

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – 5:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 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 5:03 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 Mary Solorio

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC STATEMENTS None

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (5:04 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 – ANNUAL PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

Title of Employee: City Manager

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

Assistant City Attorney Padilla stated there was no reportable action as a result of the Closed Session meeting held on April 15, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT (6:09 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 6:10 p.m.

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

Staff: 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 and City Clerk Julia Fritz

Absent: Councilmember Mary Solorio

TELECONFERENCING REQUESTS/DISCLOSURE

None

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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.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. PRESENTATION OF EDUCATION COMMISSION CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION FOR APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH (RESILIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE)
Ashley Murillo (Social Justice Humanitas Academy)
Ranzel Sarmiento (San Fernando Middle School)
- B. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS DONATE LIFE MONTH (*Continued to the next regular meeting*)
- C. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH AND DECLARING APRIL 24, 2024, AS DENIM DAY
- D. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE AND DECLARING APRIL 24, 2024, AS ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY (*Continued to the next regular meeting*)
- E. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 26, 2024, AS ARBOR DAY
- F. INTRODUCTION OF THE SAN FERNANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

The following individuals submitted a speaker card and expressed support of newly elected Councilmember Victoria Garcia:

Gina Felix Goldman
Jess Perry-Martin
Sharon Jimenez
Steven Martinez
Ingrid Avila

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Richard Avila
Dr. Chavez
Benito Bernal
Carlos Barraza
Lucie Glotzky
Patsy Ayala
Gustavo VII
Oscar Castillo
Sabina Montes
Marcela Gonzalez
Patty Lopez
Elizabeth Mendez
David Balog
Ricardo Benitez
Tracey Schroeder
Isabel Pleites
Teresa Cano
Manuk Grigoryan
Teresa O’Toole
Joanne Castaneda
Yolanda Haro
Fernando Diaz
David B.
Laura Chavez

Natalie Jimenez spoke about the importance of an arts program in schools and asked for support regarding a mural project.

Ann Maschler spoke about the importance of an arts program in schools and asked for support regarding a mural project.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Mayor Mendoza requested to pull Consent Item No. 5 for discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendoza to approve Consent Calendar Items 1 through 4 and 6:

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:
 - a. November 28, 2023 – Regular
 - b. February 5, 2024 – Regular
 - c. March 18, 2024 – Special

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

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- 3) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A FIRST AMENDMENT WITH TORO ENTERPRISES INC., AND SECOND AMENDMENT WITH WILLDAN ENGINEERING FOR THE SAN FERNANDO PACOIMA WASH BIKEWAY AND PEDESTRIAN PATH, FEDERAL PROJECT NO. ATPL-5202(020), JOB NO. 7615, PLAN NO. P-737
- 4) CONSIDERATION TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE GENERAL PLAN HOUSING ELEMENT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023
- 6) CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION, AS A PARTNER WITH THE CENTER BY LENDISTRY, TO THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION FOR THE CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS GRANT

The motion carried, unanimously.

Item Pulled for discussion:

Motion by Vice Mayor Mendoza, seconded by Mayor Rodriguez to approve:

- 5) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE USE OF WATER FUND BALANCE RESERVES FOR FINAL PAYMENT TO METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT FOR IMPORTING OF WATER

The motion carried, unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 6) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION RECITING THE FACT OF THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION HELD ON MARCH 5, 2024, AND DECLARING THE RESULTS THEREOF AND SUCH MATTERS AS ARE PROVIDED BY LAW

City Clerk Julia Fritz presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Mayor Rodriguez to adopt Resolution No. 8296 reciting the fact of the March 5, 2024 Special Municipal Election, and declaring the results thereof and such matters as provided by law. The motion carried, unanimously.

City Clerk Fritz presented the Certificate of Election and Administered the Oath of Office to Newly Elected Official Member of the City Council Victoria Garcia.

- 7) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION REGARDING UPDATES ON AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING

By consensus, the City Council continued the item to the May 6 regular City Council meeting, to allow for full Councilmember participation, as Councilmember Solorio was absent.

8) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF CITY-OWNED FACILITY, PARKWAY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS

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

Council directed staff to return to the May 6 Mtg and include as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) discussion:

- a. A map reflecting segments of sidewalk that were identified for repairs through the initial walk audit;
- b. How the existing sidewalk improvement inventory intersects/overlaps with the Safe and Active Streets plan (i.e. address sidewalks along SAS corridors);
- c. Additional information on the Precision Concrete Cutting technique;
- d. More detail on the scope of work for the facility assessment report;
- e. A cost estimate to complete additional sidewalk repairs; and
- f. Include deadline to use ARPA funds.

STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES

City Clerk Fritz had no updates to report and extended congratulations to newly elected Councilmember Victoria Garcia.

Director of Recreation and Community Services Salcedo mentioned the butterfly habitat event at Rudy Ortega Park was canceled due to the rain and reported on other programming activities.

Director of Public Works Johnson provided an update on the status of the site cleanup activities located at 13441 Foothill Boulevard.

Director of Community Development Ramirez mentioned attending the Tenant Rights Resource Fair and Workshop held at Las Palmas Park on April 13.

Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Kith spoke about the Downtown Master Plan Walkshop on April 27, Keeping the Books Workshop, talked about the recent grand opening of the Target Store and about upcoming grand opening events.

Director of Finance Melton commented that an informational budget presentation was provided to each of the City Commissions and mentioned plans to host a Town Hall event to discuss Fiscal Year 2024-2025 proposed budget.

Police Chief Valdez encouraged community attendance regarding the next Community Academy series of classes which begins tomorrow, April 16.

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City Manager Kimball commented on the collaboration efforts across the city's departments, as well as interagency assistance with the cleanup of the city-owned property located at 13441 Foothill Boulevard; mentioned that the City Managers Monthly Report was emailed today and welcomed new Councilmember Victoria Garcia.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Fajardo reported he attended the Cindy Montañez Day of Service Park cleanup event and requested that staff provide information regarding the freshly cut trees at the park and on future budget discussions regarding park upgrades. Also, he mentioned he attended the Target Store grand opening event, spoke about public comments made tonight about individuals with special needs and extended congratulations to new Councilmember Victoria Garcia.

Councilmember Garcia talked about the Community Academy and encouraged attendance, asked about the public restrooms at the El Paseo shopping center and the Tesla charging station and mentioned she attended the Cindy Montañez Day of Service Park cleanup event. Lastly, she spoke fondly about former Councilmember Montañez and extended thanks to her family and friends for their support in her candidacy for City Council.

Vice Mayor Mendoza commented her support on the labor agreement on the agenda and extended congratulations to new Councilmember Victoria Garcia.

Mayor Rodriguez spoke about the Target Store and the UPS Store grand opening events; attended an event hosted by Water Education for Latino Leaders; noted she would be speaking at an event at California State University, Los Angeles; mentioned she attended Champions in Service meeting; Cindy Montañez Day of Service Park cleanup event, Coffee with the Chamber event; noted she attended the Comision Femenil Mujeres de Corazón 2024 Gala; spoke about the upcoming Financial Capability Workshop, and welcomed new Councilmember Victoria Garcia.

ADJOURNMENT (9:39 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 April 15, 2024, Regular meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

Julia Fritz, CMC
City Clerk