

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 3, 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, Councilmembers Steven Veres 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

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Nury Martinez and Councilmember Dr. José Hernandez

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ruelas led the pledge.

**INVOCATION**

Mayor Ruelas said a few words addressing those with breast cancer and those that are homeless.

**PRESENTATION**

A) NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH – OCTOBER

Mayor Ruelas read the proclamation and said that it would be displayed at City Hall.

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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Ruelas asked to remove Item Nos. 5 and 6 (place on next agenda).

Councilmember Veres said that he would like to discuss Item No. 5.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to approve the agenda with the above change (removing Item No. 6 only). The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

Ray Groff, 327 Alexander St., talked about people drinking alcohol and said that it has never done anyone any good.

Bridgett Harper, 2033 Wimberly Ave., Sylmar, speaking on behalf of the youth, said that they like the idea of having a skate park in San Fernando.

Elvira Orozco, 417 Newton St., said that the youth and the community are requesting a skate park to be opened as soon as possible.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 05-101

Mayor Ruelas asked about a payment made to pool architects Maple Dell McClellond and Public Works Director Ron Ruiz replied that it is an on-going cost for the design of the pool and will be paid with a grant.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to approve Warrant Register No. 05-101. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**PUBLIC HEARING**

2) ORDINANCE REGARDING ESTABLISHING COMPREHENSIVE STANDARDS FOR THE DESIGN, PLACEMENT, PERMITTING, AND MONITORING OF WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES

Mayor Ruelas declared the Public Hearing open.

Community Development Director Paul Deibel presented the staff report and Senior Planner

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Fred Ramirez provided a brief overview with a slide presentation.

Mr. Ramirez provided staff and Councilmembers with a copy of an e-mail from Joe Thompson, Zoning Manager with T-Mobile USA, opposing the proposed ordinance.

Mayor Ruelas called asked if there were audience members who wished to speak in favor of the project.

There being no comments, Mayor Ruelas called for comments in opposition of the project.

Peter Siete, 423 Macneil, Nextel, said that it appeared that this was not publicized enough; the public needs to be more involved and educated regarding what's at hand.

Allan Sheffield, representing Sprint Nextel, 120 N. Maclay Ave., said that having wireless carriers jump through more hoops makes it more difficult and slows the process down. Customers just want their phones to work.

Ray Groff, 327 Alexander St., asked about maximum heights of the facilities.

There being no further comments, Mayor Ruelas closed the public portion of the Hearing.

Discussion ensued and concerns discussed were:

- Assure that the ordinance will allow telecommunications companies to provide coverage within San Fernando so as to serve areas in the community where cellular phone calls are dropped by some companies;
- Encourage co-location and camouflaging of new wireless telecommunications facilities in order to address visual impacts associated with the proliferation of facilities within the permitted areas;
- Identify ordinance requirements for the periodic review of new wireless telecommunications facilities approved under the ordinance; and
- Establish a consistent set of standards for the removal of abandoned wireless telecommunications facilities.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to continue the item to the next City Council meeting to allow staff to address comments and concerns made by the City Council and the public and improve any areas that need to be clarified.

The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 3) RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO AND THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CALPERS)

Personnel Manager Michael Okafor presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to approve the Resolution. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

- 4) PROP 50 GRANT AND SALE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

Public Works Director Ron Ruiz presented the staff report.

Discussion ensued and Barbara Romero explained that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) must show evidence that the City is committed and the grant requires a “willing seller” letter from the City. Another major requirement is an appraisal which they expect next week. She stated that there is an October 18, 2005, deadline.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to provide the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), with a “Willing Seller” letter, indicating that, contingent upon the Conservancy’s ability to secure a property acquisition grant through the California River Parkways Grant Program (Prop 50) the City would be a willing seller of a City-owned property (APN 2519-026-90) at fair market value. Also, to allow staff flexibility to develop language that would make this application as strong as possible following the suggestions and recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Committee and the Recreation & Community Services Commission to re-reinvest any funds acquired back into the park system. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**CITY COUNCIL ITEMS**

- 5) UPDATE OF AD HOC COMMITTEES AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilmember Veres said that his intent is to streamline the process and create a structure that is more consistent and efficient. He stated that the five Standing Committees give each Councilmember an equal opportunity to participate and they are broad enough in their topics and range to be flexible.

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Mayor Ruelas suggested, before making any decisions, waiting until there is a full City Council.

Atty. Estrada reminded everyone that Standing Committees are all subject to the Brown Act and their meetings must be noticed, agendized and provide for public comments (demanding on staff).

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to establish five standing committees (listed below). The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to assign Chairs and members (including suggested change by Councilmember De La Torre).

- 1) Budget and Finance  
(Chair Julie Ruelas, Dr. José Hernández)
- 2) Housing, Commerce, Community & Economic Development  
(Chair Nury Martinez, Maribel De La Torre)
- 3) Environmental Quality, Natural Resources and Planning  
(Chair Steve Veres, Nury Martinez)
- 4) Public Safety, Technology, Parking and Transportation  
(Chair Maribel De La Torre, Steve Veres)
- 5) Education, Arts, Health, Youth and Aging  
(Chair Dr. Jose Hernández, Julie Ruelas)

The above motion carried with the following vote:

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

Discussion ensued regarding the composition of the committees.

Motion by Councilmember Veres that the committees will either: 1) have issue/s assigned to them by the City Council; or 2) the committees can develop their own ideas and issues could be developed within the structure (then move those forward to City Council). The motion died due to lack of a second.

Atty. Estrada suggested that the City Council vote to set up these five Standing Committees and maybe work with that set up and at some point report back with recommendations for further changes.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to adopt recommendations listed on the staff report regarding Ad Hoc Committees No. 1-23.

Discussion ensued and the following change was also approved:

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Ad Hocs regarding the New Elementary School and LAUSD High School No. 5 be placed under Standing Committees No.s 2 and 5.

The above motion carried with the following vote:

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

6) REVIVING DISASTER COUNCIL

*This item was removed under Approval of Agenda.*

7) CITY OF SAN FERNANDO'S POSITION ON UPCOMING SPECIAL ELECTION PROPOSITIONS

Councilmember Veres gave background information regarding this item.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, approve a Resolution against Propositions 74, 75, and 76. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember De La Torre asked about the ordinance precluding commercial vehicles from parking on residential streets and said that those issues need to be addressed by the Transportation & Safety Commission (problems are becoming worse); and 2) asked if Code Enforcement had been following up regarding on-going problems concerning the house on Library St. (between Alexander and Harps Streets).

Councilmember Veres: 1) reported that a resident provided him with a flyer regarding people offering to paint curb numbers and not following through (he asked if staff could inform residents through perhaps the water bill system); and 2) requested that the Ad Hocs and Standing Committees list could be updated and distributed to the City Council.

Mayor Ruelas: 1) reported that O'Melveny Elem. School parents expressed concern regarding a recent incident where the Police Department was pursuing someone near the school and the school was not locked-down (she will get more information and forward it to the Police Chief); and 2) asked that the meeting adjourn in memory of Evangelina Rivas.

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**STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Recreation Supervisor Helen Collins reminded everyone of the Menudo Festival and the 5K Run that will be taking place this upcoming weekend.

Mr. Pulido said that the commercial vehicle that had been reported earlier was towed away and agreed that this should be addressed by the Transportation & Safety Commission. He reported that the Code Enforcement issue was being addressed as well.

**ADJOURNMENT (9:12 PM)**

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to adjourn in memory of Evangelina Rivas. The motion carried with the following vote:

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