

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO  
CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING – 5:15 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.  
MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024**

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

**COUNCILMEMBER MARY SOLORIO  
REMOTE TELECONFERENCE LOCATION  
1425 HOLLISTER STREET  
SAN FERNANDO, CA 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 5:16 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Celeste T. Rodriguez, Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza, and Councilmembers Joel Fajardo, and Victoria Garcia

Staff: City Manager Nick Kimball, City Attorney Richard Padilla, and Director of Administrative Services Erica D. Melton

Absent: Councilmember Mary Solorio

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve the agenda. The motion carried, unanimously.

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS** None

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (5:15 P.M.)**

By consensus, Councilmembers recessed to Closed Session.

A) **CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(D)(1) – EXISTING LITIGATION**

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Case Name: Rafael Solis v. City of San Fernando, et al.  
USDC Case No.: 2:24-cv-637 JLS (MAAx)

**B) 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  
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

**C) CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6 – CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR:**

City Representative: City Attorney Richard Padilla  
Unrepresented Employee: City Manager

**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 August 19, 2024, at 5:15 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT (6:07 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 6:07 p.m.

Present: Council: Mayor Celeste T. Rodriguez, Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza and Councilmembers Joel Fajardo, and Victoria Garcia

Staff: City Manager Nick Kimball, City Attorney Richard Padilla, Police Chief Fabian Valdez, Director of Administrative Services Erica Melton, Director of Public Works Wendell Johnson, Director of Recreation and Community Services Julio Salcedo and City Clerk Julia Fritz

Absent: Councilmember Mary Solorio

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**TELECONFERENCING REQUESTS/DISCLOSURE**      None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve the agenda. The motion carried, unanimously.

It was noted Council Fajardo left the dais at 6:07 p.m. and returned at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- A.    PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION TO COMMANDER IRWIN ROSENBERG FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO AND TO THE COMMUNITY

The City Council recessed the meeting at 6:41 p.m. and reconvened at 7:00 p.m. with Councilmember Solorio absent.

- B.    INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

It was noted that a written public statement was submitted by Elsa Visalle of Flowers and Crafts Supplies.

The following submitted speaker cards and were called but was not in attendance:

Roxana Canjura  
Maria Isabel  
Martina Morua

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mayor Rodriguez requested to consider Consent Item No. 7 separately.

Motion by Mayor Rodriguez, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve the Consent Calendar 1 through 6 and 8 through 10:

- 1)    CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:
  - a.    March 18, 2024 – Regular
- 2)    CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER
- 3)    CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION SETTING THE PROPERTY TAX RATE REQUIRED TO MEET THE CITY’S OBLIGATION TO THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

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- 4) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE AND OUTFITTING OF A TESLA MODEL Y ELECTRIC POLICE VEHICLE FOR PATROL USE AND DIRECTED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS
- 5) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CARRIER CORPORATION THROUGH SOURCEWELL FOR HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM UPGRADES AT LAS PALMAS PARK
- 6) CONSIDERATION TO AWARD A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO ELECNR BELCO ELECTRIC, INC. FOR THE CITYWIDE TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION PROJECT
- 8) CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT PROJECT COMPLETION AND AUTHORIZE THE RECORDATION OF A NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR THE HVAC UPGRADES AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
- 9) DISCUSSION CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH INTERWEST SAFEUILT COMPANY FOR ADDITIONAL ON-CALL SERVICES
- 10) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE CENTER BY LENDISTRY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS RELATING TO THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY CORPS FELLOW AND USE OF THE CITY SEAL

The motion carried, with Councilmember Solorio absent.

Vice Mayor Mendoza noted she would be recusing herself from Item No. 7 due to the distance of the project to her residence and left the dais at 7:10 p.m.

- 7) CONSIDERATION TO AWARD A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT TO TREEPEOPLE FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT, PROJECT REPORTING, GRANT COORDINATION, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND LANDSCAPE PLANTING AND ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE CARLISLE GREEN ALLEY PROJECT

By consensus, the City Council directed staff to return to the next Council meeting with additional information regarding outreach efforts, provide next steps, timeframe, and a maintenance plan for project upkeep.

Vice Mayor Mendoza returned to the dais at 7:34 p.m.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- 11) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A SECOND READING AND ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 1727 AMENDING THE SAN FERNANDO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2-908 DEFINITIONS AND SECTION 2-909, ARTICLE VII OF CHAPTER 2 TO INCREASE LOCAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FROM \$500 TO \$1,000 AND MODIFYING PROVISIONS FOR FUTURE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ADJUSTMENTS TO THE SAME

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

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to adopt Ordinance No. 1727 that was introduced for first reading at the City Council meeting of August 5, 2024, in title only and waive further reading, amending the San Fernando Municipal Code Sections 2-908 (Definitions) and Section 2-909 (Contribution Limitations) of Article VII (Campaign Reform) of Chapter 2 (Administration) to Increase Local Campaign Contribution Limits from \$500 to \$1,000 and modifying provisions relating to future Consumer Price Index adjustments to the same.” The motion passed by the following vote:

Roll Call

Ayes: Garcia, Fajardo, Mendoza - 3  
Nays: Rodriguez - 1  
Absent: Solorio - 1  
Abstained: None

12) DISCUSSION REGARDING A COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMERCIAL PROPERTY EDUCATION PROGRAM

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

By consensus, the City Council directed staff to refine the postcard with an emphasis on trash in parking lots; vacant lot maintenance enforcement and clarify what SF Municipal Codes are being cited.

13) PRESENTATION OF THE CITY’S UPDATED 5-YEAR PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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

City Council received and filed a report on the updated Pavement Management Program.

14) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN ALTERNATE DATE FOR THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY MILE RUN/WALK EVENT

Director of Recreation and Community Services Julio Salcedo presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

By consensus, the City Council directed staff to proceed with plans to hold the event on March 1 and to potentially include a family health and fitness expo.

15) DISCUSSION ON TIMELINE AND UPDATES OF CITY COUNCIL APPROVED PROJECTS

Councilmember Victoria Garcia presented the staff report.

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By consensus, the City Council directed staff to add a recurring report to the Consent Calendar of the agenda that includes status updates on Council priorities, approved budget enhancements, and direction provided at prior City Council meetings. Additionally, it should include the San Fernando app work order requests as an attachment and to discontinue providing the quarterly look-ahead report.

**16) DISCUSSION REGARDING ALLOCATING \$50,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT OVERTIME TO ADDRESS RECENT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**

Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza presented the staff report.

Motion by Vice Mayor Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo to bring back approval of a budget resolution allocating \$50,000 to the next Council meeting.

**STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES**

City Clerk Fritz reported that the Nomination Period closed and that there are five certified City Councilmember candidates running in the City’s November 5, 2024 General Election.

Director of Recreation and Community Services Salcedo spoke about National Senior Citizen Day and commented on the summer’s final Concerts in the Park event.

Director of Public Works Johnson mentioned communication challenges with staff, emphasizing the need to improve in order to better serve the community.

Director of Community Development Ramirez commented that Public Works staff presented information on the Tree Commission and draft Standard Operating Procedures for tree removal at the August 12 Planning and Preservation Commission meeting and noted that the Commission would be discussing the City’s mixed-use overlay and the proposed landscape ordinance at its meeting on September 9, 2024. Lastly, Ms. Ramirez mentioned instructional videos were created in both English and Spanish on how to use the Online Permit Counter.

Director of Administrative Services Melton had no updates to report.

Police Chief Fabian Valdez announced that the police department will be holding a DUI checkpoint and commented on deployment of a saturation patrol over the Labor Day weekend.

City Manager Nick Kimball spoke about staff resources and thanked the City Council for a productive meeting.

**GENERAL CITY COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES**

Councilmember Fajardo mentioned bringing back information on an update regarding the actuarial report on pension obligations, commented on staffing levels, city programming and requested that a link to the agenda packet be added to the email notification about the upcoming City Council meeting.

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Councilmember Garcia expressed thanks to staff for their work and to her colleagues for a productive meeting.

Vice Mayor Mendoza mentioned she attended her 50<sup>th</sup> high school class reunion and attended the Tucint Youth Empowerment Cohort event held at Las Palmas Park and expressed thanks to staff for their work.

Mayor Rodriguez requested to adjourn the meeting in memory of Dylan Jones and extended condolences to the Jones family.

**ADJOURNMENT (9:36 p.m.)**

Mayor Rodriguez adjourned the meeting to the regular meeting of September 3, 2024.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the August 19, 2024, Regular meeting and approved by the San Fernando City Council at the meeting of September 3, 2024.

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Julia Fritz, CMC  
City Clerk