

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**JANUARY 30, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.
SPECIAL MEETING**

**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
117 MACNEIL STREET
SAN FERNANDO, CALIFORNIA 91340
TELECONFERENCE – PURSUANT TO PROVISIONS OF ASSEMBLY BILL 361**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Celeste Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Public Works Matthew Baumgardner, Director of Community Development Kanika Kith, Director of Recreation and Community Services Julian Venegas and City Clerk Julia Fritz

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by City Clerk Julia Fritz

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Dee Akemon spoke about concerns associated with Councilmember Fajardo's discussions with certain Police Officers on statuses of their personnel internal investigations.

Julie Cuellar spoke in support of the Police Department.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1) **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING AN OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SAN FERNANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Police Chief Valdez presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Councilmembers discussed concerns regarding police officer training, internal investigations, Skelly hearing procedures, department morale, and recruitment and retention of staff to improve the Police Department's effectiveness, accountability, and community relations while prioritizing officer well-being. Councilmembers were in support of having future Police Department updates and new initiatives impacting law enforcement as needed, during Closed Session meetings.

By consensus, the City Council directed staff to:

- a. Provide monthly updates regarding the status of personnel training and recruitment, statistics on crime and response time and major incidents;
- b. Provide City Council with 5 years of historical data regarding overtime expenditures;
- c. Provide City Council with information on the results of arbitration decisions for the past 10 years; and
- d. Directed staff to set up individual meetings with each Councilmember to discuss their priorities.

STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES

City Manager Kimball announced the City partnered with San Fernando Community Health Center to open a vaccination clinic and noted information will be posted on the City's social media platforms, and also mentioned the next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 2023.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Fajardo reiterated his desire to better understand the Police Department's policies and commented on the tragic news of the recent surge of mass shootings that occurred in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay, California and expressed his condolences to the victims and their families.

Councilmember Montañez expressed she is in full support of the Police Department.

Councilmember Solorio commented on team collaboration approach, noted she attended the Education Commission's Principals Brunch, the San Fernando Outdoor Market and recognized the display of classic cars and participated with the 2023 Homeless Count event.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY

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Vice Mayor Mendoza expressed condolences to the victims and their families of the mass shootings that occurred in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay, California and reiterated the vital role of the Police Department in keeping the City safe.

Mayor Rodriguez reported she participated in the 2023 Homeless Count event, attended the Parent Academy and the Education Commission's Principals Brunch.

Mayor Rodriguez requested a brief moment of silence in memory of the victims and their families of the mass shootings that occurred in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay, California.

ADJOURNMENT (9:57 p.m.)

Mayor Rodriguez adjourned the meeting in memory of the victims and their families of the mass shootings that occurred in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay, California to the next regular meeting of February 6, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the January 30, 2023, special meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

Julia Fritz, CMC
City Clerk