

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY
TO THE SAN FERNANDO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES**

**MARCH 20, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING**

**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
117 MACNEIL STREET
SAN FERNANDO, CALIFORNIA 91340**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Celeste Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Council: Mayor Celeste Rodriguez, Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza, and Councilmembers Cindy Montañez, Joel Fajardo, and Mary Solorio

Staff: City Manager Nick Kimball, Assistant City Attorney Norma Tabares, Police Chief Fabian Valdez, Director of Finance Erica Melton, Director of Community Development Kanika Kith, Director of Public Works Matthew Baumgardner, Director of Recreation and Community Services Julian Venegas and City Clerk Julia Fritz

Absent: None

TELECONFERENCING REQUESTS/DISCLOSURE

No requests to be considered.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by City Clerk Julia Fritz

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Solorio, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to approve the agenda. The motion carried, unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Rodriguez re-ordered the presentations as follows:

- B. PRESENTATION OF EDUCATION COMMISSION CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION FOR MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH
- Alison Cueva (PUC Nueva Esperanza Charter Academy)
 - Ashley Sanchez (Social Justice Humanitas Academy)

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- C. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION TO THE FOUNDERS OF THE OUTDOOR MARKET AND SAN FERNANDO MALL ASSOCIATION FOR ESTABLISHING THE OUTDOOR MARKET
- D. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION HONORING AND CELEBRATING CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN IN THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
- A. INTRODUCTION OF NEW CITY OF SAN FERNANDO EMPLOYEES

The City Council recessed the meeting at 6:59 p.m. and reconvened at 7:05 p.m. with all Councilmembers present.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Julissa Hernandez, Field Representative from the Office of Assemblymen Luz Rivas, provided updates on community events.

Ira Hart submitted a public comment and expressed his support of the San Fernando Outdoor Market.

Hector A. Pacheco provided suggestions towards upgrades to the City’s bus shelters, stated he is in support of a roller rink at Las Palmas Park, commended the City Council on the San Fernando Recreation Park Infiltration water re-capture project and thanked the City for their work.

The following submitted public comments in support of flying a Christian flag at City Hall:

- Jose Salas
- Benny Bernal
- Maryann M.
- Gwendolyn Posey
- Caroline Rodriguez
- Tina Rodriguez
- Angie Ferra-Perez
- Salvador Castellanos
- Julie Cuellar
- Yolanda Haro
- CG (only initials provided)

Angel Zobel-Rodriguez reported on updates related to the employees of the Los Angeles Unified School District, labor union SEIU Local 99 3-day strike.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to approve:

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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- a. June 7, 2021 – Regular Meeting
- b. June 21, 2021 – Regular Meeting
- c. February 22, 2022 – Regular Meeting
- d. March 21, 2022 – Regular Meeting
- e. March 6, 2023 – Special Meeting
- f. March 6, 2023 – Regular Meeting

- 2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER
- 3) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE CITY MANAGER, POLICE CHIEF AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AS THE CITY’S DESIGNATED AUTHORIZED AGENTS TO THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO REQUESTS FOR STATE DISASTER ASSISTANCE FUNDS

The motion carried, unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

- 4) A PUBLIC HEARING TO DETERMINE IF ANY NON-PROFIT AGENCIES ARE READILY AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE FIXED-ROUTE TRANSIT SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

Mayor Rodriguez opened the public hearing.

Public Works Management Analyst Jones presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Mayor Rodriguez called for public testimony and there being none, the public comment period was closed, by consensus with no objections.

Mayor Rodriguez closed the public hearing.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to adopt Resolution No. 8221 certifying there are no non-profit agencies readily available to provide fixed-route transit services within the City. The motion carried, unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 5) CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE GENERAL PLAN HOUSING ELEMENT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 AND TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SUBMIT SAID REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH

Housing Coordinator Marquez presented the staff report.

Motion by Vice Mayor Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to receive and file the General Plan Housing Element Annual Progress Report for Calendar Year 2022; and authorize staff to submit the Housing Element Annual Progress Report to the California Department of Housing and Community Development and the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research.

The motion carried by the following vote:

ROLL CALL

AYES: Solorio, Fajardo, Mendoza, Rodriguez - 4
NAYES: Montanez - 1
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

6) DISCUSSION ON THE WATER FUND BALANCE AND CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR USE ON WATER TREATMENT PROJECTS

Director of Public Works Baumgardner presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions as well as City Manager Kimball and Director of Finance Melton.

Motion by Mayor Rodriguez, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to adopt Resolution No. 8223 appropriating \$7,000,000 in funds for use on water treatment projects at extraction Well Nos. 2A and 3; and directed staff to use funds as follows: \$4,750,000 in Department of Water Resources/State Grant for Well No. 3 and set aside remaining \$3,000,000 for the future Well 2A water treatment project. The motion carried, unanimously.

STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES

City Clerk Fritz reported that Deputy City Clerk/Management Analyst Solis completed her first of four courses of technical training and professional development towards her receiving her designation as a Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC).

Director of Recreation and Community Services Venegas mentioned the Education Commission will be meeting to select student scholarship essay winners, noted that a community outreach meeting will be held on March 29 to discuss the Las Palmas Revitalization Project, commented on community outreach meetings held by Pacoima Beautiful; and mentioned the free tax return preparation services program.

Director of Public Works Baumgardner reported that the Slurry Seal Phase 1 project has experienced continued delays due to the rain and cold weather and stated street restriping is scheduled to begin this week.

Director of Community Development Kith reported on implementation of a new outreach system offering resources for individuals experiencing homelessness and mentioned residential fence height and design was discussed by the Planning and Preservation Commission and noted the final recommendations would be agendized at a future City Council meeting.

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Director of Finance Melton stated the City's finances are not being affected by certain financial institutions reports of insolvency and mentioned she participated in the Police Department's Citizens Academy and presented information about the Transaction Tax Measure A/SF upcoming Town Hall meeting.

Assistant to the City Manager Hernandez reported on the ongoing efforts to research, apply for and receive available grant funds, and mentioned that information regarding school closures due to the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) union 3-day strike was shared via the City's email notification system.

Police Chief Valdez spoke briefly on the recent apprehension of the suspect involved in the incident at Ziggy's Market and reported that two San Fernando Police Officers were directly involved with the successful rescue efforts of an individual who was swept away by the storm runoff in the Pacoima Wash.

City Manager Kimball commented on the updates being shared regarding resources that could be offered due to the school closures related to the LAUSD union strike and announced Kanika Kith was named the new Deputy City Manager/Economic Development, effective March 27, 2023.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Fajardo expressed thanks to the Police Department, congratulated Ms. Kith on her promotion and spoke of potential challenges with community safety related to the upcoming indictment of former President Trump.

Councilmember Montañez thanked the Police Department for their work regarding the incident at Ziggy's Market, commented on increasing enforcement in the San Fernando Mall area, spoke about the Women's History Month presentation and reported she attended the Urban Forest Management workshop.

Councilmember Solorio congratulated Ms. Kith and Ms. Solis, commented on suggested topics to be discussed at the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) ad hoc committee meeting, thanked the Police Department for their work, mentioned the need for additional enforcement in the San Fernando Mall area and suggested providing the community with information on how to report enforcement issues. In addition, she commented on the LAUSD strike and the effects on the parents and the children, reported attending the Las Palmas Revitalization project's community outreach meeting and the grand opening and ribbon cutting event for Robeks.

Vice Mayor Mendoza mentioned she participated in a tree planting event where the Rotary Club presented TreePeople with 2000 trees to plant, extended congratulations to Ms. Kith and Ms. Solis, and welcomed new City employees.

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Mayor Rodriguez congratulated Ms. Kith and Ms. Solis, suggested recognizing the two Police Officers at a future City Council meeting, mentioned bringing forward a discussion about the Christian Flag to the DEI ad hoc committee, recommended the City use social media to provide updates on the LAUSD strike and spoke about new resources available to individuals who are experiencing homelessness. In addition, she attended the Latina History Day event partnered with HOPE® (Hispanas Organized for Political Equality) and reported on her acceptance to the HOPE Leadership Institute 2023, and mentioned she attended the Los Angeles County Commission for Woman 38th Annual Celebration.

ADJOURNMENT (9:02 p.m.)

Mayor Rodriguez adjourned the meeting to the next regular meeting.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the March 20, 2023, Regular meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

Julia Fritz, CMC
City Clerk