

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 6, 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 6:07 p.m.

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

Staff: City Manager Nick Kimball, Assistant City Attorney Richard Padilla, Police Chief Fabian Valdez, Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Kanika Kith, Director of Finance Erica Melton, and City Clerk Julia Fritz

Absent: None

TELECONFERENCING REQUESTS/DISCLOSURE

No requests considered.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by City Clerk Julia Fritz

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to approve the agenda, as amended to discuss Agenda Item No. 9 before Agenda Item No. 8 and move General City Council Comments to follow the conclusion of public statements. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER AS FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH
- B. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER AS VETERAN'S MONTH

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

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Assistant City Attorney Richard Padilla announced rules of decorum and order.

Sylvia Ballin spoke honoring the legacy of Councilmember Cindy Montañez.

Patty Lopez talked about City Council representation on maintaining unity within the community.

Laura Juarez, Field Representative with the Office of Congressman Tony Cardenas, provided pamphlets with public information and the affordable connectivity program; and announced that Congressman Cardenas stands alongside and in support of the LGBTQ Community.

Julissa Hernandez, Field Representative for Assemblymember Luz Rivas’ Office, provided her condolences to the Montañez family, provided updates on the Assemblywoman’s annual hike and holiday party and toy drive; and announced Assemblywoman’s dedication to promote unity and understanding of diverse community including the LGBTQ community.

Claire Simonich submitted a written public comment in support of the no bail policy.

The following speakers spoke in support of the Pickle the Drag Queen Story Time Hour at the Los Angeles County’s San Fernando Library:

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Dani Varela | 24. Hannah Johnson | 43. Arianna |
| 2. Danielle Directo-Mestor | 25. Rubi | 44. Carlie Arellano |
| 3. Christina Bernal | 26. Brenda Rodriguez | 45. Ernest E. Cornish |
| 4. David Bernal | 27. Johanna Haro | 46. GC |
| 5. Senator Caroline Menjivar (Zoom) | | 47. Corinne |
| 6. Lizette Padilla | <u>The following submitted</u> | 48. Janet Leon |
| 7. David Diaz | <u>written public statements:</u> | 49. Charity Wright |
| 8. Jeffrey Polanco | 28. Julio Garcia Solares | 51. Michael Kidd |
| 9. Melodie Kruspodin | 29. Victoria Hernandez | 52. Yolanda Medrano |
| 10. Alex Uribe | 30. Gabriella Bobadilla | 53. Laura Rodriguez |
| 11. Nadia Flores | 31. Zulma Gamez | 54. R. Grace Rodriguez |
| 12. Araceli Hernandez | 32. Mary Ann Martinez | 55. Rosa Ramirez |
| 13. Justan Torres | 33. Cecilia Plascencia | 56. Rey |
| 14. Robert Jacques | 34. Eva Macias | 57. Rosa |
| 15. Sergio Amalfitano | 35. Stevie | 58. Selena J. |
| 16. Gabriela Gurrola | 36. Duque-Maciel Family | 59. Yuli Santiago |
| 17. Valentina Ruvalcaba | 37. Janet Ramirez | 60. Jaquez, Romero, Toral,
and Wade Families |
| 18. Elisa Reyes | 38. Alejandra Aguirre | 61. Allen Magaña |
| 19. Azellea Amalfitano | 39. Amber Garcia | 62. Ms. Stewart |
| 20. Rosalilia Mendoza | 40. Emely | 63. Francisco Hernandez |
| 21. Martha | 41. Rhoanda M. | 64. Maxwell Kessler |
| 22. Dante Mejia | 41. Yazmin Spiteri | 65. Katherine Cerna |
| 23. Andrew Hornyck | 42. Josiah Smith | |

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The following submitted written public statements continued:

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|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 66. SF Neighbor | 71. Tre Jacquez | 78. Tiana Brinton |
| 67. Teodora Reyes | 72. Laura Lichter | 79. Devlin Diaz |
| 68. Kevin Al Perez | 73. Sean Regan | 80. Adrian Perez |
| 69. Marisa Perez | 74. Cristina T. | 81. David Montoya |
| 70. Andrea Prado | 75. Sarah Vargas | 82. Sean Rivas |
| | 76. David Diaz | |
| | 77. Danielle Directo Meston | |

The following speakers spoke in opposition of Pickle the Drag Queen Story Time Hour at the Los Angeles County’s San Fernando Library:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Victoria Garcia | 10. David Bolog | <u>The following submitted written public statements:</u> |
| 2. Richard | 11. Kim Boten | 19. Veronica Cervacio |
| 3. Margarita Carranza | 12. David Urzua | 20. Cathe Casillas |
| 4. Carmen Vigil | 13. Laura Chavez | |
| 5. Teresa O’Toole | 14. Benito Bernal | |
| 6. Ricardo Benitez | 15. Nar Smart (Zoom) | |
| 7. Yolanda Haro | 16. Caller x0330 (Zoom) | |
| 8. Alyssa Ramo | 17. Maria (Zoom) | |
| 9. Daniela | 18. Lucine Kosan (Zoom) | |

It was noted that City Council recessed at 8:07 p.m. and resumed public statements at 8:16 p.m.

Councilmember Fajardo provided a brief statement associated with the topic of tonight’s public comments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR:
 - a. May 22, 2023 - Special
 - b. May 30, 2023 - Special
 - c. June 5, 2023 - Regular
 - d. October 16, 2023 - Special
- 2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER
- 3) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH HOME AGAIN LOS ANGELES TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY RESOURCE SUPPORT THROUGH THE CITY’S BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER
- 4) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SAN FERNANDO POLICE OFFICERS’ ASSOCIATION
- 5) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT PROJECT FUNDS FROM THE LOS ANGELES FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT SAFE, CLEAN WATER PROGRAM - REGIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE SAN FERNANDO REGIONAL PARK INFILTRATION PROJECT

- 6) CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT PROJECT COMPLETION AND AUTHORIZE THE RECORDATION OF THE NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR LAYNE PARK REVITALIZATION PROJECT

PUBLIC HEARING

- 7) A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A MILITARY USE EQUIPMENT POLICY, AS REQUIRED BY ASSEMBLY BILL 481
(THIS ITEM HAS BEEN CONTINUED TO A DATE UNCERTAIN)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 9) DISCUSSION ON HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CINDY MONTAÑEZ

Councilmember Fajardo introduced the item.

By consensus the City Council directed staff to bring back to a future meeting proposals for professional park restoration services, identify potential funding sources, and draft designs for permanent signage for the Cindy Montañez Natural Park, with plans for the City to host future community-park clean up events and adoption of Resolution declaring January 19 (her birthday) as Cindy Montañez Day and annually on January 19 invite community members to talk about her impact and her accomplishments. In addition, the City Council directed staff to postpone the November 20, 2023 regular City Council meeting to a date certain of November 28, 2023 and authorized staff to host and plan a formal Celebration of Life Ceremony event in coordination with the Montañez family and TreePeople for the date of November 21, 2023 to be held at the San Fernando Recreation Park.

- 8) DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER THE PROCESS FOR FILLING THE EXISTING CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

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

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to approve option No. 2 to adopt resolutions calling for and giving notice of holding a Special Municipal Election on March 5, 2024, requesting to consolidate the Election with the Statewide General Election, requesting the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors to authorize Los Angeles County Elections Official to perform election services, and adopting regulations pertaining to materials and regulations pertaining to Candidate Statements. Motion carries with the following vote:

ROLL CALL

AYES: Fajardo, Mendoza, Rodriguez – 3
NOES: Solorio – 1
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES

City Manager Kimball introduced new Director of Public Works Wendell Johnson.

City Clerk Fritz mentioned the approved draft Commissioner Handbook was presented to the Transportation and public Safety Commission on November 2 and would be presented to the remaining three Commission meetings throughout the month of November.

Director of Recreation and Community Services Venegas spoke recent community events and park programming including the upcoming the Holiday Tree Lighting event.

Director of Community Development Ramirez announced the upcoming Planning and Preservation Commission meeting.

Director of Finance Melton announced the city was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award Program.

Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Kith extended an invitation to Council for the United States Postal Service Credit Union's grand opening and ribbon cutting event.

Police Chief Valdez visited neighborhoods celebrating Halloween, announced the next Community Academy and thanked the City of Monterey Park's Police Department for their assistance in support of tonight's meeting.

City Manager Kimball spoke about the Police Chief's Community Policing efforts were successfully demonstrated during this year's Halloween, and talked about the Executive Management retreat.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Fajardo spoke about the process of receiving and reading written public comments, and attended Lieutenant Hanchett retirement luncheon and spoke about the origin of the Veterans Recognition Banner program.

Councilmember Solorio encouraged individuals to take time tonight towards their wellbeing and mental health care.

Vice Mayor Mendoza spoke about tonight's public comments associated with Pickles the Drag Queen event, mentioned she attended the dia de los muertos event, Lieutenant Hanchett retirement luncheon, the Veterans Day celebration at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3834, noted she attended the Metropolitan Water District's Executive Board meeting where the meeting was adjourned in memory of Councilmember Montañez and shared a few memories of Councilmember Montañez.

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Mayor Rodriguez spoke about Councilmember Cindy Montañez and held a moment of silence in her honor.

ADJOURNMENT (9:57 p.m.)

Mayor Rodriguez adjourned the meeting in memory of Cindy Montañez to the next regular meeting.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the November 6, 2023, Regular meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

Julia Fritz, CMC
City Clerk