

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**MARCH 18, 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 6:03 p.m.

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

Staff: Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Kanika Kith, City Attorney Richard Padilla, Police Chief Fabian Valdez, Director of Finance Erica Melton, Director of Public Works Wendell Johnson 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. The motion carried, unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. PRESENTATION OF EDUCATION COMMISSION CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION FOR MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH (CREATIVE/ARTISTIC)
Melissa Reyes Grajeda (San Fernando Middle School)
Geraldine Ramos (ArTES Magnet)
- B. PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MARCH 2024 AS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
- C. PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MARCH 2024 AS NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Councilmember Fajardo stepped away from the dais at 6:05 p.m. and returned to the dais at 6:26 p.m.

Nichole Richardson, Government Affairs Representative from the Metropolitan Water District introduced herself.

The following spoke of concerns regarding tree maintenance issues along Macneil Street:

Gordon Henderson

Kelly Duggan

Jorge Vasquez

Alex Avila

Maximo Robles

Caller ID No. 0330 (Chris)

Caller ID No. 9987 Jason Yancey from New Economics for Women spoke about the Financial Empowerment workshops being offered at no charge at Las Palmas Park.

Julissa Hernandez, Field Representative from Assemblymember Luz Rivas Office provided information on legislative updates and community events.

Item 16 Discussed Out of Order

16) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION REGARDING TREE PRESERVATION AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Mayor Celeste T. Rodriguez presented the staff report.

Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Kith provided updates regarding the City's Urban Forest Management Plan.

Director of Public Works Johnson spoke about the City's tree canopy, city-owned tree removal policy and commented on increased communication to the public through the city's Community Engagement Framework program. He also spoke about the trees along Macneil Street and stated that current actions are being taken to have an arborist review certain trees, confirmed that at this time there are no plans for the removal of those trees and mentioned that updates to the Urban Forestry Management Plan will be brought to the City Council at a future meeting.

Mayor Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo to direct staff to continue using the city's approved Community Engagement Framework for public communication and outreach regarding tree preservation; agendaize for future discussion the option of re-establishing a Tree Commission or leaving it with the Planning and Preservation Commission but with an emphasis that Trees will be discussed during the Commission meetings

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in order to maintain “Tree City” status; and include at the Climate Action ad hoc committee meetings, the topic of tree related issues, renewal of the city’s arborist contract, the Urban Forestry Management Plan and on public engagement strategies. The motion passed, with Councilmember Solorio absent.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Mayor Mendoza pulled Item No. 5 for discussion and noted she would be recusing from consideration on Item No. 8 due to the proximity of the project to her home.

Mayor Rodriguez pulled Item No 1 for discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to approve the Consent Calendar excluding Item Nos. 1 and 5 and further noting for the record that Vice Mayor Mendoza recused from consideration on Item No. 8.

- 2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NOS. 24-031 AND 24-032 APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTERS OF MARCH 4, 2024, AND MARCH 18, 2024, RESPECTIVELY
- 3) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DESTRUCTION OF CERTAIN OBSOLETE RECORDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY’S RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND DISPOSITION OF RECORDS
- 4) CONSIDERATION TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023
- 6) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION PLAN FOR DEPARTMENT HEAD CLASSIFICATIONS APPOINTED BY THE CITY MANAGER AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NOS. 7973 AND 7973(A), AND AMENDING THE SALARY PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
- 7) CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE SUPPORT OF GRANT APPLICATIONS WITH THE FERNANDEÑO TATAVIAM BAND OF MISSION INDIANS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCY PROJECTS
- 8) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDING FOR THE CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY’S URBAN GREENING GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE CARLISLE GREEN ALLEY PROJECT
It was noted that Vice Mayor Mendoza recused herself from Item no. 8 due to the proximity of the project to her home.
- 9) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A NON-EXCLUSIVE LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOR USE OF PARK FACILITIES AND THE USE OF THE CITY SEAL

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- 10) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY FOR COST SHARING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF MONITORING EQUIPMENT AND MONITORING PURSUANT TO THE HARBOR TOXIC POLLUTANTS TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD
- 11) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH EUROFINS EATON ANALYTICAL, LLC FOR WATER TESTING AND ANALYSIS SERVICES

The motion carried, with Councilmember Solorio absent.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Mayor Rodriguez to approve Item No. 1, as amended to include an annotation in the sets of minutes for which the current Councilmembers were not Councilmembers at the time of the meeting and to approve Item No. 5 as presented.

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:
 - a. June 13, 2005 – Special
 - b. May 8, 2006 – Special
 - c. July 1, 2006 – Special
 - d. August 1, 2006 - Special
 - e. February 5, 2024 - Special
 - f. February 20, 2024 – Special
- 5) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING AUTHORIZATION TO DISTRIBUTE REVENUES ON BEHALF OF THE FORMER SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE SAN FERNANDO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FROM THE PAYOFF OF OUTSTANDING LOANS RELATED TO LIBRARY PLAZA PARTNERS, LLC, AND APPROVE EXECUTION OF SUBSTITUTION OF TRUSTEE AND RECONVEYANCE OF DEED OF TRUST

The motion carried, unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

- 12) A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. U-1725, EXTENDING BY A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR AN EXISTING TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE INSTALLATION OF ARTIFICIAL TURF AND SYNTHETIC GRASS IN THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65858(A)

Mayor Rodriguez opened the Public Hearing.

Associate Planner Marina Krustaleva presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Mayor Rodriguez called for public testimony. There being no public testimony, Mayor Rodriguez closed the public comment period and the public hearing was closed.

Motion by Mayor Rodriguez, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to accept, file, and issue the report on the measures taken since imposing a temporary moratorium on the installation of artificial grass and synthetic turf; and waive full reading, in title only, and adopt by a four-fifths vote Urgency Ordinance No. U-1725, “An Urgency Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando, California, extending by a period of one year an existing temporary moratorium on the installation of artificial turf and synthetic grass in the City of San Fernando pursuant to Government Code Section 65858(A)”; and directed staff to begin notifying the community through the Community Engagement Framework plan on information regarding the interim urgency ordinance and MWD’s tree rebate program and tentatively present a draft ordinance to the Planning and Preservation Commission in approximately 6 months, prior to returning to the City Council with a revised ordinance. The motion carried, unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 13) PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024; AND CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MID-YEAR PROPOSED BUDGET AND BLANKET PURCHASE ORDER ADJUSTMENTS

Director of Finance/City Treasurer Erica Melton presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Motion by Vice Mayor Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo to adopt Resolution No. 8293 amending the City’s FY 2023-2024 Budget to include the proposed mid-year and blanket purchase order adjustments. The motion carried, unanimously.

- 14) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL TO PROVIDE ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL SERVICES TO THE CITY

By consensus, Councilmembers requested that this item be continued to the next City Council meeting to have a more robust discussion with the Director of Community Development being present; and to bring back information on other public or private organizations that provide animal care control services and associated service costs.

- 15) CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 1 OF THE SAN FERNANDO MUNICIPAL CODE ESTABLISHING RESTRICTIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF THE CITY SEAL AND OTHER CITY LOGOS AND INSIGNIAS

City Clerk Fritz and City Attorney Padilla presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Motion by Mayor Rodriguez, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to introduce for first reading, in title only, and waive further reading of Ordinance No. 1724 titled, “An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando Amending Article 1 (General Provisions) of Chapter 1 (General Provisions and Penalties) of the San Fernando Municipal Code Establishing Restrictions and Protections Governing unauthorized use of the City Seal and other City Logos and Insignias”, as amended to revise text in Section 3 Definitions from “August 31, 1911 to Aug. 31, 1911”; and include an internal policy that the city would provide potential violator written warning notice before issuing fine. The motion carried, unanimously.

16) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION REGARDING STREAMLINING PROCEDURES FOR AGENDA ITEM INCLUSION BY COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Joel Fajardo presented the staff report.

By consensus, the City Council directed staff to return on April 15 with a revised procedure to include the following: a. Council agenda items should be co-agendized with two Councilmembers in agreement; b. Requests to agendize an item by a Councilmember can occur during Council comments with two Councilmembers in agreement; c. Update the Request to Agendize Form to add a section for the name of the second Councilmember with options of support or not oppose, and keeping the deadline the same for submittal of requests by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday preceding the Monday City Council meeting; d. Begin with a 6-month trial period and return to the City Council for direction; and e. Include comparison information on other City’s procedures.

STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES

Julio Salcedo introduced himself as the new Director of Recreation and Community Services.

City Clerk Fritz provided information regarding the search feature located on the City Clerk’s page of the City’s website under the Public Records Portal to locate digitized city records such as adopted ordinances, minutes and resolutions.

Director of Recreation and Community Services Director Salcedo reported on upcoming programming.

Director of Public Works Johnson reported that the City has started producing water again and spoke about Standard Operation Procedures.

Director of Finance Melton commented on the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget schedule and on the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program.

Assistant to the City Manager Hernandez announced the launching of the new San Fernando City App available to download.

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Police Chief Valdez reported that staff members from the Police Department attended a team building workshop.

Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Kith spoke about the Shop Local program and the upcoming Homeless Connect day event.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Fajardo spoke about karaoke with Seniors and welcomed Mr. Salcedo to the San Fernando Team; spoke about the item that he agendaized for discussion regarding streamlining procedures for Agenda Item inclusion by Councilmembers; extended congratulations to newly elected Councilmember Victoria Garcia.

Councilmember Solorio welcomed Mr. Salcedo to the San Fernando Team and expressed thanks to Mr. Johnson on the City independently producing water again; and spoke about the new San Fernando City App.

Vice Mayor Mendoza spoke about the recent passing of former City of San Fernando City Treasurer Elvira Camarillo Orozco and requested to close tonight’s meeting in her memory; noted she attended the Business Watch meeting; the tree rebate media event; Mission City Baseball League’s opening day; commented on the Rotary Club’s Environmental Action club members who worked on the Monarch Butterfly project; and reported she attended the Los Angeles County Women of the Year Commemorative Celebration event.

Councilmember Fajardo requested that tonight’s meeting also be closed in memory of Sally and Janet Ballin, who were both sister in laws of former Councilmember Sylvia Ballin.

Mayor Rodriguez spoke about ad hoc committee meetings she attended; the tree rebate program presentation by MWD; welcomed Mr. Salcedo to the San Fernando Team; reported she attended the following events: Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE’s) Annual Latina History Day Conference; the California Legislative Women’s Caucus; the Cesar Chavez March for Justice; the Well Education for Latino Leaders 12th Annual Statewide Conference; the New Economics for Women Financial Literacy Workshop; and commented on Women’s History Month.

ADJOURNMENT (9:35 p.m.)

Mayor Rodriguez adjourned the meeting in memory of Elvira Camarillo Orozco, Sally Ballin and Janet Ballin to the next regular meeting.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the March 18, 2024, Regular meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council on August 19, 2024.

Julia Fritz, CMC
City Clerk