

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**JULY 7, 2014 – 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 6:12 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, City Attorney Rick R. Olivarez, and City Clerk Elena G. Chávez

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Police Explorer Cadet Alfredo Mendoza

**PRESENTATIONS**

The following presentations were made:

- A) JULY – PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH  
Ismael Aguila, Recreation and Community Services Operations Manager
- B) INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICE RESERVE OFFICERS  
Ligia Bobadilla  
Bruce Schwartz

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

City Manager Saeki reported that the Closed Session Item A was postponed to an uncertain date.

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

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

Jaime Soto stated that Police Chief Parks assisted him with several neighborhood issues and he reported that he will be circulating a petition regarding people running stop signs and speeding.

John Blue said that he was assisting a woman that worked as a cleaning lady at Recreation Park, was unfairly treated, and was eventually fired by the janitorial service contractor.

(Female speaker – did not state name) said she used to work at Recreation Park and said she was fired from her job, felt it was unjust, and said she hopes to go back to work.

Robert Ortega believes that the skateboarders (or their parents) should get cited for skateboarding where they shouldn't be and for the graffiti they've done. He also talked about the JC Penney building and asked why would we allow the building to be destroyed?

Patty Lopez talked about agenda Item No. 3, everything is moving too fast, and said that we need to do our best to inform the community and share the project details with everyone.

Paul Luna said that Heritage Park is underutilized and asked if the City has prepared a disaster response plan (before we find ourselves in a situation similar to the 1971 earthquake).

Carolina Perez said that the apartments on Park Ave. have created congested parking, is concerned about the number of people that will live at the new apartments in the Mall, and said that residents were not made aware.

In response to the question by one of the speakers, City Manager Saeki reported that the City does have a Disaster Plan and, recently, the Disaster Council held an exercise with all City departments simulating a catastrophic event whereby the Emergency Operations Center was activated.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mayor Ballin pulled Item No. 3 for further discussion.

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

- 1) REQUEST TO APPROVE MINUTES OF:
  - a. JUNE 16, 2014 – REGULAR MEETING
  - b. JUNE 25, 2014 – SPECIAL MEETING
- 2) REQUEST TO APPROVE WARRANT REGISTER NO 14-071

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By consensus, the motion carried.

**Items Removed for Further Discussion**

- 3) ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1634 ADOPTING ZONE MAP AMENDMENT 2014-001, AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO TO REZONE PORTIONS OF 1140 AND 1148 SAN FERNANDO ROAD FROM THE TRUMAN/SAN FERNANDO DISTRICT AND MIXED-USE TRANSITION SUB-DISTRICT OF THE SP-4 (CORRIDORS SPECIFIC PLAN) ZONE TO THE DOWNTOWN DISTRICT AND SAN FERNANDO MALL DISTRICT OF THE SP-4 (CORRIDORS SPECIFIC PLAN) ZONE

Mayor Ballin said she struggled that she was not able to attend the special meeting (it was a very important subject) but changing her plans would have personally cost her. She pointed out the short time frame given to Council to review and analyze the project. In fairness to the Council and community, she asked that staff provide more lead time when there are very important matters placed on the agenda. She also stated that she does not want San Fernando to become the low-income city in the Valley and believes that we need to become more strategic in how we move forward with additional low-income projects.

Staff replied to Mayor Ballin's concerns regarding the timing and accelerated schedule and reported that due to the notice of funding availability and tax credit financing, the time frame was short. Overall, the goal is to invigorate the Mall area.

Discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers and staff.

**RECESS (7:18 P.M.)**

City Attorney Olivarez called for a brief recess.

**RECESS (7:24 P.M.)**

Mayor Ballin thanked staff for responding to her questions and said that since she was not at the first hearing and, in fairness to the developer, residents, and Councilmembers, reported that she would abstain from voting on the item.

Brief discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers and Adriana Gomez, Aszkenazy Development, replied to questions.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales, seconded by Councilmember Avila, to introduce for first reading (in title only) and waive further reading of Ordinance No. 1634 to adopt by title only, "An Ordinance of the City of San Fernando Adopting Zone Map Amendment 2014-001, Amending the Zoning Map of the City of San Fernando to Rezone Portions of 1140 and 1148 San Fernando Road from the Truman/San Fernando District and Mixed Use Transition Sub-

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District of the SP-4 (Corridors Specific Plan) Zone to the Downtown District and San Fernando Mall Sub-District of the SP-4 (Corridors Specific Plan) Zone”. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Gonzales, Avila, Lopez, Fajardo – 4  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: Ballin – 1

**PUBLIC HEARING**

4) FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING AND CONFIRMATION OF ASSESSMENT

Interim Public Works Director Marlene Miyoshi presented the staff report.

Mayor Ballin opened the Public Hearing and called for public testimony. There being no comments, she closed the public comment portion of the Hearing.

City Clerk Chávez announced that this was the time and place for the Hearing and that the notice had been legally posted.

Motion by Councilmember Avila, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales, to receive and file the affidavit. By consensus, the motion carried.

City Clerk Chávez announced that no written protests were received.

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

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 7621 ordering the continued maintenance of the City’s streetlights and confirming the annual assessment; and
- b. Adopt Resolution No. 7622 approving the Final Engineer’s Report for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District.

By consensus, the motion carried.

5) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 1633 AMENDING DIVISION 3 (INDUSTRIAL FEES) OF ARTICLE II (SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL) OF CHAPTER 94 (UTILITIES) OF THE SAN FERNANDO CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL WASTE FEES

Interim Public Works Director Marlene Miyoshi presented the staff report.

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Mayor Ballin opened the Public Hearing and called for public testimony. There being no comments, she closed the public comment portion of the Hearing.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales, seconded by Councilmember Avila, to introduce for first reading (in title only) and waive further reading of Ordinance No. 1633, “An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando, California, Amending Division 3 (Industrial Fees) of Article II (Sewers and Sewage Disposal) of Chapter 94 (Utilities) of the San Fernando Code of Ordinances Relating to Industrial Waste Fees”. By consensus, the motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

6) REQUEST TO SET A FIXED TIME FOR HOLDING SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

City Manager Saeki presented the staff report and discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers.

By consensus, direction was given to the City Manager to schedule special meetings (that are called on the same day as a regular meeting) just prior to the regular meeting. Other special meetings (held on a non-regular meeting date), should be scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Occasionally, meetings may have to be adjusted.

7) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A POLICY REGARDING DONATIONS MADE TO THE CITY

City Manager Saeki presented the staff report and discussion ensued amongst Councilmembers.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales, seconded by Councilmember Lopez, to approve the policy pertaining to Donations Made to the City. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Gonzales, Lopez, Ballin, Avila – 4  
NOES: Fajardo – 1  
ABSENT: None

8) FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 GOALS AND PRIORITIES

City Manager Saeki presented the staff report and, per Mayor Ballin’s suggestion, each Councilmember provided a maximum of two goals.

Councilmember Avila:

- 1) Continue to improve on health community projects/programs at the parks (areas of focus are youth and seniors)

Councilmember Lopez:

- 1) Continue to work on future light rail and high-speed rail projects
- 2) Research grant funding opportunities

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Councilmember Fajardo:

- 1) Energy Efficiency:
  - Research the HERO and PACE programs to determine their feasibility for the City
  - Revisit the issue regarding energy efficiency/savings for the City and solicit proposals
- 2) Internship Program:  
Review and update the City's internship policy/program and offer distinctions between City interns and Council interns (develop a list of available internship positions through the various departments and set criteria for each position)

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales:

- 1) Continuation of City website upgrade (i.e., make it more business friendly and provide the ability to pay all bills online)
- 2) Bike Path Beautification Project

Mayor Ballin:

- 1) Senior Meal Program
- 2) Heritage Park (i.e., evaluate the best usages for the park including possibly developing the land)

City Manager Saeki reported that staff will compile the priorities/goals, finalize, and email to the City Council for perusal.

- 9) **CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A CITY-COUNTY MUNICIPAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES WITH THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL**

City Manager Saeki presented the staff report

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

- a. Approve a City-County Municipal Services Agreement (Contract No. 1752) for Animal Control Services effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019, between the City and the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control; and
- b. Authorize the City Manager to execute the City-County Municipal Services Agreement.

By consensus, the motion carried.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION LIAISON UPDATES**

Councilmember Avila announced there is an upcoming workshop for City commissioners and he gave an update on the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments activities.

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Councilmember Lopez said that the Metro Service Council met last week and it was reported that the Valley's bus service is the best in the County.

Councilmember Fajardo announced that the Tree Commission was cancelled and that the City Council will be revisiting the Commissions (including taking a closer look at the Education Commission).

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales reported that the Independent Cities Association would be holding a board meeting this week.

City Manager Saeki reported that he and Mayor Ballin attended the Independent Cities Finance Authority (i.e., a pool of 32 cities that share insurance costs) and he provided an update on the meeting and an important decision that was made (thanks to Mayor Ballin).

### **GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Avila said we are moving forward and have been congratulated on the City's choices in our management leadership and he stated that the overall perception is that Council is trying to be more open and inclusive.

Councilmember Lopez thanked everyone at NALEO and said it was a great opportunity to meet Councilmembers from other cities.

Councilmember Fajardo said NALEO was intriguing and showed how functional the Council is compared to other cities and he thanked Executive Assistant Julie Fernandez on the amazing travel brochure she put together for Councilmembers.

Mayor Ballin announced an upcoming event *Coffee with the Mayor and Assemblymember* on July 26, at 9:00 a.m., at Compania coffee shop. In response to her question, City Attorney Olivarez reminded Councilmembers that if three or more attend, only two may answer questions and the others may only listen.

### **STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Recreation and Community Services Operations Manager Ismael Aguila reported that Healthy San Fernando events have begun.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

*This item was removed under Approval of Agenda and postponed to date uncertain.*

- A) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
G.C. §54956.9(d)(1)

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Name of Case: City of San Fernando et al. v. Wendy L. Wantanabe, in her official capacity as the Auditor-Controller of the County of Los Angeles

LASC Case No.: 34-2013-80001550-CU-WM-GDS

**ADJOURNMENT (8:54 P.M.)**

By consensus, the meeting was adjourned.

*I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of July 7, 2014, meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.*

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*Elena G. Chávez*  
*City Clerk*