

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

JULY 18, 2005 – 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 Julie Ruelas called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT:

Council: Mayor Julie Ruelas, Mayor Pro Tem Nury Martinez, Councilmembers Steven Veres (arrived at 6:07 p.m.), José Hernández, Ph.D., and Maribel De La Torre

City Treasurer: Margarita Solis

Staff: José E. Pulido, City Administrator; Michael Estrada, City Attorney; and Elena G. Chávez, City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Julie Ruelas

INVOCATION

Mayor Ruelas read statements made by former President John F. Kennedy regarding peace.

PRESENTATIONS

A) RECOGNITION OF SISTER UNA CONNOLLY (VALLEY FAMILY CENTER)

Mayor Ruelas presented a Certificate of Commendation to Sister Una Connolly and thanked her for work and dedication to the community.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Ray Groff, 327 Alexander St., claimed that a Councilmember was abusive toward him some time ago, he didn't understand what the fuss was about at Mission College, and said that there are too many people coming to the U.S. costing millions of dollars.

Councilmember De La Torre expressed concern regarding comments made by Mr. Groff at almost every meeting regarding Latinos.

In response, Atty. Estrada reported that the Brown Act provides that members of the public have the right to speak on any matter within the jurisdiction of the legislative body. Although immigration issues are not within the jurisdiction of this City Council, many issues raised by Mr. Groff are.

Yamibeth Chávez, 13547 Bromwich, Arleta, on behalf of the San Fernando Technology Team (SFETT) asked the City Council to support the I-Can Film Festival.

Elizabeth Ruvalcaba, 722 Kewen St., SFETT also requested support of the I-Can Film Festival by allowing use of the County parking lot, closure of the alley, use of chairs from R&CS Dept. and allow display of posters at the bus shelters.

Consuelo Molina, 1215 Lucas St., asked that Councilmembers support their Festival (Item No. 10 on the agenda).

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Ruelas removed Items No.'s 2 and 4, and Councilmember Veres pulled Item No. 7 for further discussion.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Veres, to approve the remaining Consent Calendar items. The motion carried unanimously.

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF:
 - A) FEBRUARY 22, 2005 – REGULAR MEETING
 - B) MARCH 7, 2005 – REGULAR MEETING

- 3) BID RESULTS AND AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT - BALL FIELD LIGHTING UPGRADE JOB NO. #7533 AT: RECREATION PARK (CESAR E.

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CHÁVEZ PARK), CDBG PROJECT #600677-04 AND LAS PALMAS PARK, CDBG PROJECT #600811-04

- 5) DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS – FINANCE DEPARTMENT
- 6) WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM FY 2004-2005 - RESOLUTION CONFIRMING COSTS AND ASSESSMENTS

Items Removed for Further Discussion:

- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 05-072

Mayor Ruelas inquired about a travel expense made to Sacramento.

In response, Councilmember Veres stated that per the Travel Policy, it was his prerogative to attend and reported that the workshop was regarding water sheds and Proposition 50 funding.

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

- 4) DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS – ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

In response to Mayor Ruelas questions, Mr. Pulido reported that staff is attempting to eliminate duplicate copies of records stored by various departments.

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconding by Councilmember Hernández, to approve the Destruction List Approval Form, approve the Request for Destruction of Records List, and direct staff to execute the Certificate of Destruction Form. The motion carried unanimously.

- 7) RESCIND APPROVAL OF VEHICLE LICENSE FEE (VLF) GAP RECEIVABLES FINANCING PROGRAM

Councilmember Veres suggested that these funds/savings of \$40,000 be considered for televising City Council meetings.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Mayor Ruelas to approve a Resolution rescinding Resolutions Nos. 7049 and 7050 approved on July 5, 2005 (due to the cancellation of the VLF Gap Receivable Financing Program). The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- 8) RECLASSIFICATION OF PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES

Public Works Director Ron Ruiz presented the staff report.

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Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, to approve a reclassification of a Maintenance Worker and the Water Operations Supervisor to Superintendent positions in the Public Works Department, effective July 19, 2005. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

9) SENATE BILL 399 (HEALTH SERVICES: 3RD PARTY LIABILITY)

Mayor Ruelas asked if anyone had any questions or comments.

Councilmembers Martinez and Veres said that they would like more information regarding this Senate Bill and therefore were not ready to make a decision.

No action was taken.

10) CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL SAN FERNANDO EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY TEAM I-CAN FILM FESTIVAL

Councilmember Veres reported that this is a community event, a wonderful youth program, and asked for co-sponsorship approval.

Brief discussion ensued and Councilmembers stated that they looked forward to supporting the Festival and enjoying it.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, to co-sponsor the Sixth Annual San Fernando Education Technology Team I-Can Film Festival, August 6, 2005, by facilitating the use of the County parking lot (Third Street and Maclay Avenue), permitting closure of the alley behind the Library Plaza and allow for display of posters on City bus stops, and use of chairs from the Recreation & Community Services Department. The motion carried unanimously.

11) LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 60 (THE CALIFORNIA REAL ID ACT)

Mayor Ruelas gave a brief report.

Councilmembers stated that they would continue to support passage of the Bill and audience members were encouraged to write letters of support in order to send a stronger message.

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to send letters of support regarding SB 60 (The California Real ID Act). The motion carried unanimously.

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12) FORMATION OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE UNDER-UTILIZED CITY PARKING LOTS

Councilmember Veres explained that he would like to see the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to work with staff to evaluate and encourage more use of Lot 6N and develop short and long-term strategies and policies to maximize the use of all City parking lots. The Committee would report back to the City Council with recommendations.

Mayor Ruelas appointed Mayor Pro Tem Martinez and Councilmember Veres to the Ad Hoc Committee.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember De La Torre: 1) is glad that she raised critical questions regarding the Vehicle License Fees (VLF) at the last meeting; 2) thanked everyone who participated in the Relay for Life event; 3) supports Councilmember Veres' desire to use \$40,000 to televise City Council meetings; and 4) is tired of hearing racial slurs made by Mr. Groff and feels a stand should be made.

In response to Councilmember Hernández' question, Atty. Estrada advised City Councilmembers to not discuss or comment to members of the public any law suit or potential law suit (his office will be evaluating the claim filed by San Fernando Station, LLC).

Councilmember Hernández expressed concerned that the public does not know what is going on and Atty. Estrada said that his office can work with Mr. Pulido regarding this matter.

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez: 1) is glad that the City Council held off on making a decision regarding the VLF loan and reported that the State will be releasing the City's share soon; 2) believes that people are entitled to say what they want in this country but we can change their anti-immigrant sentiment by getting involved in our community and working together.

Councilmember Veres: 1) is looking forward to the I-Can Festival; 2) said although everyone has the right to speak their mind, there should be decorum to make meetings comfortable for everyone; and 3) suggested permission for use of City facilities for educational workshops regarding November's special election if the opportunity arises.

Mayor Ruelas: 1) requested that the meeting adjourn in memory of Louie Velez and Anastacio Cisneros; 2) is glad that the City is saving \$40,000 in VLF funds and will be able to balance the budget with those funds; 3) asked Mr. Groff to refrain from comments that would be hurtful to people; and 4) reported that she attended an LAUSD Governance Committee meeting last week and she will keep the City Council posted.

Councilmember De La Torre reported that the Alliance for a Better Community is hosting a meeting at San Fernando High School on Thursday July 21, 2005, to discuss the school bond measure that may be placed on the November ballot.

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STAFF COMMUNICATION

None.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (7:11 PM)

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, to recess to the following Closed Session, as announced by the City Attorney, thereafter to adjourn in memory of Louie Velez and Anastacio Cisneros. The motion carried unanimously.

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (G.C. 54957.6)

City Representatives: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem

Unrepresented Employee: City Administrator

Instructions were given to the City's negotiators.