

# **SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

**APRIL 5, 2004 – 6:00 P.M.**

\*\*\*THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CITY COUNCIL. AUDIO CASSETTE TAPES OF THE ACTUAL MEETING ARE AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE\*\*\*

### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor José Hernández, Ph.D., called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

The following persons were recorded as present:

#### **PRESENT:**

Council: Mayor José Hernández, Ph.D., Mayor Pro Tem De La Torre, Councilmembers Nury Martinez, Steven Veres, and Julie Ruelas

City Treasurer: Elvira Orozco

Staff: José E. Pulido, City Administrator; Michael Estrada, City Attorney; and, Elena G. Chávez, City Clerk

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Students from St. Ferdinand School led the pledge.

### **INVOCATION**

Mayor Hernández called for a moment of silent prayer.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **C) FAIR HOUSING MONTH – APRIL**

Mayor Pro Tem De La Torre presented the certificate to Fair Housing Council representatives Dianna Bruno and Dick Cooper.

#### **B) RECOGNITION – JESS MARGARITO**

Mayor Hernández and Councilmembers presented a plaque to Mr. Margarito (former Mayor and Councilmember).

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- D) **CESAR E. CHÁVEZ ART AND ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS**  
City Councilmembers and César Chávez Committee Members presented certificates to local school children.
- A) **RECOGNITION – DAVID JIMENEZ**  
Mayor Hernández presented Mr. Jimenez with a certificate of appreciation.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

Eugene Hernández, 412 N. Lazard St., thanked Mayor Hernandez for honoring Mr. Margarito and said that Mr. Margarito has always been a man of courage for embracing causes that were not popular.

John Brooks, 13977 Hubbard St., said that he is the great grandson of Geronimo Lopez, is concerned about the possible demolition of the house at 1311 Pico St., and asked if we could find a place for it within the City.

Ed Banuelos, Wells Fargo representative, said he heard that certain allegations were made at a prior Council meeting regarding the bank, wanted to clear up any confusion, and mentioned numerous contributions that the bank has made to the community.

Glen Becerra, So. California Edison, thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers for giving their time and hopes that that Maribel De La Torre will be allowed the opportunity to lead as Mayor.

Richard Arroyo, Historical Commissioner, is concerned that the house at 1311 Pico St. may be demolished and presented Councilmembers with documentation of historical and cultural findings regarding the house.

Albert Gerardo, 211 Orange Grove Ave., said that they have come to Council numerous times asking for help regarding the parking situation on Orange Grove. He presented the Council with pictures and a signed petition from neighborhood residents regarding the problem.

Marisela Torres, 722 S. Brand Blvd., said that it was important to maintain and preserve the City's history and asked that Council consider the new information regarding the house at 1311 Pico St.

Joe Ruelas, 1161 Harding Ave., is glad to see that City Treasurer Elvira Orozco is seated with the rest of staff. He said that statements made (at a prior meeting) regarding Wells Fargo were

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made by a credible Councilmember and does not think that it is appropriate for representatives from corporations/businesses to endorse Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem at our Council meetings.

Emilio De La Cruz, 219 Orange Grove Ave., said that he canvassed Orange Grove residents and got some history regarding parking issues and the past Parking Permit Program and suggested that next time, the parking permits be serialized.

Corina Alarcon said that Maribel De La Torre has much enthusiasm for the betterment of the community and would love to see her as our next Mayor.

Richard Cooper, 17342 Califa St., Encino, Fair Housing Council Board Member and Community Relations Manager for Telesis Credit Union, said that they have been working very hard to become a part of the City and he endorsed Maribel De La Torre as the next Mayor.

Kerry Baker, 22331 Covello, Canoga Park, President of North San Fernando Valley Rotary Club, talked about their community participation, said that Maribel De La Torre has done a wonderful job as their representative, and commended Mayor Hernández and Councilmembers for their work.

Manny Godoy, 551 Griswold Ave., Historical Commissioner, asked that Council consider referring the 1311 Pico St. house matter to the Historical Commission to give them the opportunity to investigate options.

Frank Muniz, 700 N. Huntington St., thanked Mayor Hernández for his leadership and dedication and said he believes that Maribel de La Torre is well qualified to continue the leadership.

Rudy Vasquez, 777 N. Workman St., said that he is proud of the City Council and the direction that the City is moving. He stated that he is a teacher at San Fernando Middle School and that Maribel De La Torre is very involved with them and qualified to become the next Mayor.

Hector Martinez, 614 N. Meyer St., said that it was sad to see La Mexicana Market (family business since 1927) demolished but is happy that the City is moving forward with senior housing. He said that he is proud to call Maribel De La Torre his friend and wishes all Councilmembers well.

Xavier Flores, 38644 E. 15<sup>th</sup> St., Palmdale, is supportive of the comments by a Councilmember at a prior meeting regarding Wells Fargo and talked about a recent newspaper article that addressed practices by the bank.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilmember Ruelas pulled all items for further discussion.

**Items Removed for Further Discussion:**

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF:
  - A) MARCH 9, 2004 – SPECIAL MEETING
  - B) MARCH 15, 2004 – REGULAR MEETING
  - C) MARCH 22, 2004 – SPECIAL MEETING
  
- 1B) Councilmember Ruelas suggested adding “Families” to page 5 (under General Council Comments).
  
- 1C) Councilmember Ruelas suggested adding to page 2 (after the first paragraph), “The City Treasurer requested that the Deputy Treasurer be included in upcoming MAP meetings to represent the Treasurer’s Department.”

Motion by Councilmember Ruelas, seconded by Mayor Hernández, to approve the above minutes with corrections. The motion carried unanimously.

- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 04-041

Councilmember Ruelas asked to approve the Warrant Register with the exception of one item (page 22) regarding lodging in Washington, D.C. She requested to remove the item at this time as she does not believe this was City business.

Mayor Pro Tem De La Torre reported that she had been appointed to a federal advisory board on the National Urban Forestry Council (representing all cities in the United States) and went to Washington, D.C. She said that money will be reimbursed by the federal government.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor Hernández, to approve the Warrant Register, including the item that was pulled by Councilmember Ruelas.

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Hernández, De La Torre, Veres – 3  
NOES: Ruelas, Martinez - 2

- 3) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS AT A DISCOUNT

In response to Councilmember Ruelas’ question regarding the Pavement Management Fund, Finance Director Lorena Quijano, stated that the current balance is approximately \$900,000, the City has paid out \$256,000, but will receive about \$350,000 worth (in terms of CDBG monies).

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Motion by Councilmember Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Administrator to execute agreements for the City of San Fernando to acquire supplemental CDBG funding allocations from the City of La Habra Heights at a discount using funds from the General Fund, to be reimbursed from the Pavement Management Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

4) **AWARD OF DESIGN SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE NORTH MACLAY AVENUE PEDESTRIAN STREETScape**

In response to Councilmember Ruelas' question, Public Works Director Edwin Galvez stated that when requesting proposals for professional services, the City is not obligated to accept the lowest proposal. Staff was disappointed with the other firms' levels of effort and understanding of the Specific Plan, is confident that Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc can produce the best design, and staff was able to negotiate the cost down.

Motion by Councilmember Ruelas, seconded by Mayor Hernández to award the Architectural Services Design Contract to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$133,330; and authorize the Mayor to sign the Contract upon receipt of insurance endorsements and approval by the City Attorney. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

5) **CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION**

City Clerk Chávez opened nominations for the position of Mayor.

Mayor Hernandez nominated Maribel De La Torre; the motion was seconded by Councilmember Veres. The vote was unanimous.

City Clerk Chávez called for nominations for the position of Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Hernandez nominated Julie Ruelas; the motion was seconded by Mayor De La Torre. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor De La Torre and Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas thanked the City Council, staff, families and the community for their support and are looking forward to the next year.

**CITY COUNCIL ITEMS**

6) **NEW DRIVER'S LICENSE LEGISLATION – SENATE BILL 1160**

Councilmember Hernández reported that he received a letter from State Senator Gilbert A. Cedillo requesting that Council support SB 1160. Under SB 1160, every California driver will

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be able to apply for a driver's license regardless of his/her immigration status by showing proof of residence, proof of identity and by providing either a Social Security number or taxpayer's ID number.

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to send a letter to the Governor, legislative leaders, and to Senator Cedillo in support of SB 1160. The motion carried unanimously.

7) **ALTERNATIVES TO DEMOLISHING THE HOME AT 1311 PICO STREET**

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, and the Friends of the Lopez Adobe, discovered that this home was once owned by the descendants of Geronimo and Catalina Lopez. She suggested that the house be moved to another site in the City and perhaps use it as a museum. She'd like to get Council consensus to preserve the house and perhaps refer to this to the Historical Commission for their recommendation.

Councilmember Veres suggested that the Historical Commission work with staff on various scenarios, including cost estimates, and provide the City Council with general ideas for its potential use.

In response to Councilmembers' questions, Mr. Deibel said that staff could have the Historic Preservation Plan consultants work with us on alternatives.

Mayor De La Torre also suggested that staff work with the Historical Commission and come up with best use scenarios; costs associated with the preservation of the building, and provide Council with guidance.

By common consent, Councilmember agreed to direct staff to work with the Historical Commission and research various alternatives with cost estimates.

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Martinez: 1) thanked Councilmember Hernández for his leadership and commitment to the City; 2) requested that the meeting adjourn in the memory of May Kawelo Niblett ; and 3) congratulated Mayor De La Torre and Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas and said that she is looking forward to working with them.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas: 1) thanked Councilmember Hernández for his leadership and a fulfilling first year; 2) is looking forward to a good year with the new Mayor; 3) asked that staff keep Councilmembers informed of Virginia Schoen's condition (she is still in the hospital); 4) requested that the approval of the Children Youth and Families Advisory Committee members be agendaized for the next meeting; and 5) requested that the Orange Grove residents concerns regarding neighborhood parking be agendaized for the next meeting.

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Councilmember Hernandez: 1) congratulated and thanked Mayor De La Torre and wished her a good year; 2) thanked Councilmembers for their support, cooperation and courtesy; and 3) requested that the meeting adjourn in memory of two long-time residents Louis Guiza and Juan Casillas.

Councilmember Veres: 1) looks forward to continued cooperation and positive progress, said that Councilmember Hernández has done a wonderful job as Mayor and expects that Mayor De La Torre will do a great job also; and 2) invited everyone to attend the workshop on April 7, 2004, regarding Pacoima Wash Greenway Project.

Mayor De La Torre thanked everybody and reminded everyone of the Easter Egg Hunt at Las Palmas Park on April 10, 2004.

**STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Pulido thanked Councilmember Hernández for his leadership and mentorship. He welcomed the new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem and said that staff is looking forward to working with them.

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (8:57 P.M.)**

Motion by Mayor De La Torre, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to recess to the following Closed Session, as announced by the City Attorney, thereafter to adjourn in memory of May Kawelo Niblett, Louis Guiza and Juan Casillas. The motion carried unanimously.

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR, G.C. 54957.6

City Negotiator: City Administrator José E. Pulido  
Employee Organization: San Fernando Police Officers' Association

No reportable action.