

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**AUGUST 17, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING**

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Joel Fajardo called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Joel Fajardo, Vice Mayor Hector A. Pacheco, Councilmembers Sylvia Ballin, 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 Hou, Director of Finance Diego Ibanez, Director of Public Works Matt Baumgardner, Director of Recreation and Community Services Julian Venegas and City Clerk Julia Fritz

Absent: Councilmember Robert C. Gonzales

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Mayor Fajardo

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Pacheco to approve the agenda as presented.

The motion carried with the following vote:

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

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN

City Clerk Fritz read public comments submitted by:

Sarah Ro Ahearn, spoke about the pandemic forcing her business to close, seeking City assistance and plans to assist small businesses.

Liana Stepanyan, San Fernando Library Manager, provided an update of library resources, services and virtual programs currently offered.

Arturo Garcia-Mendoza, Field Representative for the office of Assemblymember Luz Rivas, discussed the Assemblywoman's activities and programs and encouraged the public to complete the 2020 Census.

PRESENTATION

- A) PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE
Councilmember Mary Mendoza

On behalf of City Council, Councilmember Mendoza read and presented a proclamation celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote. In addition, she noted the Ad Hoc Committee would like to collaborate with a non-profit organization to create a mural dedicated to Women's Suffrage.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Ballin pulled Consent Item No. 2 for separate discussion.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza to approve Item Nos. 1 and 3:

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER
- 3) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY'S GRANT MANAGEMENT POLICY TO COMPLY WITH 2 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS (CFR) 200 – UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

The motion carried with the following vote:

ROLL CALL

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

ITEM PULLED FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSION

- 2) APPROVE FACILITY USE AGREEMENTS WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR’S-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK REGARDING ELECTION ACTIVITIES FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020, GENERAL ELECTION

City Clerk Fritz responded to Councilmember questions about the County Registrar-Recorder’s Offices on preparedness for the upcoming election, the installation of the permanent Vote By Mail ballot drop boxes, provided information on five day early voting centers in the City, and will bring back regular updates associated with elections related activities, at each Council meeting leading up to the elections.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Ballin to:

- a. Approve a Facility Use Agreement with the Los Angeles County Registrar’s Recorder/County Clerk (“RR/CC”) to use City Lot 6N as a Central Ballot Collection Check-In-Center (Contract No. 1963) for the November 3, 2020, General Election;
- b. Approve a Facility Use Agreement with RR/CC to use Las Palmas Park and Recreation Park as Vote Centers (Contract Nos. 1964 and 1965) for the November 3, 2020, General Election; and
- c. Authorize the City Manager to make non-substantive edits and execute all related documents.

The motion carried with the following vote:

ROLL CALL

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor Fajardo announced that Item Nos. 5 and 6 would be considered prior to Item No. 4.

- 5) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH THE SAN FERNANDO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION RELATED TO THE GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 20903 RETIREMENT INCENTIVE BENEFIT

City Manager Kimball presented the staff report; noted the need to cut expenses and highlighted main provisions in the agreement.

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

- a. Approve the proposed Letter of Agreement (Contract No. 1962) between the City of San Fernando and the San Fernando Public Employees Association (SFPEA) outlining the terms and conditions related to the City's offer of a retirement incentive to certain eligible employees in accordance with Government Code section 20903; and
- b. Authorize the City Manager to make non-substantive corrections and execute the Letter of Agreement and all related documents.

The motion carried with the following vote:

ROLL CALL

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

6) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LIST OF JOB CLASSIFICATIONS ELIGIBLE FOR RETIREMENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 20903

City Manager Kimball presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

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

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 8023 approving the List of Job Classifications that are eligible for retirement under the two-year additional service credit provisions of Government Code Section 20903; and
- b. Authorize the City Manager to make non-substantive corrections, and submit the approved list to the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS).

The motion carried with the following vote:

ROLL CALL

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

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

The City Council received a presentation from staff related to the City's COVID-19 efforts including, but not limited to updates on the City's COVID-19 planning, response, enforcement, education efforts, related policy initiatives; and reviewed financial Federal and State funding assistance programs and addressed inquiries by Councilmembers regarding increasing public participation during City Council meetings.

City Council provided direction to staff to continue its COVID-19 response efforts.

7) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION SETTING THE PROPERTY TAX RATE REQUIRED TO MEET THE CITY'S OBLIGATION TO THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Director of Finance Ibanez presented the staff report and responded to questions from City Council. City Manager Kimball discussed the CalPERS Side Fund Loan and presented two options for City Council consideration.

Mayor Fajardo spoke in favor of lowering the tax rate; discussed providing economic relief to the public and commented on the City's prior use of property taxes to pay for employee health benefits and noted steps taken to rectify the errors.

In reply to Vice Mayor Pacheco's question, City Manager Kimball commented on what the funds were used for, and the terms of repayment mentioned in the resolution adopted in 2013.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Ballin to adopt Resolution No. 8024 establishing the amount necessary to be raised by taxation for the City's annual payment to the California Public Employees' Retirement System; Fix the property tax rate for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 at \$0.203571 per \$100 of assessed valuation; and Levy that tax rate upon all taxable property in the City.

The motion carried with the following vote:

ROLL CALL

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

8) UPDATE REGARDING SIDEWALK REPAIR EFFORTS WITHIN THE CITY AND DISCUSSION OF THE USE OF PROPOSITION 'A' TRANSIT FUNDS DURING FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Director of Public Works Baumgardner presented an update regarding sidewalk repair efforts in the City; addressed modes of repairs and discussed use of Proposition 'A' transit funds.

Discussion followed regarding the cost of installing bus stops and benches, recommended use of available funds in the total amount of \$12,500/2,500 per Councilmember, and on how they would like their funds to be allocated.

City Manager Kimball will direct staff to prepare and circulate a list to Councilmember that identify various locations needing sidewalk/street repair improvements and include information on bus stop locations without a bench and have each Councilmember determine what portion of their funds to be allocated on their behalf. It was noted that the transactions and direction from Councilmembers on the use of funds can be handled administratively as these funds have been appropriated for FY 2020-2021.

9) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A LETTER CONDEMNING ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES ON U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT DETENTION FACILITIES

City Manager Kimball presented the staff report.

Councilmember Ballin offered minor edits to the letter.

Motion by Councilmember Ballin, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza, to authorize the City Manager to finalize the letter, include City Council signatures, and forward the letter of opposition to the Trump Administration, Federal, State and Local Officials.

The motion carried with the following vote:

ROLL CALL

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

10) DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING EXISTING CITY COUNCIL AD HOC COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

City Manager Kimball presented the staff report. Councilmembers discussed various changes, in addition to staff's recommendations.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza, to approve staff's recommendations as presented in the staff report and include the following changes:

Combine Green City with Street and Parkway Trees Ad Hoc Committee, and assign Mayor Fajardo to replace Councilmember Gonzales; Wildhorse Children's Foundation Ad Hoc Committee stay in tact until further review and replace Councilmember Gonzales with Vice Mayor Pacheco; and Mayor Fajardo will replace Councilmember Gonzales on the Mural Ad Hoc Committee.

The motion carried with the following vote:

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES

City Clerk Fritz presented an update on activities related to the November 2020 election.

Deputy City Manager/Director of Community Development Huo discussed release of an RFP for a Planning Consultant to help the City with its General Plan Housing Element update.

Director of Public Works Baumgardner addressed current permit applications for outdoor seating for local businesses.

Chief of Police Vairo discussed the start of a Park Patrol Program on weekends with the help of Police Reserves.

City Manager Kimball addressed operating hours for the City's cooling centers; encouraged residents to sign up for Alert San Fernando at www.sfcity.org and announced there will be traffic slowdowns on Glenoaks Boulevard, this coming week. He asked to adjourn tonight's meeting in memory of Patsy Orozco's mother, Martha Sanchez de Amaya.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Ballin discussed an upcoming program for toilet rebates; commented on online landscaping classes and discussed upcoming meetings.

Councilmember Mendoza discussed her participation in various teleconferences and expressed her condolences to the Orozco and Amaya Family.

Vice Mayor Pacheco expressed sympathy for those affected by the fires and encouraged everyone to vote and reach out to Assemblywoman Rivas regarding EDD matters.

Mayor Fajardo discussed eliminating the use of single-use plastic bags; suggested City Council consider a formal City policy regarding the subject; concerns about the use of flavored tobacco and talked about asking restaurants to use biodegradable utensils, plates, and cups.

ADJOURNMENT (9:07 P.M.)

Mayor Fajardo adjourned the meeting in memory of Martha Sanchez de Amaya and Greg O'Donnell (Stepfather of Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia) to the next regular meeting of Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Ballin, to adjourn the meeting. By consensus, the motioned carried with Councilmember Gonzales, absent.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of August 17, 2020, meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

Julia Fritz, City Clerk