

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

**ADJOURNED MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2004 – 4:00 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 4:14 p.m.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT:

Council: Mayor Maribel De La Torre, Mayor Pro Tem Julie Ruelas, Councilmembers Steven Veres, Nury Martinez, 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

None

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

Elvira Orozco, 417 Newton St., Friends of the Lopez Adobe, urged Councilmembers to approve the lease regarding the Old Fire Station as it was recommended by the Cultural Arts and Recreation & Community Services Commissions.

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Barbara Swanson, 647 Harps St., Friends of the Lopez Adobe, reported that they have been donating time and money for the museum and said that it will be a great benefit to the City.

Madeline Gisel, 11140 White Oak Ave., Granada Hills, Vice President of the San Fernando Valley Historical Society, said they are in favor of the museum and would like to supply historical documents to be used in the museum.

Joyce Gaynor, President of the San Fernando Valley Women's Club, reported that the club is unanimously in favor of supporting the museum and they are also in a financial position to support the project.

Joe Ruelas, 1161 Harding Ave., encouraged Councilmembers to approve the MOU and Lease Agreement, talked about recent negative attacks in The Sun newspaper, and said that he supports Chief Anthony Alba.

Ray Groff, 327 No. Alexander St., said that there are many people (illegal immigrants) coming to our country too fast.

Richard Arroyo, Historical Commissioner, asked that the City Council finalize and approve the changes to the Old Fire Station MOU and Lease Agreement so that we can move forward with the project.

Beverly DiTomaso, 718 Meyer St., member of the Friends of the Lopez Adobe and the San Fernando Business and Professional Women, said that the museum will bring much to the education of the school children and residents of the City.

NEW BUSINESS

1) OLD FIRE STATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) AND LEASE AGREEMENT

Director of Recreation & Community Services Dan LaBrado presented the staff report. He reported that two commissions were involved in the development of this proposal and the Agreement is capitalizing on resources that are beneficial to the City and the development of that site.

Discussion ensued and Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas requested a point of order and asked that Council refrain from making rude and derogatory remarks.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to censure Councilmember Veres, because she felt he was violating the code of conduct.

Atty. Estrada stated that a motion can be made to close discussion, but a motion to censure would be something that should be agendized.

Discussion ensued regarding the Memorandum of Understanding, grounds for termination, financial statements, and reporting requirements.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to approve the base Agreement with the recommendations that have been set forth by the Friends of the Lopez Adobe including the deletion of “B” in the MOU and to approve the updated version of Exhibit B.

The above motion carried with the following vote:

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

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to immediately notify the current tenant of the Old Fire Station that the lease will terminate and that they must vacate the building within 90 days. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Ruelas, Martinez, Hernández – 3
NOES: De La Torre – 1
ABSTAIN: Veres - 1

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

2) ORDINANCE REGARDING CAMPAIGN REFORM – LIMITS ON CONTRIBUTIONS

Councilmember Martinez talked about the ordinance and why she placed this item on the agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding the definitions of committees, contribution limits, cash and in-kind contributions, independent expenditures, penalties (would be subject to the Municipal Code standard penalties) and effective the date of the ordinance.

Motion by Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to introduce for first reading, in title only, and waive further reading of “An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando Adding Article 7, Relating to Campaign Reform, of Chapter 2 of the San Fernando City Code.”, including changes in 2-908(b), the dollar limits that currently read, \$1,000, \$1,000, and \$10,000 to be changed to \$500, \$500, and \$5,000 and that in 2-909(a), add language to make it clear that the \$500 limit applies to cash or in-kind contributions.

Councilmember Martinez accepted Councilmember Veres’ amendment that new (separate) accounts be required for each election.

The above motion, and amendment, carried unanimously.

3) **ORDINANCE REGARDING LAWN SIGN CONTROL ISSUES**

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas said would like to see a rule or ordinance whereby individuals cannot post (or remove) signs without permission of the resident (and a \$500 penalty if violated). She suggested that residents be informed of their rights (possibly through the water bill notice).

Discussion ensued regarding the authorization of the owner/occupant, enforcement, and violations, etc.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to introduce for first reading, in title only, and waive further reading of “An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando Adding Section 6-3 (Posting and Removal on Private Property) and Section 6-4 (Penalty For Violation) of Article I (in General) of Chapter 6 (Advertising) of the San Fernando City Code” and including in section 3 that this ordinance shall be enforced by the San Fernando Police Department on a complaint basis.

The above motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Ruelas, Hernández, Martinez – 3
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: De La Torre, Veres - 2

4) **USE OF FIRST STREET PROPERTY TO ASSIST IN PERMANENT RELOCATION OF HORSES FROM EIGHTH STREET**

Councilmember Veres reported that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is in process of purchasing the property and they hope to complete the transaction within the next month. He suggested that the City Attorney and City Administrator work with Andres Torres to help facilitate the relocation of the horses.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to instruct staff to negotiate with Andres Torres and, if necessary, enter into a license agreement, to use the City property on First St. (between First and Fourth St.), to temporarily house the horses. The motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Martinez: 1) said it was a great parade; and 2) wished everyone a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Councilmember Hernández: 1) enjoyed the parade and thanked staff and everyone involved; 2) wished audience members, staff, and City Councilmembers a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas: 1) wished everyone happy holidays; 2) asked that the meeting adjourn in memory of long-time resident, Dr. Darter (optometrist); 3) asked about enforcing no illegal dumping at the Salvation Army; and 4) said she enjoyed the parade.

Councilmember Veres: 1) wished everyone happy holidays; and 2) agreed that the illegal dumping was problematic

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Mr. Pulido wished everyone happy holidays. Regarding a statement made earlier by a resident, he assured Councilmembers that staff is not fueling any of those issues. He stated that public comments were made and hopes that people don't misconstrue that for fact.

CLOSED SESSION

- A) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (G.C. 54957)
Title: City Administrator

By consensus, this item was rescheduled to January 3, 2005.

ADJOURNMENT (6:30 pm)

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to adjourn the meeting in memory of Dr. Darter. The motion carried unanimously.