

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO  
CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING – 5:15 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.  
MONDAY, JULY 15, 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 Councilmember Joel Fajardo

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

Absent: Councilmember Victoria Garcia

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to approve the agenda. The motion carried, with Councilmembers Solorio and Garcia absent.

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS**     None

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (5:16 P.M.)**

By consensus, Councilmembers recessed to Closed Session.

Councilmember Solorio joined the meeting remotely at 5:19 p.m.

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It was noted that Councilmember Garcia arrived directly into Closed Session at 5:27 p.m.

A) CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.8 – CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR

Subject Property: City owned parcels at Assessor Identification Numbers (APN): 2521-031-901, 902, and 903  
Party Negotiation with: Aaron Aszkenazy, Aszkenazy Development and Rudy J. Ortega, Jr., Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians  
City Representative: Nick Kimball, City Manager and Kanika Kith, Deputy City Manager/Economic Development

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

D) CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(D)(4) – INITIATION OF LITIGATION:

Two (2) Matters

**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 July 15, 2024.

**ADJOURNMENT (6:03 p.m.)**

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

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**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – REGULAR MEETING**

**6:00 P.M. (OPEN SESSION)**

Mayor Celeste Rodriguez called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Council: Mayor Celeste T. Rodriguez, Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza and Councilmembers Joel Fajardo, Mary Solorio (Remote Location) joined at 6:08 p.m. and Victoria Garcia

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

Absent: None

**TELECONFERENCING REQUESTS/DISCLOSURE**

None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by City Clerk Julia Fritz

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

Monique Orozco spoke about the Tataviam Tributary Run Peach and Dignity Journeys 2024 event.

Miguel Montañez spoke about various public safety concerns.

Paul Ventimiglia read a statement regarding the timeline of certain events that he believes has negatively impacted on his employment with the City.

Angel Granados continued reading the written statement from Paul Ventimiglia.

Theresa Granados continued reading the written statements from Paul Ventimiglia.

Martin questioned eligibility requirements regarding the selection of certain homes that were chosen for rehabilitation through the Habitat for Humanity Power Woman Power Tools Home Rehabilitation project.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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Mayor Rodriguez requested Item No. 2 pulled for discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to approve the Consent Calendar with the exception of Item No. 2.:

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER
- 3) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TASKFORCE FOR REGIONAL AUTOTHEFT PREVENTION
- 4) CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL – CANNABIS TAX FUND GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS TO SUPPORT SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DETAILS, AND ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING THE FUNDS
- 5) CONSIDERATION TO AWARD A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT TO DIXON RESOURCES UNLIMITED FOR RESIDENTIAL PARKING PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES

The motion carried, unanimously.

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

- 2) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A SECOND READING AND ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 1726 APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE SAN FERNANDO MUNICIPAL CODE, ADDING ARTICLE VII OF CHAPTER 74 TO PROHIBIT ENCAMPMENTS AND STORAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IN PUBLIC PLACES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF SAN FERNANDO, AS AMENDED

The motion carried by the following vote:

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Garcia, Fajardo, Mendoza - 3

NAYES: Solorio, Rodriguez - 2

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: none

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- 6) DISCUSSION ON PROCEDURE FOR COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS AND CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING TO ASSESS REAL PROPERTY FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

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

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to adopt Resolution No. 8315 setting the date for the Public Hearing on August 5, 2024; and directed staff regarding assessment criteria as follows: a. Include all commercial delinquent accounts; b. Include residential accounts who have \$316 or more (if the property owner/account holder does not express hardship or request a payment plan, then can assess up to \$316), alternatively if financial hardship (documentation not required) reported then will be removed from assessment; and bring back as separate agenda item to the August 5 Council meeting a contract amendment with Republic to include:

1. Remove authorization to stop services (strikethrough language on 210 of 7/15 agenda packet);
2. Include outreach with a certified letter to property owner and account holder referencing the delinquency and potential assessment;
3. Include door hanger at the property address; and
4. Include text message to the number that is on file.

The motion carried by the following vote:

ROLL CALL

AYES: Fajardo, Solorio, Garcia - 3  
NAYES: Mendoza, Rodriguez - 2  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

7) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE DISCONTINUATION OF RESIDENTIAL WATER SERVICES FOR NON-PAYMENT POLICY AS REQUIRED BY SENATE BILL 998 AND SENATE BILL 3

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

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to approve the *Discontinuation of Residential Water Services for Non-Payment Policy* as required by Senate Bill 998 and Senate Bill 3, to be effective January 2025. The motion carried, by the following vote:

ROLL CALL

AYES: Solorio, Fajardo, Mendoza - 3  
NAYE: Garcia, Rodriguez - 2  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Mayor Rodriguez to direct staff to come back to a future meeting with a potential property tax assessment process for delinquent accounts similar to unpaid trash collection delinquent property tax assessments with Republic Services. The motion carried, by the following vote:

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ROLL CALL

YAY: Solorio, Fajardo, Rodriguez - 3  
NAYE: Garcia, Mendoza - 2  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

8) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 MURAL FUND FOR PUBLIC ART ENHANCEMENT

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

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to allocate \$25,000 mural funds towards trees to be planted in the empty city planters and towards residents that have requested trees to be planted. The motion carried, by the following vote:

ROLL CALL

YAY: Garcia, Solorio, Fajardo, Mendoza - 4  
NAYE: Rodriguez - 1  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

9) DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR DIRECTION REGARDING POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE SAN FERNANDO MUNICIPAL CODE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS AND OTHER CAMPAIGN-RELATED REGULATIONS

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

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to direct staff to bring back to Council reflecting the increased campaign contribution limit to \$1,000; to have a provision that allows for the reuse of materials for all candidates and an email notifying the City Council of any additional filings in between campaign finance filing periods. Councilmember Garcia offered a friendly amendment to strike the provision that stipulates the reuse of materials. To allow contributions up to \$1000 for staff to come forward with recommendation on language that would provide clarity on transferring up to \$1000 on previous candidate-controlled committees and to have the city clerk email candidates on non-candidate-controlled committees contribution reports received. The motion was not voted upon due to the passing of the substitute motion as follows:

Substitute motion by Councilmember Solorio, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to direct staff to return to the next City Council meeting with a proposed ordinance amending the campaign contribution limit from \$500 to \$1,000. The motion carried by the following vote:

ROLL CALL

AYES: Solorio, Garcia, Mendoza - 3  
NAYES: Fajardo, Rodriguez - 2

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ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

10) DISCUSSION AND UPDATE REGARDING THE HOME REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM

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

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve Option No. 1 of up to \$50,000 of the \$100,000 and to reinvest the remaining balance of \$50,000 towards sidewalk repairs. The motion carried by the following vote:

ROLL CALL

AYES: Garcia, Fajardo, Mendoza - 3

NAYES: Solorio, Rodriguez - 2

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

**STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES**

City Clerk Fritz provided updates regarding the digitization project and the November 5, 2024 General Election candidate nomination period opening.

Director of Recreation and Community Services Salcedo provided updates on summer programming.

Director of Public Works Johnson reported the city received an award for the infiltration basin and noted receipt of bid responses towards three city projects.

Director of Community Development Ramirez provided information regarding the MWD rebate workshop program, commented on the residential standards workshop in august mix use overlay before the end of the year.

Director of Finance Melton expressed thanks to staff in the Finance Department for their work during the budget season and mentioned she attended the Coffee with the Chamber event where California State Treasurer Fiona Ma provided information on resources for small businesses and families.

City Manager Kimball spoke about public works projects moving forward, reported on a one-day retreat where the Executive Team set goals to complete approved Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget enhancements by December 2024 and requested to adjourn the meeting tonight in memory of Pam Gibson.

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

Councilmember Fajardo talked about the meeting being productive and spoke about statements made during public comments regarding time allotments and consistency.

Councilmember Garcia thanked the City Clerk Department for their work with the digitization of resolutions; commented on the mural project; and read a statement regarding the recent events surrounding the shooting of former President Trump.

Councilmember Solorio stated she attended the San Fernando fourth of July event, the Independent Cities Authority annual conference where she was elected to be the upcoming Board Vice President.

Vice Mayor Mendoza read a statement regarding the recent shooting events surrounding former President Trump, offered condolences to the victims, condemns violence and called for peace in our own local elections; mentioned she attended the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments meeting; attended the Coffee with Chamber of Commerce event and met State Treasurer Fiona Ma, and attended the ICON CDC Financial Literacy Academy graduation event.

Mayor Rodriguez Congratulated Councilmember Solorio and Vice Mayor Mendoza for taking on leadership roles, mentioned she attended the fourth of July event; stated she echoed sentiment statements of peace, and closed the meeting in memory of Pam Gibson.

**ADJOURNMENT (10:34 p.m.)**

Mayor Rodriguez adjourned the meeting in memory of Pam Gibson to the regular meeting of August 5, 2024.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the July 15, 2024, Regular meeting and approved by the San Fernando City Council at the meeting of January 6, 2024.

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Julia Fritz, CMC  
City Clerk