

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – 5:30 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024**

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – SPECIAL MEETING 5:30 P.M. (CLOSED SESSION)

Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza called the Special Meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Present:

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

Staff: City Manager Nick Kimball, City Attorney Richard Padilla

Absent: Mayor (Vacant)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC STATEMENTS None

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (5:32 P.M.)

By consensus, Councilmembers recessed to Closed Session.

A) CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(D)(2) AND 54956.9(E)(1) – CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION:

Two (2) Matters

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RECONVENE FROM SPECIAL MEETING AND REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Padilla stated no reportable action as a result of the Closed Session meeting of December 2, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT (6:10 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)

Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza called the regular meeting to order at 6:11 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, City Attorney Richard Padilla, Police Chief Fabian Valdez, Director of Finance Erica Melton, Director of Community Development Erika Ramirez, Director of Public Works Wendell Johnson, Director of Recreation and Community Services Julio Salcedo and City Clerk Julia Fritz

Absent: Mayor (Vacant)

TELECONFERENCING REQUESTS/DISCLOSURE

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

California Cadet Corps 205th Battalion

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Solorio, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo to approve the agenda, as amended to table Agenda Item No. 15 to a date uncertain. The motion carried, unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION TO HEAVENLY PANCAKES FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE TIP-A-COP FUNDRAISER ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024
- B. PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO PLANNING AND PRESERVATION COMMISSIONER SYLVIA BALLIN FOR HER SERVICE TO THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO AND TO THE COMMUNITY BY VICE MAYOR MARY MENDOZA

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C. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION FOR NOVEMBER 2024 NATIONAL VETERANS AND FAMILIES MONTH

D. INTRODUCTION OF EMPLOYEES

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Irene Sandlow commented on freedom of speech and the Constitution of the United States.

Isaac Urena commented on incidents regarding neighbor disputes.

Ricardo Benitez spoke about the recent DUI checkpoint held by the Police Department and thanked them for their work.

Miguel Montanez commented on concerns regarding Agenda Item Nos. 12 and 15.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Garcia pulled Agenda Item Nos. 3 and 7 for discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to approve the Consent Calendar excluding Item Nos. 3 and 7:

1. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:
 - a. November 18, 2024 – Regular Meeting
2. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER
4. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CALENDAR YEAR 2025 BUSINESS PERMITS FOR CERTAIN BUSINESS ACTIVITIES AS REQUIRED BY THE CITY CODE
5. CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND THE CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL GRANT FUNDS FOR THE MARIACHI MASTER APPRENTICE PROGRAM AND ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING THE FUNDS
6. CONSIDERATION TO AWARD A CONTRACT WITH THE LANGUAGE PROS FOR LANGUAGE SERVICES
8. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 SALARY PLAN TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES IN THE MINIMUM WAGE FOR PART-TIME EMPLOYEES AND COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS RELATED TO THE SAN FERNANDO MANAGEMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
9. CONSIDERATION TO PURCHASE A 2024 CATERPILLAR 420 BACKHOE LOADER AND ACCESSORIES OR SIMILAR BACKHOE AND ACCESSORIES FROM QUINN UNDER THE CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACT SOURCEWELL FROM CATERPILLAR/QUINN SOURCEWELL # 011723-CAT

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The motion carried, unanimously.

3. RECEIVE AND FILE STATUS UPDATES FOR ENHANCEMENTS, PROJECTS, AND CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The City Council received and filed the report and directed staff to bring back to a future meeting with options for the placement of City Hall exterior signage and suggested that the City Manager evaluate tiles with and without paint and consider changes, if needed.

7. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A FIRST AMENDMENT TO FRANCHISE AGREEMENT NO. 1937 WITH BLACK & WHITE GARAGE, INC., DBA BLACK & WHITE TOWING, INC. TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD NOT-TO-EXCEED SIX MONTHS

Motion by Councilmember Garcia, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo to approve a First Amendment to the Franchise Agreement with Black & White Garage, Inc., dba Black & White Towing, Inc. (Contract No. 1937(a)) to extend the agreement for a period not to exceed six months, from December 12, 2024 to June 12, 2024; and directed staff to return to a future meeting with additional information with options to potentially broaden scope of criteria (i.e. Increase distance and response time) to the RFQ for City Council consideration. The motion carried, unanimously.

Item heard out of order

13. CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT A PLANNING AND PRESERVATION COMMISSIONER

Vice Mayor Mendoza presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Motion by Vice Mayor Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo to appoint Flor Sanchez to the Planning and Preservation Commission. The motion carried, unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Vice Mayor Mendoza noted that the project is near her residence and that she would be recusing herself from Agenda Item No. 10 and left the dais at 7:37 p.m.

10. A CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 106 (ZONING) OF THE SAN FERNANDO MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH THE MIXED USE OVERLAY ZONE; ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP TO ADD THE MIXED-USE OVERLAY TO CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN THE C-1 AND C-2 ZONE DISTRICTS AND ADOPT A CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION ADDENDUM; AND CONTINUE TO A DATE UNCERTAIN THE ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SAN FERNANDO CORRIDORS SPECIFIC PLAN (SP-5) FIGURE 4.1 – CITY LAND USE DISTRICTS AND OVERLAYS MAP TO ADD THE DOWNTOWN RESIDENTIAL OVERLAY AND FLEX USE OVERLAY TO 11 PARCELS AND ADOPTING MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION ADDENDUM

Councilmember Fajardo opened the public hearing.

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

Councilmember Fajardo moved to open the public comments:

The following speakers submitted comments in opposition:

Brent Bell
Bob Williamson
Rob Reeves
Alf Knudsen

A written public comment was received by the following individual in support:

Angel Zobel-Rodriguez

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to close the public hearing. The motion carried, unanimously.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to continue the public hearing to the second regular meeting in January 2025 and directed staff to return with additional information to include: a) the environmental impacts in the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Housing Element; b) re-evaluate properties to be included in the mixed use overlay zone; and c) research if other cities filed lawsuits disputing their Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) allocation. The motion carried, unanimously.

The public hearing was closed.

The City Council recessed the meeting at 8:49 p.m. and reconvened at 9:10 p.m. with all Councilmembers present, including Mayor Mendoza.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

11. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT A CITY COUNCIL LIAISON TO THE GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to reappoint Sylvia Ballin to serve as the City Council liaison to the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District for a two-year term beginning January 6, 2025. The motion carried, unanimously.

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12. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE “APPLICATION TO SERVE ON A CITY COMMISSION“

Councilmember Fajardo requested to table the item to a date uncertain.

14. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION REGARDING ENHANCING POLICE PATROLLING EFFORTS

Councilmember Solorio presented the staff report. Chief Valdez spoke about the current police patrolling efforts and improvements being made.

The City Council directed staff to return to a future meeting in February 2025 with additional information on the following: a) identify potential efficiencies in the Police Department that could enhance patrol management; b) public safety/patrolling priorities; c) explore collaborations with Los Angeles Unified School District; d) identify additional grant funding opportunities; and e) analysis on the volume of calls originating from Shadow Lane and 7th Street.

15. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION REGARDING A "SANCTUARY CITY STATUS" FOR THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

Councilmember Solorio requested to table the item to a date uncertain.

STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES

City Clerk Fritz reported that the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's Office is working on certifying the results of the November 5, 2024, General Election. She requested that the City Council hold a special meeting on December 9, 2024, to swear in newly elected Councilmembers and conduct the annual reorganization for the selection of a Mayor and Vice Mayor and mentioned the City’s upcoming Employee Holiday Luncheon, scheduled for December 17, 2024.

Director of Recreation and Community Services Salcedo spoke about the upcoming Tree Lighting event and winter programming activities.

Director of Public Works Johnson commented on the City Hall painting renovation project and the recently replaced blinds in the Council Chambers. He also mentioned the parking permit public meeting, during which community members shared comments regarding parking challenges in the city and noted that the facilities assessment will begin on December 5, 2024.

Director of Community Development Ramirez commented on an upcoming Climate Action Resiliency Walkshop event and noted the next meeting of the Planning and Preservation Commission will be on January 13, 2025.

Director of Finance Melton encouraged residents to sign up for payment arrangement plans for past-due water bills and noted that assistance will be offered on the last Saturday of the month, with the office open to assist in setting up payment arrangement plans.

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Police Chief Valdez mentioned that he met with the local senior group at Las Palmas Park and discussed general police enforcement activities.

City Manager Kimball noted that there will not be a second regular Council meeting in December, except for the special meeting on December 9, 2024. He also commented on City Hall’s holiday hours and thanked staff for their work during his recent absence.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Fajardo had no updates to report.

Councilmember Solorio had no updates to report.

Councilmember Garcia thanked staff for their work and encouraged them to prioritize their health and well-being. She also commented on the recent gas outages in the community and suggested posting information on the City’s website about resources for those affected by the outages. Additionally, she expressed interest in raising funds for the Veterans Banner Program and the Women’s Suffrage Mural.

Vice Mayor Mendoza mentioned she would be placing an item on the agenda regarding a Veteran’s Banner Program Ad Hoc committee and suggested that Councilmember Garcia serve on the committee with her. She also reminded Councilmembers to contribute, if interested, towards transportation to attend the Inspirarte Latino show on December 15, 2024 in Inglewood, California, where the Senior Music Class was invited to perform and noted the event would highlight music instructor Violeta Quintero, who was honored for her contributions in empowering students to achieve their dreams as musicians.

ADJOURNMENT (10:20 p.m.)

Vice Mayor Mendoza adjourned the meeting to the special meeting of December 9, 2024.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the December 2, 2024, Regular meeting and approved by the San Fernando City Council at the meeting of February 3, 2025.

Julia Fritz, CMC
City Clerk