and residents for having the opportunity to serve.

Councilmember Ballin requested adjourning the meeting in memory of Senator John Lewis.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – July 20, 2020

Page 6

Councilmember Mendoza thanked Councilmember Gonzales for his service; noted attending a Library Commission meeting and discussed projects they are working on.

Vice Mayor Pacheco thanked Councilmember Gonzales for his service.

ADJOURNMENT (10:15 P.M.)

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Ballin, to adjourn the meeting in memory of Senator John Lewis. By consensus, the motion carried.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of July 20, 2020, meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

Julia Fritz, CMC
City Clerk