

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – 5:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024**

**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
117 MACNEIL STREET
SAN FERNANDO, CALIFORNIA 91340**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – SPECIAL MEETING 5:00 P.M. (CLOSED SESSION)

Mayor Celeste T. Rodriguez called the Special Meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Celeste T. Rodriguez, Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza, and Councilmembers Joel Fajardo and Mary Solorio (arrived at 5:03 p.m.)

Staff: City Manager Nick Kimball and Assistant City Attorney Richard Padilla

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to approve the agenda. The motion carried, unanimously.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS None

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (5:03 P.M.)

By consensus, Councilmembers recessed to Closed Session.

A) **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR PURSUANT TO G.C. §54957.6:**

Designated City Negotiators: City Manager Nick Kimball
Employees and Employee Bargaining Units:

San Fernando Management Group (SEIU, Local 721)
San Fernando Public Employees' Association (SEIU, Local 721)
San Fernando Police Officers Association

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San Fernando Police Officers Association Police Management Unit
San Fernando Police Civilian Association
San Fernando Part-Time Employees’ Bargaining Unit (SEIU, Local 721)
All Unrepresented Employees

**B) CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:**

Title of Employee: City Manager

RECONVENE FROM SPECIAL MEETING AND REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Assistant City Attorney Padilla stated there was no reportable action as a result of the Closed Session meeting held on April 2, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT (6:04 p.m.)

The City Council adjourned the special meeting to the regular meeting.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – REGULAR MEETING 6:00 P.M. (OPEN SESSION)

Mayor Celeste Rodriguez called the regular meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

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

Staff: City Manager Nick Kimball, 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, Director of Recreation and Community Services Salcedo 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 A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE WEEK OF APRIL 7, 2024 TO APRIL 13, 2024 AS NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
- B. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS DONATE LIFE MONTH (*ITEM WAS POSTPONED TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING*)
- C. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH (*ITEM WAS POSTPONED TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING*)
- D. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING MARCH 31, 2024 AS CESAR CHAVEZ DAY

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

The following individuals spoke about their religious beliefs:

Isabel Pleites
Teresa Cano
Victoria Martinez
Shaday Morales
Melanie Espino

Ricardo Benitez expressed his support of Cesar Chavez.

Donisha Galbreath – called but did not speak.

Patty Lopez spoke about public safety in City parks.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER

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- 2) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A SECOND READING TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 1724 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

- 3) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A LIST OF ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL PLANNING CONSULTING FIRMS AND A LIST OF ON-CALL ENVIRONMENTAL FIRMS TO PROVIDE AS-NEEDED PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

- 4) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY FOR THE SECTION 5310 ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM TO FUND THE FIXED ROUTE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, AND ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS

- 5) CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL FOR THE UNDER-AGE ALCOHOL PURCHASE PREVENTION PROGRAM

The motion carried, unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Item considered out of order

- 12) DISCUSSION REGARDING CREATION OF THE SAN FERNANDO COMMUNITY CENTER AT PUIG’S HOUSE

Mayor Celeste T. Rodriguez presented the staff report. Noted that the title of the report should be corrected from the San Fernando Community Center to San Fernando Family Center at the Puig’s House.

Motion by Mayor Rodriguez, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to approve co-applying for grants with the Wildhorse Foundation in support of facilities and programming activities and requested that the formal renaming of the park be discussed at the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission for additional discussion and consideration before returning to the City Council for final consideration. The motion carried, unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

- E. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 22, 2024 AS EARTH DAY

- G. PRESENTATION BY BOARD CHAIR ADAN ORTEGA AND GENERAL MANAGER ADEL HAGEKHALIL ON METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT’S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (Continued)

- 6) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH GRANT FOR THE ADAPTATION PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM, ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING THE FUNDS, AND APPROVE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH RINCON CONSULTANTS INC. TO COMPLETE THE CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE PLAN

Director of Community Development Erika Ramirez presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to authorize the acceptance of the California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research Grant Funds for the Adaptation Planning Grant Program in the amount of \$599,918.18 (Contract No. 2231); adopt Resolution No. 8295 amending the budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 to appropriate the funds and increase the Operating Grants (Fund 110) revenues and expenditures; approve a Professional Services Agreement (Contract No. 2236) with Rincon Consultants Inc., in an amount not-to-exceed \$351,598 to develop the City’s Climate Action and Resilience Plan and update the Circulation and Open Space/Conservation/Parks-Recreation General Plan Elements; authorize the City Manager to make non-substantive changes and execute all related documents; and directed staff to use the General Fund Capital Outlay funds for the California Environmental Quality Act Analysis. The motion carried unanimously.

Item considered out of order

- 9) CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING COUNCILMEMBER INITIATED REQUEST TO AGENDIZE AN ITEM FOR CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

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

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Mayor Rodriguez to approve:

1. Require the support of at least two Councilmembers to request to agendize an item for discussion using either one or both methods below:
 - a. Submitting the 'Request to Agendize an Item for City Council Discussion' form (to be amended) and would include the name of the requesting Councilmember as well as one other Councilmember supporting or has no opposition for the item.
 - b. Requesting to include an item for discussion during the Council meeting under the section of the agenda designated as “General City Council/Board Member Comments and Liaison Updates.” This would also require a support or no opposition from one other Councilmember.

2. Amend the “Request to Agendize an Item for City Council Discussion” form to include a section for the co-sponsor Councilmembers name and add a box to check off “in support”, as amended; and
3. Implement the new process for a 6-month trial period and return to City Council for consideration and to potentially adopt a resolution amending the City Council Procedural Manual to reflect applicable changes to the process.

The motion carried as follows:

ROLL CALL

AYES: Solorio, Fajardo, Rodriguez - 3
NAYES: Mendoza - 1
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

10) DISCUSSION REGARDING CONTINUATION OF THE RECREATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Mayor Celeste T. Rodriguez presented the staff report.

Motion by Mayor Rodriguez to direct staff to prioritize the Recreation Scholarship Program fee waiver discussion with the FY 2024-2025 Budget Study Session; and for FY 2023-2024, Councilmembers may choose to donate their unused fee waiver funds and staff will provide updates to Councilmembers regarding unmet requests when the fee waiver donations runs low. The motion carried as follows:

ROLL CALL

AYES: Solorio, Fajardo, Rodriguez - 3
NAYES: Mendoza - 1
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

It was noted that the City Council recessed the meeting at 8:23 p.m. and returned at 8:33 p.m. with all Councilmembers present.

The following presentation was received at this time

- F. PRESENTATION BY NEW ECONOMICS FOR WOMEN REGARDING THE FINANCIAL CAPABILITY WORKSHOPS, INDIVIDUALIZED ONE-ON-ONE FINANCIAL COACHING, AND HOMEBUYER EDUCATION COURSES
- 7) PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE HOME REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM

Director of Community Development Ramirez presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Motion by Mayor Rodriguez, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to approve staff's recommendation regarding the use of funds. The motion failed by the following vote:

ROLL CALL

AYES: Solorio, Rodriguez - 2
NAYES: Fajardo, Mendoza - 2
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to direct staff to table this item to the next meeting as part of the discussion on updates to the infrastructure funding that includes information on infrastructure plans and ARPA funding updates. The motion carried, unanimously.

Councilmembers also requested that staff return with an update on sidewalks and facility assessment efforts in conjunction with the ARPA Funds update at the next meeting.

- 8) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO AWARD A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO AMERICAN ASPHALT SOUTH, INC. FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 PHASE 3, ANNUAL STREET RESURFACING PROJECT, JOB NO. 7621, PLAN NO. P-743

Director of Public Works Wendell Johnson presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Mayor Rodriguez to accept the lowest responsive bid from American Asphalt South, Inc., for construction services for Phase 3 of the Annual Street Resurfacing Project; approve a construction contract (Contract No. 2237) with American Asphalt South, Inc., for an amount not-to-exceed \$1,800,173.60 for construction services for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Phase 3, Annual Street Resurfacing Project, Job No. 7621, Plan No. P-743; approve a 20% contingency of \$360,035 for any change orders due to unforeseen conditions or change in work; and authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute the agreement and all related documents. The motion carried, unanimously.

- 11) DISCUSSION REGARDING REPAIR AND ENHANCEMENT OF TRASH ENCLOSURES TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION

Mayor Celeste T. Rodriguez presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Mayor Rodriguez to direct staff to use Measure W funds to repair trash enclosures and return to Council with project design and cost plan, prior to going out for bid. The motion carried, unanimously.

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STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES

City Clerk Fritz had no updates to report.

Director of Recreation and Community Services Director Salcedo reported on recreation and community services programming events including the Spring Jamboree.

Director of Public Works Johnson commented on an organized collaborative outreach efforts to clean an encampment at the future reservoir site among community service organizations, the City and across City Departments.

Director of Community Development Ramirez reported that the Planning and Preservation Commission meetings start time has changed from 6:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., commented on an upcoming event “Keys to Housing Rights: Tenant Empowerment, Homeowner Solutions”, mentioned a tree planting rebate program available to the residents of the community, and thanked Councilmember Solorio for the invitation to attend the Habitat to Humanity Los Angeles Builders Ball Gala.

Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Kith commented on the business support workshop in partnership with ICON CDC regarding bookkeeping and financial management for small businesses, mentioned information regarding the Downtown Master Plan Walkshop, and noted the UPS Store on Maclay grand opening event.

Director of Finance Melton commented that the City is in its budget planning season and mentioned a budget informational presentation will be presented to all City Commissions.

Assistant to the City Manager Hernandez commented on the Cindy’ Montañez Day of Service event at the Cindy Montañez Natural Park.

Police Chief Valdez mentioned that the Community Academy workshop begins April 16 and announced that the month of April is Distracted Drivers Awareness Month.

City Manager Nick Kimball commented on various public works updates and a meeting is being organized to meet with residents on Macneil regarding tree concerns; noted a response was provided to the Commissioner Lopez regarding the Rudy Ortega Park being vandalized and about the parks over-all appearance, and reminded the community to download the My San Fernando app to report various concerns in the community to the City.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Solorio mentioned she attended the Spring Jamboree, the Homeless Connect Day event and commented on available resources for individuals experiencing homelessness, mentioned she attended a gala event, and reported that she was appointed as a Board Member to the Boards of the Valley Economic Alliance and the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments.

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Mayor Rodriguez commended Councilmember Solorio for sharing her earlier life experiences, thanked staff for their work, and mentioned she attended the Spring Jamboree, the tour of the Sheila Kuehl Family Wellness Center and commented on the book sale being held at the San Fernando Library on April 19.

Vice Mayor Mendoza mentioned she attended the Homeless Connect Day event, the Spring Jamboree and requested to close the meeting in memory of Isabel Garcia.

ADJOURNMENT (10:05 p.m.)

Mayor Rodriguez adjourned the meeting in memory of Isabel Garcia to the next regular meeting.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the April 2, 2024, Special and Regular meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council at the City Council meeting of September 3, 2024.

Julia Fritz, CMC
City Clerk