

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

AUGUST 2, 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 Maribel De La Torre called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT:

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

City Treasurer: Elvira Orozco

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor De La Torre led the pledge.

INVOCATION

Mayor De La Torre called for a moment of silence.

PRESENTATIONS

- A) PRESENTATION BY PASADENA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
(To be rescheduled.)
- B) RECOGNITION – DAVID RODRIGUEZ
Mayor Pro Tem Julie Ruelas thanked Mr. Rodriguez for serving as a Recreation & Community Services Commissioner and is proud that he is continuing his studies.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Councilmembers were provided with a copy of a written statement from Beverly Di Tomaso, 718 Meyer St., in support of the Old Fire Station becoming the City's museum/cultural center location. She stated that there is interest, excitement and pledges to move forward with the project.

Manuel Godoy, 551 Griswold Ave., Historical Commissioner, said that another alternative regarding the 1311 Pico house is to move it to Recreation Park. He welcomed John Brooks to the Historical Commission.

Lupe Gomez, Aszkenazy Development, requested permission to allow archival photos and images from the Lopez Adobe to be incorporated into the banners that will be installed as part of the San Fernando Paseo Project.

By consensus, staff was directed to prepare the necessary agreement for consideration by City Council.

Dee Akemon, 1072 Macneil St., talked about the Old Fire Station property and hopes that it will make some money for the City.

Ray Groff, 317 Alexander St., said that "illegals" plague on Americans' quality of life by creating numerous problems.

Richard Arroyo, Historical Commissioner, said that Commissioners provide options to Council and all considerations should follow due process. He agreed with Mr. Godoy regarding moving the Pico St. house to Recreation Park.

Xavier Flores, 38640 15th St. E, Palmdale, reported that developing the cultural arts center and historical museum at the Old Fire Station took a lot of time and energy and Item #10 takes away from the process and decisions that have already been made.

John Brooks said that it is important that the 1311 Pico house be preserved and that the City maintain control of the Old Fire Station and allow the use as a museum.

Joe Ruelas, 1161 Harding Ave., said that museums give cities a historical and cultural base and waiting a few months to get ours going is not that long.

Barbara Swanson, long-time City resident, said that the City is the oldest in the Valley and supports a museum here and saving the Pico St. house.

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Cindy Montañez, 608 Hollister St., spoke in favor of Sabor De Nuestra Tierra Bookstore and urged Councilmembers to open their hearts and welcome them to use the Old Fire Station.

Ed Bañuelos, 22944 Keswick Ave., West Hills, said that he was here on behalf of Fidelity & Trust Mortgage and hopes we can move forward with community clean-up and he extended an invitation to Councilmembers to contact him whenever necessary.

Joyce Gaynor, president of the San Fernando Women's Club, spoke in favor of the museum and cultural arts center and reported that they would like to help run it as well as provide financial assistance.

Sara Durazo, 1712 Fourth St., said that she has worked with L.A. City schools for over 37 years and said that the cultural center/museum would be an asset to the City and our children.

Elvira Orozco, 417 Newton St., member of the Friends of the Lopez Adobe and San Fernando Women's Club, said that both organizations are interested in supporting the Old Fire Station as a museum and cultural arts center. They would also like to see the 1311 Pico St. house preserved and relocated and are committed to raising funds to help out.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor De La Torre removed Item #5, and Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas removed Items #1 and #2 for further discussion. Motion by Mayor De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to approve the remainder of the Consent Calendar items. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3) FOUR-WAY STOPS AT THE INTERSECTION OF CHATSWORTH DRIVE AND HOLLISTER STREET AND THE INTERSECTION OF MACLAY AVENUE AND MOTT STREET
- 4) PARKING METERS
- 6) RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING NPDES/STREET SWEEPING FEE

Items Removed for Further Discussion:

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2004

Regarding Page 3 (after the third statement) Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas would like to add: "Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas asked for clarification regarding an approximate \$11,000 housing payment. Community Development Director Paul Deibel agreed to research this matter."

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Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Mayor De La Torre, to approve the minutes with the added change. The motion carried unanimously.

2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 04-081

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas inquired about the \$5,200 payment to M&M Landscape for flower removal on Brand Blvd. She believes that the price is rather high and asked if staff would research and see if this could get done at a lower rate.

Public Works Director Edwin Galvez reported that in the past, staff has bid the work out and M&M Landscape is the best price.

After some discussion, staff was directed to look research perennial plants and report back with options to Council before Spring when the next payment is due (staff may include the Tree Commission's input).

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Mayor De La Torre, to approve Warrant Register 04-081. The motion carried unanimously.

5) RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO GRANT A PIPELINE FRANCHISE TO PACIFIC PIPELINE SYSTEMS LLC TO OPERATE THE LINE 63-PIPELINE SYSTEM

Mayor De La Torre inquired about the annual default payment made to the City and wondered whether any retro pay is due for the years that it had been increased.

Mr. Galvez said that staff would research.

Motion by Mayor De La Torre, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to approve a Resolution of Intention to Grant a Pipeline Franchise to Pacific Pipeline Systems LLC and set a Public Hearing date to introduce Ordinance Granting the Oil Pipeline Franchise. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

7) RESOLUTION FIXING A PROPERTY TAX RATE AND LEVYING TAXES FOR THE CITY'S OBLIGATION TO THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PERS) FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2004-2005

Finance Director Lorena Quijano presented the staff report.

Motion by Mayor De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to approve a Resolution establishing the amount necessary to be raised by taxation for the City's annual payment to PERS and fixing the property tax rate. The motion carried unanimously.

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8) FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2004-2005 COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBO)
FUNDING REQUESTS

Councilmember Hernández announced his CBO allocations (Attachment “A”).

Motion by Mayor De La Torre, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to approve the allocations made by Councilmember Hernández, along with changes made by Mayor De La Torre and Councilmember Veres to their allocations. The motion carried unanimously.

9) RELOCATION ALTERNATIVES FOR THE HOUSE AT 1311 PICO STREET

Community Development Director Paul Deibel presented the staff report.

In response to questions from Councilmembers, Director of Recreation and Community Services Dan LaBrado reported that moving the house to Recreation Park would adversely impact the open space.

In response to Councilmember Veres’ regarding moving the house to Heritage Park, Assistant to the City Administrator Ron Ruiz said that could potentially jeopardize the pending grant application.

In response to a question from Councilmember Veres, Associate Planner Fred Ramirez stated the house merits preservation based on the architectural style of the building and the connection of past residents to the early settlement of the City and region.

Mayor De La Torre said that she would like to see the building restored but doesn’t think it has to be the burden of the City to do so. She said that we need to seek other options and see what is available (including funding sources) and she does not want to jeopardize any pending grant applications.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, that the 1311 Pico Street house be relocated to San Fernando Recreation Park and that the staff work with the Friends of the Lopez Adobe to apply for grants and raise funds for its refurbishment.

In response to Councilmember Veres’ question, Mr. Pulido explained that another alternative (not listed on the staff report) is to place the house at the Lopez Adobe site.

In response to Atty. Estrada’s question, Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas clarified her motion to include raising funds for its refurbishment *and relocation*.

Councilmember Martinez asked if the Recreation and Community Service Commissioners and Mr. LaBrado could be involved and provide input since she was very concerned about the feasibility and how it would impact the park.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas accepted Councilmember Martinez’ suggestion.

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Councilmember Veres expressed concern regarding the timing, how this would impact the senior housing project and what will happen if the money is not raised in time (Mr. Ruiz said there was less than 30 days to get the necessary funds).

The motion was restated by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, that the house on 1311 Pico be relocated to San Fernando Recreation Park and that the staff work with the Friends of the Lopez Adobe to apply for grants and to raise funds for its refurbishment and relocation. Recreation & Community Services Commission and Director Dan LaBrado to be involved in the process. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Councilmember Veres motioned to have two concurrent activities: 1) Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas move forward with fundraising efforts; and 2) staff to explore other alternatives and cost scenarios. He suggested a report back to the City Council by 30 days. The motion was seconded by Mayor De La Torre, but failed with the following vote.

AYES: De La Torre, Veres – 2
NOES: Hernández, Ruelas – 2
ABSTAIN: Martinez – 1

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

10) **SABOR BOOKS AND PARENT PIONEERS INTERIM USE OF THE OLD FIRE STATION**

Councilmember Veres gave background on this item and he motioned that staff negotiate with Sabor Books and Parent Pioneers for a temporary one-year lease agreement as the City finalizes its plans for the Old Fire Station. During that lease, staff will continue to work with them to find a permanent location in the City. The motion was seconded by Mayor De La Torre.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas said that she could not support the proposal because it would interfere with the timeline of preparing the facility for the museum.

Councilmember Martinez said that she sympathizes with the Parent Pioneers but that this had previously been voted on (the facility has been designated as a historical museum and cultural arts center) and bringing this back to Council adds more confusion and is unfair to all parties involved.

The above motion failed with the following vote:

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

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11) SHOP IN SAN FERNANDO FLYER

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas requested that the City Council amend the motion that was previously adopted regarding the distribution of the Shop in San Fernando Flyer and said that there were several reasons which were outlined in her memo. The Flyer should be included in water bills, the cost would be minimal and could potentially generate much sales tax.

In response to questions from Councilmembers, Finance Director Lorena Quijano said that another insert in the water bill could cost approximately \$1,100.

Mayor De La Torre does not believe that the City should be underwriting the cost of marketing City businesses and this money could be used for other City services.

In response to questions from Councilmembers, Mr. Pulido said that this was not budgeted for in Administration and is concerned that something else would have to be done away with.

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, that Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas work with the Downtown Mall Association and other business owners within the City to assist them in marketing themselves and that Administration department cover the cost of printing and mailing the first Shop in San Fernando Flyer.

In response to Councilmember Veres suggesting that the Downtown Mall Association be asked to pay the cost, Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas stated that this is a first simple step which could help begin generating funds immediately and that the Downtown Mall Association could be approached for bigger projects.

The above motion carried with the following vote:

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

12) APPOINTMENT TO HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Councilmember Hernández introduced John Brooks, his appointment to the Historical Commission.

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to appoint John Brooks to the Historical Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

13) APPOINTMENTS TO THE RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION AND TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY COMMISSION

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Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas said that she would like to appoint Juana Cuiriz to the Recreation & Community Services Commission and Emilio De La Cruz to the Transportation & Safety Commission.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to appoint Juana Cuiriz to the Recreation & Community Services Commission and Emilio De La Cruz to the Transportation & Safety Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

14) PUBLIC WORKS REORGANIZATION – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas said that she was concerned that incorrect information had been provided regarding the educational requirements (the original job specification dated 1991 stated that a degree was required and the new job specification stated that no degree was required). She was also under the impression that this position would be open recruitment and not a reclassification.

In response to questions from Councilmembers, Public Works Director Edwin Galvez reported that the former Administrative Assistant position was changed to the title of Management Analyst. He said that part of the reorganization was to reclassify the Public Works Secretary since the individual was performing duties out of classification. He reported that the new Administrative Assistant position is unrelated to the previous one (only similar in name) and, in retrospect, maybe the titles should have been changed to avoid confusion. He also stated that the salary had been lowered by \$800 per month and if a degree were required, the pay would have to be increased.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas said that she compared both the old and new job specification for the position and many of the duties are similar. The additional duties deal with public relations (a more skilled type of duty) therefore; it did not make sense to lower the degree requirements.

In response to Councilmember Martinez' inquiry, Mr. Galvez stated that when he was previously asked if the Administrative Assistant position required a degree, his reply was based on the information provided to him which showed that no degree was required.

Councilmember Hernández suggested that Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas and Mr. Galvez get together to address her concerns and questions.

Mayor De La Torre said that department Directors are not being allowed to do their job and believes that it is important to open lines of communication with staff members and not be accusatory.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas motioned that a degree be required for the Administrative Assistant position (per the 1991 job specification) and give the current employee two years to complete that requirement.

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Atty. Estrada said that the City Council could establish criteria as it is now and any subsequent filling of that position could require a college degree, but to keep in mind that it may involve an increase in salary.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas stated that at this time (under the circumstances), she would withdraw the motion and will meet with Mr. Galvez to get clarification regarding her concerns.

15) **FORMATION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE REGARDING PROPOSED MEDICAL OFFICE**

Councilmember Martinez gave background information.

Mr. Pulido reported that this would be the first step in identifying potential sites in San Fernando or the Northeast Valley and alternatives/options would be researched.

Motion by Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas to form an Ad Hoc Committee (consisting of Martinez and Hernández) regarding a proposed medical office by Kaiser Permanente. The motion carried unanimously.

In response to Councilmember Veres' concern, Councilmember Martinez said that Councilmembers would be updated on the progress.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Veres: 1) hopes we continue heading in a positive direction, yet be responsible on how City funds are spent; and 2) requested that staff enter into discussions with Fidelity Trust & Mortgage regarding their clean-up days offer.

By consensus, Council agreed to move forward and have staff work with Fidelity Trust & Mortgage on creating a clean-up days program.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas again welcomed Emilio De La Cruz, Juana Cuiriz, and John Brooks to City Commissions. She thanked David Rodriguez for his service to the City.

Councilmember Hernández also welcomed the new Commissioners.

Councilmember Martinez: 1) thanked David Rodriguez for his commitment to the City and wished him well; 2) welcomed Emilio De La Cruz and Juana Cuiriz; and 3) asked that the meeting adjourn in memory of Mari Gomez.

Mayor De La Torre suggested that staff be allowed to provide input and recommendations before decisions are made and said that, at times, staff's ability is questioned, but she personally believes they're doing an awesome job.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

None.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (9:44 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 Mari Gomez. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (G.C. 54957)

Title: Chief of Police

No reportable action.