

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 4, 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 6:56 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**

Mayor De La Torre called for a moment of silence.

**PRESENTATIONS**

A) OATH OF OFFICE – OFFICERS COURTNEY CHIASSON AND SAUL ESQUIVEL

Chief Anthony Alba introduced the officers, gave them the Oath, and they were welcomed by City Councilmembers.

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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

Rusty Feuer, Northridge, she that she read an article in the newspaper regarding San Fernando and political signs and suggested that other cities learn from us.

Celly Adamo, Sprint representative, expressed concern regarding the moratorium on wireless telecommunications facilities because Sprint has an application that is pending.

Ray Groff, 327 N. Alexander St., feels that the City Council has not helped him with his problems (people blocking his driveway and loud vendors) and that his quality of life has been denied.

Beverly Di Tomaso, 718 N. Meyer St., said that she has been concerned about the affects of cellular phone towers ever since she was a Councilmember. She asked that assistance be given to resident Maria Ladas regarding vehicles dripping oil in front of her house.

Maria Ladas, 725 Griswold Ave., complained about vehicles leaking oil in front of her home and asked for help.

Mayor De La Torre directed Community Development Director Paul Deibel and Public Works Director Edwin Galvez to work with Mrs. Ladas.

George Escobar, Reseda, San Fernando Youth Soccer League, asked about permit fees and procedures.

Recreation Supervisor Helen Collins was asked to meet with Mr. Escobar and league representatives.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilmember Martinez removed Item #7 and Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas removed Item #5 for further discussion. Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to approve the remainder of the Consent Calendar items. The motion carried unanimously.

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 16, 2004
- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 04-101

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- 3) ORDINANCE LIMITING PARKING OF DETACHED TRAILER ON PUBLIC STREETS
- 4) ACCEPTANCE OF WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE'S \$20,000 CONTRIBUTION FOR CITY'S NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP DAYS
- 6) RESOLUTIONS APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS UNDER PROPOSITION 40
- 8) SECOND AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) – SWAP MEET PROPERTY

**Items Removed for Further Discussion:**

- 7) REQUEST FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP – FIDELITY & TRUST MORTGAGE: HOMEBUYER FESTIVAL

In response to Councilmember Martinez's question, Ed Banuelos stated that non-profit housing agencies were welcome to participate.

Motion by Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to recommend approval of co-sponsorship of the proposed Homebuyer Festival at Recreation Park on October 30, 2004. The motion carried unanimously.

- 5) REQUEST FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP – SAN FERNANDO HOLIDAY HERITAGE PARADE

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas asked about the parade route and talked about a complaint that was made last year by a resident.

Hector Martinez, Parade Committee Chair, reported that Brand Blvd. was chosen because of its historical significance.

Regarding the complaint by a resident, it was suggested that staff monitor the address and Councilmember Hernández offered to talk to his neighbor.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas to approve co-sponsorship and of the placement of street banners along the parade route. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 9) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE SALARY RANGE SCHEDULE AND PLAN

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Finance Director Lorena Quijano presented the staff report.

Councilmember Martinez said that she is in favor but would like to review increases for part-time employees as well before she takes a position on this item.

Mayor De La Torre agreed that more can be done for part-time employees but reported that currently their salaries are above average, yet Department Heads and mid-management salaries are below the average.

Motion by Mayor De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember Veres, to adopt a Resolution to amend the Salary Range Schedule and Plan to include a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Management employees to be consistent with other regular full-time and certain part-time employees and direct staff to bring back a resolution for part-time employees.

The motion failed with the following vote:

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

Councilmember Hernández requested that staff bring back (as two separate items) COLA increases for part-time employees and for management employees.

At this time (8:05 p.m.), Councilmember Veres excused himself from the meeting.

**CITY COUNCIL ITEMS**

**10) LAWN SIGNS – PROPOSED REGULATIONS**

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas suggested that, before the election, residents be informed about their rights regarding political lawn signs on their properties (i.e., a notice in their water bills).

Discussion ensued and Atty. Estrada suggested that a first step could be public relations/outreach to inform residents of their rights. A second step could be putting together a committee to look at ways to address this issue and develop a comprehensive approach.

Atty. Estrada suggested that the City Council may direct him to bring back an ordinance removing the 60-day limit and further direct him to work with staff regarding regulatory responses and concerns and report back to the City Council.

By consensus, Councilmembers agreed.

**11) VIDEOS/FILMS PROMOTING THE CITY**

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Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, that the City Council approve the finished product (DVD or video) by the San Fernando Technology Team before it is aired or distributed. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Ruelas, Martinez, De La Torre, Hernández – 4

ABSENT: Veres - 1

12) **MODIFICATION OF HISTORIC MATERIALS LOAN AGREEMENT WITH ASZKENAZY DEVELOPMENT, LLC**

Mayor De La Torre reported that there was some confusion as to what was stored at the Lopez Adobe and wanted to address this before it becomes in a bigger issue. She is concerned that items are not categorized and documented, are being removed and not returned right away.

Recreation Supervisor Helen Collins confirmed that not every item is categorized and hopes to move toward itemized documentation as soon as more funding is available.

Atty. Estrada suggested that it may be appropriate for staff work to work with (or refer the matter to) the Historical Commission in order to move forward with developing a procedure toward itemized documentation, tracking items, and determining when items can be loaned.

Mayor De La Torre is not suggesting a modification of the Agreement at this time but believes that the City Council should review agreements before items or material are loaned (or allowed to be copied).

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Martinez is glad that we're moving forward with the Menudo Festival and said that the post card announcing the event looks great.

Councilmember Hernández: 1) reported that Pueblo y Salud will be celebrating their 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 20; 2) said that some local restaurants were not aware of the Menudo Festival (staff will follow up); and 3) mentioned letters given to Councilmembers by residents and is disappointed that the T&S Commission has not responded to some of those issues.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas' question, Public Works Director Edwin Galvez that there is no provision disallowing residents from moving neighbors' trash cans if they are in the public right-of-way (so long as the trash can still be collected).

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas' question regarding her neighbor cutting down a Magnolia tree, Associate Planner Fred Ramirez stated that there isn't anything in our City code that restricts someone from removing a tree on their property.

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Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas: 1) announced there would be a Japanese-American photo exhibit on October 16; 2) thanked Richard Arroyo and all City commissioners for all their hard work; and 3) asked that staff work with Maria Ladas to address her concerns.

Mayor De La Torre: 1) reminded everyone of the 5K Run; 2) asked if the judges were in place for the Menudo Cook-Off.; and 3) said that the Police Department was doing a great job regarding traffic enforcement on Maclay Ave.

**STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

José Pulido reported that the Menudo Festival this weekend and hopes everyone has a great time.

**ADJOURNMENT (8:55 P.M.)**

Motion by Mayor De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.