

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7, 2005 – 6:00 P.M.

RECREATION PARK

208 Park Avenue

San Fernando, California 91340

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 6:10 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: Margarita Solis

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

None.

PRESENTATIONS

A) WELLS FARGO DONATION FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP

David Valencia, Wells Fargo Bank Manager, presented a \$20,000 check to the City to be used toward the Neighborhood Cleanup Program.

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B) NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY – FEBRUARY 7, 2005

This item was previously removed from the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Mayor De La Torre, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Suzanne Llamas, 114 N. Brand Blvd., reported that neighbors formed the San Fernando Neighborhood Coalition and are requesting input regarding the planning of any neighborhood developments. She also reported numerous problems with the Charter Middle School.

Connie Grillette, 18932 Olympia St., Northridge, said that her tenants on Kewen St. had numerous complaints regarding their neighbors at 1125 Kewen St. (including disorderly conduct, loud music, urinating in public, fighting, and heavy drinking). She requested that authorities take appropriate measures to stop this.

Thomas Lumberg, 1117 ½ Kewen St., reiterated Ms. Grillette's concerns and stated that neighbors are getting fed up and want the problem handled.

Captain Robert Ordelleide stated that he would follow up.

Juan J. Aldana, 1157 Newton St., talked about the proposed elementary school to be built in his neighborhood and provided photos of their street showing current problems they are facing.

Eugene Hernández, P.O. Box 920395, Sylmar, spoke in support of renaming Park Ave. and said that it would be a small token in Cesar Chávez' honor considering the civil rights advances that he made during his lifetime.

Thomas Jimenez, 13308 N. Maclay Ave., (Knights of Columbus) talked about the nativity scene that they display annually and said that the City's insurance policy obligation places a burden on service clubs.

Director of Recreation and Community Services Dan LaBrado reported that groups buy certificates of insurance naming the City as additional insured which protects the City and the organization against injuries that could occur.

John Arroyo reported that he received a complaint from a senior citizen regarding the sidewalk at 925 Newton St. which needs repair work.

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Samuel Valdivia Jr., 313 Park Ave., opposes the renaming of Park Ave. and Recreation Park.

Linda Swartz, 2032 Fourth St., talked about the proposed name changes (Items 5 and 6) and said that the City Council should consider the overall impact those changes will make to residents and businesses.

Richard Arroyo, Historical Commissioner, asked that the City Council support Item No. 2 so they can move this project forward and address the recommended needs.

Hector E. Lelong, 2030 Fourth St., said that since the 1994 earthquake, many sidewalks and areas in the City need maintenance including 1971 Seventh St. (concrete is breaking off and the sidewalk is uneven).

Xavier Flores, Recreation & Community Services Commissioner, spoke in favor of the proposed street name change and asked the City Council to consider what the majority of the people want.

Tom Ross, Sylmar, office is 218 Brand Blvd., reported that Boy Scout Troop 610 uses \$200 of their money for an insurance policy.

Rene Amberg, Granada Hills, (business is 421 Park Ave.) suggested honoring Cesar Chávez with a statue or renaming the park but a street name change would affect small companies monetarily.

Maria Calleros, Pueblo y Salud, 1024 N. Maclay Ave., (regarding Item No. 7) said they are asking that the City Council direct staff to look into a process and criteria for bringing all existing businesses that sell alcohol in the City into conformity with one set of rules and guidelines.

Rick Monsoor, 415 Park Ave., asked about Park Ave. name change and mentioned that businesses will not be unaffected if the change is from First to Fourth Streets only and he thanked Councilmembers for listening.

Emma Mejia, 1129 N. Brand Blvd., talked about the Charter Middle School and the pool project and asked that residents be kept informed of City projects.

Mayor De La Torre read letters from Jem Sportswear, Zodax, and R&CS Commissioner Danitza Pantoja opposing the proposed name changes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas removed Item No. 1 for further discussion.

Items Removed for Further Discussion:

- 1) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 05-021

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas reported that fees from Aegis Computers, Inc. are very high and she asked that the City Administrator and staff look into ways of reducing those costs.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to approve Warrant Register No. 05-021. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

2) REVIEW OF THE DRAFT LOPEZ ADOBE SITE ASSESSMENT FOR PLACEMENT OF THE LOPEZ-VILLEGAS HOUSE

Community Development Director Paul Deibel presented the staff report.

Associate Planner Fred Ramirez provided a brief overview with a slide presentation and responded to questions from Councilmembers.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to approve staff's recommendation:

- a) Review and approve the Lopez Adobe Site Assessment for the Placement of the Lopez-Villegas House Report's findings and recommendations for the relocation of the Lopez-Villegas House to the Lopez Adobe site at 1100 Pico Street as prepared by Heritage Architecture and Planning, subject to any revisions as requested by the City Council;
- b) Prior to approving a final site plan, authorize staff to initiate the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process by preparing an Initial Study and accompanying environmental determination in order to assess any potential environmental impacts that may be associated with the relocation of the Lopez-Villegas House to the Lopez Adobe site; and
- c) After conclusion of the 30-day environmental review period for the Initial Study and accompanying environmental determination, direct staff to prepare a final report that identifies the final layout for the Lopez-Villegas House's placement on the Lopez Adobe site with an accompanying environmental determination pursuant to the state CEQA provisions and the Local CEQA Guidelines.

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Ruelas, Hernández, Martinez – 3
ABSTAIN: De La Torre – 1
ABSENT: Veres – 1 (*Stepped away from the dais.*)

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3) **WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION CONTRACT**

Personnel Manager Michael Okafor presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to terminate the agreement with Fleming and Associates and approve a one-year agreement with Integrated Claims Administrators, Inc. to provide third party workers' compensation claims administration services, effective February 8, 2005. The motion carried unanimously.

4) **URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. U-1563 REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 1561 REGARDING POSTING AND REMOVAL OF SIGNS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY**

City Atty. Estrada presented the staff report and responded to questions from Councilmembers.

Motion by Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to adopt Urgency Ordinance No. U-1563, being "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando Repealing Ordinance No. 1561, and Thereby Deleting Section 6-2 (Posting and Removal on Private Property) and Section 6-3 (Penalty for Violation) of Article I (in General) From Chapter 6 (Advertising) of the San Fernando City Code, and Declaring the Urgency Thereof", and waive further reading. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

5) **PARK AVENUE NAME CHANGE TO CESAR E. CHÁVEZ AVENUE (FOURTH STREET TO FIRST STREET)**

Councilmember Hernández said that his proposal was to rename Park Ave. to Cesar Chávez Avenue (from Fourth Street to First Street).

Mayor De La Torre said that over commercialization may not be the best way to pay reverence to a great man.

Discussion ensued.

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to rename Park Avenue (from Fourth St. to First St.) to Cesar Chávez Avenue. The motion failed with the following vote:

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

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL (CON'T)

At this time, Mayor De La Torre allowed the following individual to address the City Council:

Sev Aszkenazy, 601 Brand Blvd., (had just returned from a senior housing meeting) said that tribute can be made without having to rename City streets and he does not know what the urgency is.

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS (CON'T)

- 6) FIRST STREET NAME CHANGE TO ROBERT KENNEDY DRIVE (JESSIE STREET TO PACOIMA WASH)

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to rename First St. to Robert Kennedy Drive (from Jessie Street to Pacoima Wash).

In response to Mayor De La Torre's question regarding costs, Mr. Pulido responded that costs would be minimal (\$1,000 to \$2,000).

The above motion carried with the following vote:

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

- 7) REQUEST FROM PUEBLO Y SALUD, INC. FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFORM STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES REGARDING THE SALE OF ALCOHOL

In response to Councilmember Hernández' question, Mr. Deibel suggested that staff report back to the City Council regarding alternatives and recommendations in response to Pueblo y Salud's request for consistent performance standards applying to alcohol outlets throughout the community.

Councilmember Martinez agreed with Mr. Pulido that the alcohol CUP ordinance needs to be revamped and that Pueblo y Salud, Inc. can assist staff including putting together workshops which have been well attended and organized in the past.

Mayor De La Torre said that residents want quality restaurants in town and we need to move forward with staff taking the lead in putting together guidelines and standards regarding alcohol sales in the City.

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Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to direct staff to look at a process and criteria for bringing all existing businesses that sell alcohol in San Fernando into conformity under one uniform set of rules, guidelines, standards, regulations and/or conditions (including revamping the current alcohol Conditional Use Permit Ordinance) and report back to the City Council with alternatives and recommendations.

The above motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Hernández, Ruelas, Martinez, Veres – 4
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: De La Torre – 1

8) **IMMIGRANT RESPONSIBILITY AND SECURITY ACT – SENATE BILL 60**

Motion by Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Veres, to adopt a Resolution in support of endorsing Senate Bill 60. The motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Martinez: 1) said that it is important to keep the line of communication open with residents (i.e., Eighth Street residents that spoke earlier); 2) suggested continuing to hold City Council meetings in different communities; and 3) reported that the Kalisher St. senior housing ground breaking will be on February 11.

Councilmember Hernández said that he too is in favor of holdings meeting throughout the City on occasion.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas: 1) in response to her question, Mr. LaBrado reported that Chief Anthony Alba and a Police Officer taped a segment on cable regarding lawn signs; and 2) reminded the Mayor to please refrain from making certain comments regarding Councilmembers and their motives.

Councilmember Veres: 1) suggested having the next City Council meeting at Las Palmas Park; 2) suggested moving forward with a meeting with Eighth St. residents to deal with their concerns.

Mayor De La Torre: 1) reminded everyone of the senior housing ground-breaking event on Friday; and 2) suggested that Councilmembers contact Mr. Pulido regarding any comments concerning the Project Labor Agreement.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Mr. Pulido welcomed Interim Public Works Director Jim Davis and reminded everyone of the senior housing project ground breaking event on Friday.

ADJOURNMENT (9:10 PM)

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Councilmember Veres, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.