

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 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 Pro Tem Julie Ruelas called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT:

Council: Mayor Maribel De La Torre (arrived at 6:21 pm.), Mayor Pro Tem Julie Ruelas, Councilmembers 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

ABSENT: Councilmember Nury Martinez

City Clerk Chávez reported that Councilmember Martinez called in earlier to notify staff that she would not be able to attend the meeting because her mother was in the hospital.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Hernandez led the pledge.

INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas called for a moment of silence.

PRESENTATIONS

A) RECOGNITION OF METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT (MWD) DIRECTOR – HUGO MEJIA

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – September 20, 2004

Page 2

Mayor De La Torre and Public Works Director Edwin Galvez presented a certificate of recognition to Mr. Mejia and thanked him for his service as the City's representative to MWD.

B) GRIDLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DRUM LINE

Gridley Elementary School teacher Geronimo Acevedo and students were presented with a certificate of recognition by Mayor De La Torre.

C) NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas presented a certificate to John Barron (Phoenix House).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas removed Items #9 and #11 from the agenda.

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

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Ignacio Gomez, artist for the Cesar Chávez Memorial, gave an update regarding the project, reported that the Friends of Cesar Chávez are working on the unveiling date, and thanked staff and everyone involved.

Richard Arroyo, Historical Commissioner, spoke in support of Item #8, regarding relocation of the house at 1311 Pico Street.

Manny Godoy, Historical Commissioner, also spoke in support of Item #8.

Ray Groff, 327 N. Alexander St., reported that neighbors' cars always block his driveway.

Elvira Orozco (City Treasurer), 417 Newton St., spoke in favor of relocating the 1311 Pico Street house to the Lopez Adobe property. She believes that Item #4 (management salary increases) should have been brought up during budget discussions and expressed concern over the legality of this City Council approving a new Life Insurance policy for its current members.

John Arroyo reported that there are many sidewalks in the City that are in need of repair.

Angel Granados, Transportation and Safety Commissioner, suggested that the ordinance regarding advertising on baseball fields be reviewed to allow businesses to advertise because it could create revenue for the City.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas removed Item #2 for further discussion. Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to approve the remainder of the Consent Calendar items. The motion carried unanimously.

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 2, 2004
- 3) ORDINANCE APPROVING FOUR-WAY-STOPS AT THE INTERSECTION OF WOLFSKILL STREET AND HOLLISTER STREET AND THE INTERSECTION OF SECOND STREET AND ORANGE GROVE AVENUE.

Items Removed for Further Discussion:

- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 04-092

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas asked about the \$6,000 check to the San Fernando Civic Association and was concerned that it was given in advance of receipts being submitted. She was also concerned that it exceeds the amount they requested on their application.

In response to questions from Councilmembers, Recreation and Community Services Director Dan LaBrado reported that some CBO agencies invoice the City for specific items and others conduct programs and invoice for the events. He said that past practice has been to provide funding upon submittal of the invoice (not necessarily request individual receipts for each item).

In response to Councilmember Veres' question, Atty. Estrada said that given the amount of money asked in advance, he sees nothing wrong with requesting additional documentation.

Councilmember Veres suggested that, in fairness, detailed invoicing or breakdown of how the funds are being spent should be a regular practice for all the CBO groups.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to approve the Warrant Register No. 04-092. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Personnel Manager Michael Okafor presented the staff report.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas suggested waiting until mid-year budget review before committing to the higher salaries.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – September 20, 2004

Page 4

Councilmember Veres wants to make sure that our employees are competitively paid and said that the City has achieved a great savings with employees doing work in-house instead of hiring consultants.

Mr. Okafor reported that over the years, as COLA increases are granted to general employees without granting similar increases to management employees. General employees, who also receive overtime pay, take home more than some management employees. He stated that this subsequently creates some compaction problems.

Motion by Mayor De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember Veres, to adopt a Resolution amending 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;
- c) Life Insurance Policy increase from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per Management employee; and
- d) New Life Insurance Policy of \$50,000 per City Councilmember and City Treasurer.

The motion failed with the following vote:

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

Councilmember Hernández agreed with the City Treasurer (see Public Statements) regarding new Life Insurance for current elected officials (although does not see a problem with the new life insurance for management) and to wait until mid-year budget review for the management COLA increases.

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to adopt a Resolution amending the Salary Range Schedule and Plan to include:

- c) Life Insurance Policy increase from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per Management employee.

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES:	Hernández, Ruelas, Veres, De La Torre – 4
ABSENT:	Martinez – 1

Councilmember Veres suggested that the remaining items (3% COLA for Management employees and new Life Insurance Policy for elected officials) be discussed when there is a full Council present.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – September 20, 2004

Page 5

Atty. Estrada reported that since no action had been taken, it could be continued to a subsequent meeting.

5) **ORDINANCE LIMITING PARKING OF DETACHED TRAILER ON PUBLIC STREETS**

Captain Robert Ordelleide presented the staff report.

Motion by Mayor De La Torre, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to introduce for first reading, by title only, and waive further reading of “An Ordinance of the City of San Fernando Restricting the Parking of Trailers, Semitrailers, Camp Trailers and Recreational Trailers.” The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: De La Torre, Ruelas, Hernández, Veres – 4
ABSENT: Martinez - 1

6) **RESOLUTION AMENDING THE INDEPENDENT CITIES LEASE FINANCE AUTHORITY AGREEMENT (ICLFA)**

Finance Director Lorena Quijano presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Councilmember Veres, to adopt of a Resolution approving Amendment No. 4 to the Joint Powers Agreement creating the ICLFA. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: De La Torre, Ruelas, Hernández, Veres – 4
ABSENT: Martinez - 1

7) **CALIFORNIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY (CHFA) APPLICATION FOR FUNDS**

Assistant to the City Administrator Ron Ruiz presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Administrator to execute all documentation required to make an application to the CHFA for Housing Enabled by Local Partnerships Program (HELP), to incur indebtedness, execute loan agreements, commit local government specific resources as detailed in the proposal to CHFA, and take other actions necessary to facilitate the proposed program. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: De La Torre, Ruelas, Hernández, Veres – 4
ABSENT: Martinez - 1

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – September 20, 2004

Page 6

8) RELOCATION OF HOUSE AT 1311 PICO STREET TO 1100 PICO STREET (LOPEZ ADOBE PROPERTY) AND POTENTIAL FUNDING FOR RESTORATION OF HOUSE

Mayor De La Torre announced that the Redevelopment Agency meeting would reconvene in order to proceed with a joint meeting.

Mr. Ruiz presented the staff report.

In response to a question from Councilmember Hernández, Community Development Director Paul Deibel stated that \$14,500 for the site assessment letter was reasonable and the purpose of the report is very significant.

Councilmember Veres is concerned that, providing a letter of support to the California Cultural and Historical Endowment for the 1311 Pico St. house would place the City in competitive conflict with the Lopez Adobe. Councilmembers agreed that the Lopez Adobe would take priority.

In response to questions, Mr. Pulido reported that the City would not pay for the relocation and that the \$14,500 for the site assessment letter would be taken from the Community Development department budget (salary savings).

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to approve the following:

- a) Provide a letter of support for the Friends of the Lopez Adobe's application to the California Cultural and Historical Endowment (CCHE) to request a grant for the restoration of the house currently located at 1311 Pico Street;
- b) Convey title of the house at 1311 Pico Street from the Agency to the City for the sum of \$1;
- c) Relocation of the house at 1311 Pico Street to 1100 Pico Street (Lopez Adobe property) which is a City-owned facility; and
- d) Identify the funding necessary to prepare a site assessment letter, which would cost \$14,500.

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Hernández, Ruelas, De La Torre, Veres – 4
ABSENT: Martinez - 1

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

9) LAWN SIGNS – PROPOSED REGULATIONS

This item was removed during Approval of Agenda by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – September 20, 2004

Page 7

10) PROPOSED REGULATIONS REGARDING AWARDING OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBO) FUNDS

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas talked about proposed regulations regarding awarding of CBO funds.

Councilmember Veres suggested that this issue be brought back at a later meeting in order to allow staff to provide their assessment and recommendations.

Mr. LaBrado agreed and suggested the second City Council meeting in October.

By consensus, Councilmembers agreed.

11) VIDEOS/FILMS PROMOTING THE CITY

This item was removed during Approval of Agenda by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Hernández reported that Fifth St. residents expressed safety concerns to him regarding the oil pipeline. Mr. Galvez said that he could bring the report from the State Fire Marshal to the City Council (regarding the latest testing done).

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas: 1) thanked staff for their assistance regarding the 1311 Pico St. house; and 2) asked that when she requests a point of order during the meeting, the Mayor allow her to do so.

Councilmember Veres thanked staff and City Commissioners for all of their hard work including the recent events (El Grito and the lighting of new scoreboard).

Mayor De La Torre: 1) said that on behalf of the City, she accepted a community partnership award given by the American Cancer Society for raising over \$65,000 for the Relay for Life; and 2) thanked staff for their work on the El Grito and scoreboard lighting events.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas announced that she would like to adjourn the meeting in memory of Joel Medina (her sister-in-law's brother).

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. LaBrado reported that the Cesar Chávez Memorial dedication ceremony would be either October 22 or October 23, 2004.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – September 20, 2004

Page 8

Ms. Quijano announced that earlier today, Senior Account Clerk Sandra Soto had given birth to a baby girl.

ADJOURNMENT (8:16 P.M.)

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor De La Torre, to adjourn the meeting (in memory of Joel Medina). The motion carried unanimously.