

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MAY 3, 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 6:08 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

Councilmember Veres led the pledge.

INVOCATION

Mayor De La Torre called for a moment of silent prayer.

PRESENTATIONS

- A) GREATER L.A. COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT PRESENTATION
Stephanie Miladin showed a PowerPoint presentation on West Nile Virus Awareness
- B) SAN FERNANDO HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB – GODSPELL PERFORMERS
Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas presented certificates of recognition to the performers and crew members and the audience was shown a short video on the play.

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- C) PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY – MAY 7, 2004
Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas read the proclamation and presented certificates to individuals serving as child care providers.
- D) NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK – MAY 16-22, 2004
The certificate, presented by Mayor De La Torre, was accepted by Public Works employees Edwin Galvez, Bruce Hartwell, and Danny Garcia.
- E) FOSTER CARE MONTH - MAY
This item was moved to the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor De La Torre removed Item #6 and motioned to approve the agenda with the change. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hernández, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Ray Groff, 327 Alexander St., reported that he was given a notice regarding weeds and said what he had on his property were not weeds.

Mayor De La Torre asked that Public Works Director Edwin Galvez meet with Mr. Groff regarding this.

Xavier Flores, 38644 15th St. E Palmdale, representing the Cesar Chávez Commemorative Committee, thanked the Public Works Department for the work they do every year for the Cesar Chávez event.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas pulled Item #1 for further discussion. Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor De La Torre, to approve the remainder of the Consent Calendar items. The motion carried unanimously.

- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 04-051
- 3) NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND PROJECT ACCEPTANCE – WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT AT O'MELVENY STREET, FOX STREET AND KALISHER STREET - PROJECT NO. 7521 - PLAN NO. P-689

Items Removed for Further Discussion:

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2004

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Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas said she recalled that the motion on Item #11 Policy Regarding the Use of City Credit Cards was 3/2 and not unanimous (she spoke with the City Clerk and she had 3/2 in her notes also).

Discussion ensued regarding the motion.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas to approve the minutes after that has been clarified (there was no second).

Atty. Estrada explained that the City Clerk could listen to the tape and adjust the minutes or listen to the tape and report back.

Mr. Pulido said that according to the tape, there was silence when the vote was called and that was interpreted as a unanimous vote.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Veres to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

4) APPOINTMENT OF CITY COUNCIL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Mayor De La Torre asked if Councilmembers had any suggested changes.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas' question, Finance Director Lorena Quijano stated that the Independent Cities Lease Finance Authority meet as needed and that a resolution appointing the new representatives will be brought back for City Council approval.

Mayor De La Torre suggested that Councilmembers report back, quarterly if possible, after they attend these meetings.

Motion by Mayor De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember Hernández to approve the 2004-2005 City Council Liaison Assignments list. The motion carried unanimously.

5) CESAR CHÁVEZ MEMORIAL TRANSIT PLAZA UPDATE

Mayor De La Torre asked for an update regarding the project.

Director of Recreation & Community Services Dan LaBrado said that staff met with the artist, reviewed the four facets of the project and said that the final unveiling date will be August 25, 2004. He reported that the Friends of the Cesar Chávez Project have been tremendously successful in generating over \$100,000 in donations. In response to Councilmembers' concerns, he stated that staff does not anticipate any additional costs to the project due to the delays.

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Councilmembers requested another update the second meeting in July.

6) SISTER CITY – TECHALUTA DE MONTENEGRO JALISCO, MEXICO

This item was removed by Mayor De La Torre under Approval of Agenda.

7) OPPOSE REDUCTION OF REGIONAL MARKET RATES FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas said that many of the child care providers did not attend the Council meeting to accept their certificates earlier because some went to Sacramento to lobby and make sure that their compensation continues to be adequate because the regional market rates are going down.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to approve the draft letter (distributed to Councilmembers) to Governor Schwarzenegger and local legislators in support of the providers and not lower the reimbursement rate in our area. The motion carried unanimously.

8) LAWN SIGNS – PROPOSED REGULATIONS

Before the next election, Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas wants to curb any potential problems regarding lawn signs. She motioned to form an Ad Hoc Committee to explore the possibility of creating an ordinance regarding the use of lawn signs for political campaigns and any restrictions and fines. She would like to be on the Ad Hoc Committee.

Councilmember Veres said that during the last election, enforcement was very difficult and he suggested that the Police Department report back on how this could be handled. He said he was interested in serving on the Ad Hoc Committee.

Councilmember Hernández said that the Ad Hoc Committee should also concentrate on the education of the residents regarding lawn signs.

Councilmember Martinez said that she was concerned about monitoring signs on the public right-of-way and assessing fines to candidates who place them without permission. She also expressed interest in serving on the Committee.

Mayor De La Torre appointed Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas and Councilmember Veres to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee. The above motion, made by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, was seconded by Councilmember Martinez and carried unanimously.

Atty. Estrada was directed to research what other cities have done (including cost recovery and mechanisms to enforce removal of signs) and report the information to the Ad Hoc Committee.

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Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas and Councilmember Veres agreed to meet after the research information is provided.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Martinez: 1) reminded everyone of the Child Care Provider Fair to be held in Pacoima on May 8, 2004; 2) reported that CSU, Northridge alumni would be having a scholarship dinner on May 14, 2004, at Casa Torres restaurant; 3) said the improvements at Pioneer Park look great; and 4) wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

Councilmember Hernández: 1) asked that the recorded message on the Councilmembers' phone line be updated; 2) inquired about the Chevron Station at the corner of Maclay Ave. and Truman St. (Mr. Pulido reported that the property is up for lease and any developments would have to be approved by the Redevelopment Agency); 3) requested that the meeting adjourn in memory of Adriana Urzua-Aguilera and Vincent Avila.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas: 1) requested that the meeting adjourn in memory of former City Treasurer Leona Paine; and 2) thanked Ron Ruiz and Elena Chávez for putting together the certificates and set up of the video clip of the Godspell performance.

Councilmember Veres said that the Arbor Day event went very well and Public Works crews did a wonderful job at the Pacoima Wash event also.

Mayor De La Torre: 1) said that the Public Works Department did a great job on the Arbor Day celebration; 2) reported that she attended a meeting with the seniors and they expressed concern about the repaving of our streets; and 3) mentioned that, recently, there was a Cultural Arts Commission meeting that did not begin on time (even though there was a quorum) and asked that Department Heads be mindful.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. LaBrado reported the City is hosting the San Fernando Criterion Southern California/Nevada State Championships on June 12, 2004.

ADJOURN TO BUDGET STUDY SESSION (7:47 P.M.)

Motion by Mayor De La Torre, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to adjourn in memory of Adriana Urzua-Aguilera, Vincent Avila, and Leona Paine, and adjourn to a Budget Study Session to discuss City Council Strategic Goals and Priorities. The motion carried unanimously.