

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 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 6:12 p.m.

The following persons were recorded as present:

**PRESENT:**

Council: Mayor Maribel De La Torre, 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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor De La Torre led the pledge.

**INVOCATION**

Mayor De La Torre called for a moment of silence.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

John Arroyo reported that crossing Maclay Ave. (near San Fernando Florist) is dangerous because you can't see oncoming traffic due to the parked vehicles blocking the view.

Sev Aszkenazy, 601 S. Brand Blvd., reported that a house behind his office was painted a bright-colored blue over the weekend. He said that it has a negative affect on adjacent property owners' morale and property values. He asked that City Councilmembers consider moving forward with some kind of guidelines.

By consensus, staff was asked to look into this matter.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas removed Items #1, #2, and #4 for further discussion. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez, to approve Item #3 of the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3) ACCEPTANCE OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2004 FUNDING

**Items Removed for Further Discussion:**

- 1) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 04-091

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas asked about a payment to House of Printing in Pasadena (for business cards). She wondered if staff could look into switching to a local printer (staff will research).

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Mayor De La Torre, to approve Warrant Register No 04-091. The motion carried unanimously.

- 2) ORDINANCE TO GRANT A PIPELINE FRANCHISE TO PACIFIC PIPELINE SYSTEMS LLC TO OPERATE THE LINE 63-PIPELINE SYSTEM

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas reported that she pulled this item because she would be voting to abstain.

In response to Councilmember Veres' question, Mr. Galvez confirmed that Council's direction from the prior meeting was to establish a revenue account for Fifth St. improvements which will be handled administratively (a notation would be made referring to this Ordinance and action taken by the City Council).

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4) **RESOLUTION DELINEATING PIPELINE LOCATIONS**

Discussion ensued regarding pipeline locations throughout the City.

Motion by Mayor De La Torre, seconded by Council to approve Consent Calendar Items #2 and #4. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Hernández, De La Torre, Veres – 3

ABSTAIN: Ruelas – 1

ABSENT: Martinez - 1

**NEW BUSINESS**

5) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE APPROVING FOUR-WAY-STOPS AT THE INTERSECTION OF WOLFSKILL STREET AND HOLLISTER STREET AND THE INTERSECTION OF SECOND STREET AND ORANGE GROVE AVENUE.**

Mr. Galvez presented the staff report.

Councilmember Veres is concerned about areas where utility poles block visibility and asked if additional signs could be placed at those locations.

Mr. Galvez reported that staff could look into the safety issues at specific intersections and adjust the positions of the signs if necessary.

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor De La Torre, to introduce for first reading, by title only, and waive further reading of “An Ordinance of the San Fernando City Council Amending Section 90-946, Stop Intersections, of the City Municipal Code Providing for Vehicular Stops At All Entrances to the Intersection of Second Street and Orange Grove Avenue and the Intersection of Wolfskill Street and Hollister Street.” The motion carried with the following vote:

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

ABSENT: Martinez – 1

6) **ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE SALARY RANGE SCHEDULE AND PLAN**

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to approve staff's recommended changes to amend the Salary Range Schedule and Plan to include:

1. Incentive Pay for Public Works Inspectors and for permanent weekend assignments;  
and

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2. Certificate and Longevity Pay for Police Lieutenants, Captain, and Chief to be consistent with other sworn personnel.

The motion carried with the following vote:

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

ABSENT: Martínez – 1

Staff was asked to provide information regarding the cost of a Life Insurance Policy increase for elected officials and report back to the City Council.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor De La Torre, to approve staff's recommended changes to amend the Salary Range Schedule and Plan to include:

3. 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Management employees to be consistent with other regular full-time and certain part-time employees;
4. Management Leave increase from 40 to 80 hours per year;
5. Authorization of the 9/80 work schedule for all Management employees; and,
6. Life Insurance Policy increase from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per Management employee.

The motion failed with the following vote:

AYES: Veres, De La Torre – 2

NOES: Hernández, Ruelas – 2

ABSENT: Martínez – 1

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor De La Torre, to approve staff's recommend changes to amend the Salary Range Schedule and Plan to include:

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

The motion failed with the following vote:

AYES: Veres, De La Torre – 2

NOES: Hernández, Ruelas – 2

ABSENT: Martínez – 1

Councilmember Hernández suggested that this item be held over until information for elected officials is provided.

At this time, Personnel Manager Michael Okafor presented the staff report.

Councilmember Hernández said that he was concerned that part-time employees have not had a cost of living increase for several years and would like to consider/discuss part-time employees before management employees.

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Finance Director Lorena Quijano reported that part-time employees were now provided with a five step salary range and are allowed increases if merited. She also reported that the PERS contract was amended to include part-time employees (that work over 1,000 hours) to qualify for health benefits, and that permanent part-time employees will receive a 3% COLA.

Mr. Pulido reported that the purpose of placing this item on the agenda is to alert the City Council that there is a compaction problem whereby non-management staff have caught up to management staff and this will help compensate.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to approve staff's recommended changes to amend the Salary Range Schedule and Plan to include:

4. Management Leave increase from 40 to 80 hours per year; and
5. Authorization of the 9/80 work schedule for all Management employees.

Discussion ensued regarding management leave.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas believes that this should have been brought up during the budget process and wondered why it had not.

Councilmember Veres said that we have a highly qualified management team and expressed disappointment that their COLA increase would be held over and discussed along with the City's part-time employees.

He suggested that this item be agendaized for the next meeting when there will be a full City Council in attendance.

Councilmember Hernández requested that the City Council be provided with information regarding part-time employees (including the last time they received an increase and whether there is enough money in the budget to pay).

- 7) **AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR CITY AND AGENCY-OWNED PARKING LOTS ON TRUMAN STREET AND CELIS STREET**

Mr. Pulido presented the staff report.

Motion by Mayor De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to authorize the City Administrator to issue an RFP for the potential development of City and Agency-Owned Parking Lots on Truman Street and Celis Street. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

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8) **APPOINTMENT TO AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON LAWN SIGNS**

Mr. Pulido presented the staff report.

Councilmember Veres asked to be removed from the Ad Hoc Committee because he believes that his voice on the Committee had not been acknowledged or respected and thought that the reason for being on an Ad Hoc committee is to work together and generate some type of consensus.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to appoint Councilmember Hernández as a member of the Lawn Sign Ad-Hoc Committee. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Hernández: 1) inquired about a map showing all of the pipelines in the City and Mr. Galvez said that one would be provided in the next staff report; 2) spoke about an ordinance from South Pasadena that deals with overnight parking and asked if staff could look into something similar; and 3) expressed his concern regarding houses being painted in bright colors.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas: 1) asked that staff respond to the concern brought up earlier regarding making it safer to cross Maclay Ave. (suggested flashing lights so vehicles would slow down); and 2) asked if Mr. Galvez would work with resident Maria Ladas regarding her concerns.

Councilmember Veres said that Management staff's time and effort should be recognized.

Mayor De La Torre: 1) congratulated Recreation and Community Service Department for the wonderful job on the Concerts in the Park series; 2) asked if staff could look into four-way stop signs on Library and Alexander Streets (Mr. Galvez confirmed that staff would do so); 3) invited everyone to sign up for the Mission Run on October 9, 2004; 4) reported that LAUSD Boardmember Julie Korenstein would like input from the City regarding painting the Middle School Auditorium (either Paul Deibel or Fred Ramirez will join the committee); 5) said that she received a letter from a student at SF High SFETT and agrees with the comments made that some Councilmembers may be stifling their freedom of speech; and 6) spoke about a letter she received from a resident on Warren St. complaining about numerous problems and asked that staff look into that.

**STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Chief Alba reported that he visited the Warren St. neighborhood and responded to the resident. He has also advised the Community Service Officers to monitor the area more frequently.

Recreation Supervisor Helen Collins reported that on September 11, 2004, 10:00 a.m., the new score board will be dedicated at Las Palmas Park and invited everyone to attend.

**ADJOURNMENT (7:55 P.M.)**

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