

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**APRIL 3, 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 6:04 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 Richard Padilla, Police Chief Fabian Valdez, Director of Finance Erica Melton, Director of Community Development Kanika Kith, Director of Public Works Matthew Baumgardner and City Clerk Julia Fritz

Absent: Director of Recreation and Community Services Julian Venegas

TELECONFERENCING REQUESTS/DISCLOSURE

No requests to be considered.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by City Clerk Julia Fritz

Assistant City Attorney Padilla announced that the City Council would reconvene into Closed Session at the conclusion of the regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to approve the agenda. The motion carried, unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS DONATE LIFE MONTH
- B. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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- C. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH AND DECLARING APRIL 26, 2023 AS DENIM DAY
- D. INTRODUCTION OF NEW CITY EMPLOYEES

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

The following individuals expressed support for the San Fernando Valley LGBTQ Center organization to seek City Council support of a pride parade celebration event to occur in the City on September 10, 2023: Renator Lira; Jose Aldand; and Jose Lopez.

Kae Hodge Program Associate from OUT Against Big Tobacco Los Angeles Program, commented on the health hazards associated with the use of all tobacco products.

B. Zenara submitted a public comment regarding information associated with the Police Chief's employment.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to approve:

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING.
- 2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER
- 3) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A PURCHASE ORDER WITH ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE PURCHASING, SOURCEWELL CONTRACT NO. 030122-EFM FOR A 2024 FORD F650 REGULAR CAB GASOLINE ENGINE DUMP/BRUSH TRUCK
- 4) CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES FISCAL YEAR 2022 LAW ENFORCEMENT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACT GRANT FUNDS
- 5) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A SUBAWARD AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES FOR THE 2022 URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE GRANT PROGRAM
- 6) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MLA GREEN, INC. DBA STUDIO-MLA FOR THE SAN FERNANDO PACOIMA WASH BIKEWAY AND PEDESTRIAN PATH PROJECT

The motion carried, unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

- 7) A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTING AN URGENCY ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE INSTALLATION OF ARTIFICIAL TURF AND SYNTHETIC GRASS IN THE CITY

Mayor Rodriguez opened the public hearing.

Director of Community Development Kith and Associate Planner Khrustaleva presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions. In addition, Assistant City Attorney Norma Tabares was in attendance available for questions.

Councilmembers discussed concerns associated with community outreach to educate and bring awareness to residents on artificial turf regulations, code enforcement efforts “if any” and continuing water conservation efforts. In addition, Councilmembers suggested that staff reach out to the City’s Metropolitan Water District (MWD) representative, Board Chairman Adan Ortega and request assistance for residents on the application process regarding MWD’s Turf Replacement Rebate program; and requested that an MWD update be presented at a future meeting from Chairman Ortega.

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

Mayor Rodriguez closed the public hearing.

Motion by Councilmember Montañez, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo to waive full reading, in title only and adopt Urgency Ordinance No. U-1715 “An Urgency Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando, California, to enact a temporary moratorium on the installation of artificial turf and synthetic grass pending the study and development of reasonable regulations”; and directed staff to a) launch a community outreach campaign informing residents of the Turf Replacement Rebate Program through Metropolitan Water District (MWD); and b) request rebate program application assistance from MWD; and prepare a draft letter advocating against the state usurping the ability for local jurisdictions to enact regulations prohibiting installation of artificial turf. The motion carried by the following vote:

ROLL CALL

AYES: Solorio, Fajardo, Montañez, Mendoza, Rodriguez - 5
NAYES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 8) CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING 2023-2024 CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Councilmember Fajardo presented the staff report.

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City Manager Kimball stated that an update report would be brought back at a future meeting on the status of the items discussed at the City Council 2023 Priority Setting and Study Session Special meeting held on March 3, 2023.

Councilmembers discussed development of metrics for Ad hoc committees along with receiving regular committee updates; and suggested that potential funding to fix the areas experiencing reoccurring street flooding be discussed during an upcoming Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget Study Session meeting.

STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES

City Clerk Fritz had no updates to report.

Director of Public Works Baumgardner reported on Slurry Seal Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects and referenced project delays due to recent weather conditions.

Director of Community Development Kith mentioned at the next Planning and Preservation Commission meeting, discussions regarding front lawn wall height and design will be considered; and commented on a local restaurant El Abuelo was featured at the Valley Economic Alliance meeting.

Director of Finance Melton spoke about the Transaction Tax (Measure A/SF) & Citywide Strategic Goals Town Hall meeting that was held on March 27, 2023, and reported that the City received the Governments Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the adopted Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Annual Budget.

Police Chief Valdez clarified the inaccurate/false statement submitted during public comments about his employment status, and re-affirmed his dedication to the city and the community; and requested the meeting be adjourned in memory of Monique Herrera, a dedicated volunteer and supporter of the Police Department's National Night Out Annual event.

City Manager Kimball highlighted various recent community outreach events, reported he attended a meeting with the Executive Director of the Puig House to receive the status of the fence upgrades and mentioned April's City Manager's Monthly Report would be circulated shortly.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Fajardo expressed condolences to the families and the community affected by the mass shooting tragedy that occurred at Covenant School, a private Christian school in Nashville; mentioned a video of Las Palmas Park he produced last year; requested closing the meeting in memory of the victims of the Nashville shooting and talked about removal of trees near O'Melveny Elementary School. He wished Director of Public Works Baumgardner best of luck, thanked him for his work in the City and expressed his concerns with employee retention and recruitment. Additionally, he reported receiving an informational postcard at his residence from Republic Services regarding composting information and mentioned he spoke with individuals who submitted public comments at a previous meeting in support of flying the Christian flag at City Hall and suggested to email the City Manager for further information.

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Councilmember Montañez expressed her appreciation and thanked Director of Public Works Baumgardner for all his work in the City.

Councilmember Solorio commented on Wild Horse Children’s Foundation’s programming, expressed thanks to Director of Public Works Baumgardner for his work with the City, thanked Deputy City Manager Economic Development Kith on her efforts in highlighting businesses in San Fernando; and reported she attended the Las Palmas Revitalization project’s community outreach engagement event.

Vice Mayor Mendoza thank staff for their support.

Mayor Rodriguez thanked Police Chief Valdez for clarifying and addressing the public comment about his employment, commented on Councilmembers collaboration during the meeting; noted the City’s Strategic Goals has been posted on the back wall of the Council Chamber; mentioned she participated in the Transaction Tax (Measure A/SF) & Citywide Strategic Goals Town Hall meeting held on March 27, 2023 and spoke about the Las Palmas Revitalization project’s community outreach engagement event. In addition, Mayor Rodriguez commented on Cesar Chavez Day suggested the City participate with highlighting an event in honor of Cesar Chavez to recognize his history in San Fernando and announced the City’s 2023 Spring Jamboree event is this Saturday, April 8, 2023 and encouraged residents to attend.

ADJOURNMENT (8:17 p.m.)

Mayor Rodriguez asked for a moment of silence and adjourned the meeting in memory of Monique Herrera, volunteer and supporter of the Police Departments National Night Out Annual event and to all the victims of the shooting tragedy that occurred at the Covenant School, a private Christian school in Nashville, Tennessee to Evelyn Dieckhaus, William Kinney and Hallie Scruggs, Mike Hill, Cynthia Peak, and Katherine Koonce and recessed back into Closed Session.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the April 3, 2023, Regular meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

Julia Fritz, CMC
City Clerk