

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**JANUARY 16, 2024 – 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 6:13 p.m.

Present: Council: Mayor Celeste Rodriguez, Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza, and Councilmember Mary Solorio

Staff: City Manager Nick Kimball, Assistant City Attorney Norma Tabares, Police Chief Fabian Valdez, Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Kanika Kith, Director of Finance Erica Melton, Director of Community Development Erika Ramirez, Director of Public Works Wendell Johnson and City Clerk Julia Fritz

Absent: Councilmember Joel Fajardo

TELECONFERENCING REQUESTS/DISCLOSURE

No requests considered.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by City Clerk Julia Fritz

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Mayor Rodriguez, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to approve the agenda, as amended to continue Agenda Items No. 9 and No. 10 to the next regular City Council meeting. The motion carried, unanimously with Councilmember Fajardo absent.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION TO YOUTH SPEAKER, AZELLEA VICTORIA AMALFITANO FOR HER COURAGE IN ADDRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL AT THE NOVEMBER 6, 2023 MEETING, ADVOCATING TO EMBRACE DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION
- B. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Patty Lopez spoke on community values and unity.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Mayor Mendoza requested to pull Consent Calendar Item No. 3 for discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Solorio, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to approve the Consent Calendar Items No. 1, 2, 4 through 8:

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:
 - a. June 20, 2023 – Regular
 - b. July 17, 2023 – Regular
 - c. September 5, 2023 – Regular
 - d. October 16, 2023 – Regular
 - e. November 6, 2023 - Regular
 - f. December 4, 2023 - Special
 - g. December 11, 2023 - Regular
- 2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NOS. 23-122, 24-011 AND 24-012 APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTERS OF DECEMBER 18, 2023, JANUARY 2, 2024, AND JANUARY 16, 2024, RESPECTIVELY
- 4) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATION(S) FOR ALL CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY GRANTS FOR WHICH THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO IS ELIGIBLE
- 5) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIDE LETTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND SAN FERNANDO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION/SEIU LOCAL 721
- 6) CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY – NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DETAILS
- 7) CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL – CANNABIS TAX FUND GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DETAILS
- 8) CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANTS FOR THE MARIACHI MASTER APPRENTICE PROGRAM AND ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING THE FUNDS

The motion carried, unanimously with Councilmember Fajardo absent.

Item pulled for discussion

- 3) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING “GUIDELINES FOR BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES HANDBOOK”

Councilmembers discussed concerns with removing the registered voter requirement from the commission application as an eligibility and requested that staff bring back the item under administrative reports with a correction to the application to include the registered voter requirement and add an option to check off if the applicant is a Dreamer and to verify if there are any further unintended consequences relating to compensation or verification process.

PUBLIC HEARING

- 9) A CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTING AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A MILITARY USE EQUIPMENT POLICY, AS REQUIRED BY ASSEMBLY BILL 481; AND APPROVAL OF THE 2023 ANNUAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT REPORT
This item was continued to the next regular meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 10) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE DESIGN FOR THE PIONEER PARK PLAYGROUND RENOVATION PROJECT
This item was continued to the next regular meeting.
- 12) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION DECLARING JANUARY 19TH AS CINDY MONTAÑEZ DAY HONORING HER LIFE AND LEGACY AS A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SAN FERNANDO COMMUNITY

City Manager Kimball presented the staff report.

Motion by Mayor Rodriguez, seconded by Councilmember Solorio, seconded to adopt Resolution No. 8280, declaring the day of January 19 (her birthday) each year as Cindy Montañez Day honoring her life and legacy as a distinguished member of the San Fernando community. The motion carried, unanimously with Councilmember Fajardo absent.

- 11) INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON THE LANGUAGE TRANSLATION SERVICES PILOT AND CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN EXTENSION TO THE CONTRACT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE LANGUAGE PROS

Assistant to the City Manager Carlos Hernandez presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Motion by Mayor Rodriguez, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to approve Contract No. 2187(a) extending the contract services agreement with The Language Pros for translation and interpretation services; authorize the City Manager to execute all related documents, continue translation of Commission meeting agendas only and develop a process to offer requests for translation services with advanced notice, staff to explore AI technology solutions and release a formal solicitation for professional services for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES

City Clerk Fritz mentioned that the monthly report of Commissioners' meeting attendance would be emailed to the City Council for the reporting period of October through December 2023.

Recreation and Community Services Supervisor Perez announced the Education Commissions Annual Principal's Brunch event on January 27 and will be sure this event has been added to Councilmember calendars.

Assistant to the City Manager Hernandez provided an update regarding the Cindy Montañez Day of Service event.

Director of Public Works Johnson provided an update regarding the recent Glenoaks bridge fire; mentioned Public Works staff is preparing for the upcoming Cindy Montañez Day of Service event; reported the Pacoima Wash Pedestrian Safety Bridge was recently installed and that the infiltration basin was utilized during the recent rain events.

Director of Community Development Ramirez announced the City will be participating in the annual homeless count next Tuesday at 8pm.

Deputy City Manager/Economic Development spoke about Wild Hare Pilates Studio grand opening and ribbon cutting event and the re-grand opening of Flor De Lima Farms.

Director of Finance Melton encourages the community to take advantage of water utility bill assistance through the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program.

Police Chief Valdez mentioned the Police Department would be participating in the Education Commissions Principal's Brunch event and spoke about the Parent Academy being conducted at San Fernando Middle School.

City Manager Kimball mention the January City Manager's Monthly Report has a new easier to read format.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Solorio spoke about various city events; commented on the fire incident and suggested that the City’s social media be used to educate the community on government resources.

Vice Mayor Mendoza wished everyone a happy new year; expressed her support to the San Fernando Police Department; commented on a campaign election sign issue which was reported to the City Clerk and the Police Department accordingly, and reminded candidates about decorum during the election season.

Mayor Rodriguez thanked staff for their work during the City Hall closure week and commented that she is grateful for staff’s work.

ADJOURNMENT (7:17 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 January 16, 2024, Regular meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

Julia Fritz, CMC
City Clerk