

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**JANUARY 20, 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 6:18 p.m.

The following persons were recorded as present:

**PRESENT:**

Council: Mayor José Hernández, Ph.D., Mayor Pro Tem Maribel De La Torre, and 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**

Mr. Sev Aszkenazy led the pledge.

**INVOCATION**

Mayor Hernández called for a moment of silent prayer.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

Angel Granados, 1960 Seventh St., Transportation & Safety Commissioner, stated that the Commission has many good ideas on addressing traffic problems, but their main concern is that attention be given first to safety issues.

Emilio De La Cruz, 219 Orange Grove Ave., talked about the traffic and parking problems on his street and that residents are considering bringing forth a petition to address these items.

John Zubia, 203 Orange Grove Ave., mentioned parking problems and asked why the two-hour parking signs were removed.

Alvaro Carlos, 2024 Seventh St., complained about the speeding traffic on his street and that exiting his driveway is dangerous.

Maria Garcia, 2040 Seventh St., (also representing 2037 Seventh St., Maria Gonzales), said that residents safety concerns should be addressed before the Council deals with other issues.

Catherine Diaz, 316 Orange Grove Ave., reported that employees from the manufacturing company on First St. are inconsiderate by taking residents' parking spaces and blocking driveways.

Ralph Perez, 214 Orange Grove Ave., expressed concern about the speeding traffic (especially between Fourth and Second Streets) and said that there have been many close calls regarding accidents.

Dee Akemon, 1072 N. Macneil St., Transportation & Safety Commissioner, said that she is surprised to find out that many residents have similar problems that she has been experiencing.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember Ruelas, to approve the Consent Calendar items. The motion carried unanimously.

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF:
  - a) DECEMBER 29, 2003 – SPECIAL MEETING
  - b) JANUARY 5, 2004 – REGULAR MEETING
- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 04-012
- 3) PROPOSED SECOND DWELLING UNIT ORDINANCE

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- 4) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR THE POLICE OFFICE SPECIALIST JOB SPECIFICATION
- 5) SENIOR HOUSING PROJECT

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Hernández reconvened the Redevelopment Agency meeting (6:58 p.m.) in order to proceed with a joint Public Hearing.

- 6) PROPOSED MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT 1321 FIRST STREET

Community Development Director Paul Deibel presented the staff report and Associate Planner Fred Ramirez provided a brief overview with a slide presentation.

Mayor Pro Tem De La Torre said that it is a great design and likes the brighter colors.

Mayor Hernández said that this will be a nice addition to the neighborhood and is glad that the developer is providing additional parking.

Mayor Hernandez opened the Public Hearing and asked for any comments in favor of or against the project.

There being no further comments, Mayor Hernandez closed the public portion of the hearing.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor Hernández, to adopt a joint Resolution adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration of environmental impact and approving: site plan for this project in Redevelopment Project Area No. 3; specific plan; zone map amendment; general plan map amendment; and tentative tract map, including the closure of portions of Alexander St. and Harps St. to through vehicle traffic and the modification of First St. to accommodate diagonal parking stalls. The motion carried unanimously.

**CITY COUNCIL ITEMS** (THIS ITEM MOVED UP)

Mayor Pro Tem De La Torre asked if this item could be discussed next and Mayor Hernandez agreed.

- 11) APPOINTMENT TO HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Mayor Pro Tem De La Torre introduced her appointment to the Historical Commission, Manuel Godoy, and he thanked her and said a few words.

**PUBLIC HEARING** (CONTINUED)

7) PROPOSED AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUBDIVISION AT 705 SEVENTH STREET

Mr. Deibel requested that the Public Hearing be opened and continued to the next meeting since discussions are continuing with the applicant.

Mayor Hernandez opened the Public Hearing and asked for any comments in favor of or against the project.

There being no comments, Mayor Hernandez continued this item to the following regularly scheduled meeting of February 2, 2004.

**NEW BUSINESS**

8) ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR REDEVELOPMENT PLANS PROJECT AREAS NO. 1, NO. 2, NO. 3, AND NO. 4 TO EXTEND CERTAIN TIME LIMITS

Motion by Mayor Hernández, seconded by Councilmember Veres, to introduce, by title only, and waive further reading of “An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando Amending the Redevelopment Plans to Extend Time Limits for Redevelopment Project Areas No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4.” The motion carried unanimously.

9) CITYWIDE TRAFFIC CALMING STUDY AND MASTER PLAN

Mr. Galvez presented the staff report and introduced Tom Brohard (Engineering Resources) who gave an overview of the study.

In response to Councilmember Martinez’s concern, Mr. Galvez stated that relocating bus routes would move problems elsewhere, but staff has been in communication with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and follow up data has shown that the buses have slowed down.

Councilmember Ruelas asked if anything had been considered for Coronel St. to protect the children when crossing from St. Ferdinand Church. She also asked if staff could take another look at Second St. regarding speeding traffic.

Mayor Pro Tem De La Torre expressed disappointment that Orange Grove Ave. and Harding Ave. were not included as “hot spots” and hopes that staff can look at those and make certain they become a priority.

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Mr. Brohard stated that Orange Grove Ave. and Second St. were not evaluated because those were brought to his attention after the October meeting with the Commission, but it would be appropriate to make additional measurements since there are continuing requests.

Councilmember Veres thanked staff for their hard work and hoped that, by the end of the week, a study can be done on Orange Grove Ave. He suggested that the criteria be modified to require more than one-half of residents petitioning for these versus staff's recommendation of two-thirds.

In response to Councilmembers concerns, Mr. Galvez stated that the Resolution to be adopted would approve the study along with the criteria developed and if new "hot spot" locations arise, staff would be able to gather data and remeasure those areas.

In response to Councilmember Martinez's concern, Mr. Galvez stated that at this time, staff's focus is on traffic calming measures. The long-range plan is to eventually include educational and enforcement components.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem De La Torre, seconded by, Mayor Hernández, to approve a Resolution adopting the Citywide Traffic Calming Study and Master Plan including new warrants for stop signs, speed humps, speed tables, bow-outs, and other devices that control traffic speeds and congestion; and authorize Phase I Improvements identified in the Citywide Traffic Calming Master Plan (with the condition that a study be done on Orange Grove Ave. from First to Eighth Streets and, if deemed necessary, improvements to Orange Grove Ave. be added to Phase I); and introduce by title only, and waive further reading of "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando Amending Section 90-946, Stop Intersections, of the City Municipal Code Providing for Vehicular Stops for Entrances of Certain Identified Intersections." (minor corrections made to Sections 3 and 4c of the Ordinance were noted). The motion carried unanimously.

**CITY COUNCIL ITEMS**

10) LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT – MEASURE R SCHOOL BOND

Mayor Hernández reported that Councilmembers received a letter from the School Board President and Superintendent requesting support of this measure which would help the school district build more schools.

Motion by Mayor Hernández, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to send a letter of support. The motion carried unanimously.

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

In response to Councilmember Martinez's concern regarding the fatal accident that occurred this weekend involving a youth, Chief Alba reported that the Police Department will begin enforcing those types of violations (distracted motorists) and will educate the public as well.

Councilmember Ruelas: 1) thanked residents for taking time to make Councilmembers aware of problems in their neighborhoods; 2) thanked Department Heads and staff for their professionalism and courtesy in dealing with the public and Councilmembers; 3) requested that the meeting adjourn in the memory of the young man that died in the traffic accident; and 4) hopes that staff and the community can keep in mind the values of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mayor Pro Tem De La Torre is proud and excited that City Commissioners are very much involved in the community.

Councilmember Veres: 1) said that he was proud of the work staff members did in submitting the Heritage Park application and reported that other individuals and agencies have partnered with the City; and 2) suggested that, in the future, there be one account for depositing funds when raising money for projects.

Mayor Hernández said that he previously suggested that certain speeding areas be monitored and he wondered whether that was being done.

**STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Pulido thanked City Councilmembers and staff for support on the traffic calming measures item and is very impressed with Transportation & Safety Commissioners, the City Engineer and the Public Works Director on getting this accomplished.

Ms. Chávez reminded everyone of the upcoming Study Session on January 26, 2004, regarding the Mid-Year Budget Review and Residents' Guide to Services.

**ADJOURNMENT (8:44 P.M.)**

Motion by Mayor Hernandez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem De La Torre, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.