

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – 5:15 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024**

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – SPECIAL MEETING 5:15 P.M. (CLOSED SESSION)

Mayor Celeste T. Rodriguez called the Special Meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

Present:

Council: Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza, and Councilmembers Joel Fajardo, Mary Solorio, and Victoria Garcia

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

Absent: Mayor Celeste T. Rodriguez

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to approve the agenda. The motion carried, with Mayor Rodriguez absent.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS None

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (5:18 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

RECONVENE FROM SPECIAL MEETING AND REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Padilla stated there was no reportable action as a result of the Closed Session meeting held on May 6, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT (6:06 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 6:06 p.m.

Present: Council: Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza and Councilmembers Joel Fajardo, Mary Solorio, and Victoria Garcia

Staff: City Manager Nick Kimball, Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Kanika Kith, Assistant 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 Julio Salcedo and City Clerk Julia Fritz

Absent: Mayor Celeste Rodriguez

TELECONFERENCING REQUESTS/DISCLOSURE 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, with Mayor Rodriguez absent.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY AS OLDER AMERICANS' MONTH AND PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION TO THE LAS PALMAS SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS TOWARDS THE SENIOR CLUB HOLIDAY DANCE 2023
- B. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS DONATE LIFE MONTH
- C. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE AND DECLARING APRIL 24, 2024, AS ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY
- D. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH
- E. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE WEEK OF MAY 5 TO MAY 11 AS PROFESSIONAL MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK
- F. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE WEEK OF MAY 12 TO MAY 18 AS NATIONAL POLICE WEEK
- G. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Nellie Alcocer submitted a public comment regarding speeding and street safety.

Dr. Chavez spoke about concerns related to public safety, park equipment repairs and the lack of jobs in California.

The following were in support of Agenda Item No. 12:

Olivia Naturman
Jess Perry-Martin
Mary Kennedy
Cindy Uerrera
Natalie Estrada
Roberto Pelaez
Rosie Anguiano

Pilar Almeida with Republic Services provided an update regarding community outreach and engagement associated with the handling of organic waste and recycling and mentioned an upcoming organic waste informational workshop.

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Patty Lopez spoke about the recent Metropolitan Water District trip and encouraged all Commissioners to attend.

Christina Bernal expressed support for Agenda Item No. 7.

Marcela Rodriguez provided general comments on various topics of concern in the City.

Jorge Quezada expressed support for Agenda Item No. 7.

John Mejia spoke in support of Agenda Item No. 7.

Kelly Duggan spoke regarding concerns about the tree removal on her street and encouraged the City to perform an audit on the tree inventory.

Dave Everett with Western Electric Contractor Association spoke in opposition to Agenda Item No. 13.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:
 - a. April 15, 2024 – Special and Regular
- 2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER
- 3) RECEIVE AND FILE THE CITY MANAGER’S PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ANNUAL BUDGET
- 4) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS APPROVING THE ENGINEER’S REPORT, AND DECLARING THE CITY’S INTENTION TO ORDER THE ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS AND SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE LEVY OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT
- 5) CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE SUPPORT OF A CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING REQUEST WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 176 FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The motion carried, with Mayor Rodriguez absent.

Items discussed out of order

- 14) CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT A TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSIONER

Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza presented the staff report.

Motion by Vice Mayor Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to appoint Julie Cuellar to the Transportation and Public Safety Commission. The motion carried, with Mayor Rodriguez absent.

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- 15) CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE AS COMMISSIONERS TO THE EDUCATION, PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION, TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY, AND PLANNING AND PRESERVATION COMMISSIONERS

Councilmember Victoria Garcia presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Garcia, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to appoint Sonia Mariscal Navarro to the Education Commission. The motion carried by the following vote:

ROLL CALL

AYES: Garcia, Solorio, Mendoza - 3

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Rodriguez - 1

ABSTAIN: Fajardo - 1

Motion by Councilmember Garcia, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo to appoint Miguel Montañez to the Transportation and Public Safety Commission. The motion carried, with Mayor Rodriguez absent.

Motion by Councilmember Garcia, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to appoint Julie Cuellar to the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission. The motion carried, with Mayor Rodriguez absent.

Motion by Councilmember Garcia to appoint Yolanda Haro to the Planning and Preservation Commission. The motion failed due to the lack of a second.

- 12) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO SUPPORT LOCAL STUDENTS AND ARTISTS

By consensus, the City Council directed staff to return to the June 3, 2024 meeting with information on: 1) Cesar Chavez Learning Academy's total budget for the mural project, total funds raised to date, information on gap funding; and 2) authorized the City Manager to submit a letter of support to Los Angeles Unified School District, Superintendent, and local Board Member to recommend allocation of additional funds for the mural project.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 6) A CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTING ORDINANCE NO. 1722 AMENDING THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO'S WATER POLICIES TO COMPLY WITH SENATE BILL 998 AND SENATE BILL 3, AMENDING PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 94-151 THROUGH 94-164 OF DIVISION I, CHAPTER 94 (UTILITIES), ARTICLE III (WATER) OF THE SAN FERNANDO MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING THE DISCONTINUATION OF RESIDENTIAL WATER SERVICE FOR NONPAYMENT

Vice Mayor Mendoza opened the continued public hearing.

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

Vice Mayor Mendoza opened public comments.

The following public comments were received:

Marcela Rodriguez provided general comments.

Patty Lopez provided general comments.

Julie Cuellar spoke in support and made general comments.

Gorge Vasquez spoke in support and made general comments.

David Bolock spoke in support and made general comments.

Vice Mayor Mendoza closed the public comment portion of the public hearing.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to introduce for first reading, in title only, and waive further reading of Ordinance No. 1722, “an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando, California, amending provisions of Sections 94-151 through 94-164 of Division I, Chapter 94 (Utilities), Article III (Water) of the San Fernando Municipal Code concerning the discontinuation of residential water service for Nonpayment” with an effective date of July 1, 2024; and authorize the City Manager to direct staff to synthesize the revised Ordinance into a Policy on the Discontinuation of Residential Water Services Non-Payment, for customers to more easily understand the process as it relates to residential water billing, penalties/fines, and water disconnection. The motion carried, with Mayor Rodriguez absent.

Vice Mayor Mendoza closed the public hearing.

It was noted, that the City Council recessed the meeting at 9:04 p.m. and reconvened at 9:21 p.m. with Councilmember Solorio and Mayor Rodriguez absent.

- 7) A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE ALLOCATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

Vice Mayor Mendoza opened the public hearing.

Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Kanika Kith presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Vice Mayor Mendoza opened public comments.

The following public comments were received:

Marcela Rodriguez commented about graffiti issues.

Patty Lopez suggested that funds be used towards City parks regarding graffiti issues.

Vice Mayor Mendoza closed the public comment portion of the public hearing.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to adopt Resolution No. 8298 approving the allocation of Community Development Block Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2024-2025; and authorize the City Manager, or designee, to submit documentation conveying the City Council's Resolution to the Los Angeles County Community Development Authority for approval. The motion carried, with Councilmember Solorio and Mayor Rodriguez absent.

Vice Mayor Mendoza closed the public hearing.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

8) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION REGARDING UPDATES ON AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING (*THIS ITEM WAS POSTPONED TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING*)

9) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN AND RELATED POLICIES

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

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to receive a presentation regarding the Urban Forest Management Plan and related policies and procedures; adopt Resolution No. 8301 approving the Urban Forest Management Plan. The motion carried, with Councilmember Solorio and Mayor Rodriguez absent.

10) 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

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

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve a new standardized Contract Services Agreement with the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control (Contract No. 2233) to provide animal care and control services to the City; and authorize the City Manager to make non-substantive changes and execute all related documents. The motion carried, with Councilmember Solorio and Mayor Rodriguez absent.

- 11) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO REVIEW AND APPROVE CITY COUNCIL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS AND AD HOC COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
(THIS ITEM WAS POSTPONED TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING)
- 13) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS
(ITEM WAS POSTPONED TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING)
- 16) CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councilmember Victoria Garcia presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Garcia, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo to appoint Magaly Colelli and Clarissa Ortega to the Downtown Master Plan Community Advisory Committee. The motion carried, with Councilmember Solorio and Mayor Rodriguez absent.

STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES

City Clerk Fritz had no updates to report.

Director of Recreation and Community Services Salcedo announced the Mother's Day Tea Party event, and mentioned he would be participating in the Police Department's Community Academy and commented on upcoming recreation program events.

Director of Public Works Johnson discussed how the Metro program assists small agencies with grant applications for the Active Transportation Program, particularly regarding grant funds for the Pacoima Bikeway project. He also noted that he has contacted residents on Macneil Street about tree concerns and will be scheduling a community meeting to further discuss these issues. Additionally, he briefly commented on the creation of a tree preservation and conservation standard operating procedure.

Director of Community Development Ramirez announced that a video tutorial will be available shortly regarding instructions on how to use the Online Permit Counter; educational mailers have been sent to residents and will be mailed to commercial businesses regarding common code violations.

Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Kith commented the Downtown Master Plan online survey which closes on May 20; and mentioned that ICON CDC will be offering a series of eight workshops geared towards small business support to be held in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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Director of Finance Melton mentioned the City received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program award for Fiscal Year ending 2022; the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget has been posted to the City’s website and commented that a series of community engagement opportunities that are being offered to the community regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget, including a virtual and in-person Town Hall meeting.

City Manager Kimball commented on the day of service event on May 11, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cesar Chavez Memorial and reminded the City Council that the City Manager’s Bi-weekly and Monthly Reports contain additional information on notable matters.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Fajardo had no updates to report.

Councilmember Garcia noted she attended the Cinco De Mayo event held at the Rudy Ortega Park and commented on the Indigenous Woman’s Day event.

Vice Mayor Mendoza mentioned she attended the Valley Economic Alliance Gala, a tour of the new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center and commented on the Monarch Pollinator Project event at Rudy Ortega Park.

Vice Mayor Mendoza asked staff to confirm whether arborist reports were provided to the residents on Macneil Street regarding their tree concerns.

Director of Public Works, Johnson, responded and confirmed that residents on Macneil Street with tree concerns were sent a letter along with the arborist's report. He also mentioned that the same materials would be personally delivered to their homes.

ADJOURNMENT (10:45 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 May 6, 2024, Regular meeting and approved by the San Fernando City Council on September 3, 2024.

Julia Fritz, CMC
City Clerk