

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 19, 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 6:43 p.m.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT:

Council: Mayor Julie Ruelas, Mayor Pro Tem Nury Martinez, Councilmembers Steven Veres, Dr. José Hernández, and Maribel De La Torre

City Treasurer: Margarita Solis

Staff: José E. Pulido, City Administrator; Michael Estrada, City Attorney; and Laura Valdivia, Deputy City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Assembly Member Cindy Montanez (former Mayor of San Fernando) led the pledge.

INVOCATION

Mayor Ruelas read an excerpt from *The Optimist* by author Christian Larson and asked for a moment of silence for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and those suffering in Iraq.

PRESENTATION

A) SAN FERNANDO SHARKS SWIM TEAM

Mayor Ruelas presented certificates to the members of the San Fernando Sharks Swim Team.

(Mayor Pro Tem Martinez stepped away from the dais at 6:55 p.m. and returned at 7:00 p.m.)

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B) EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN UPDATE

Presentations made by Police Chief Anthony Alba, Los Angeles Fire Department Battalion Chief Michael Rhodes and EMS Battalion Captain Corey Rose on emergency response and management.

Councilmember Dr. Hernández stated he would like to see the Disaster Council revived and asked if an inventory can be taken of all the disabled persons in the community. He also asked about the safety of the Pacoima Dam and asked what the role of the military is in a disaster.

Captain Rose responded that through his experience with Hurricane Katrina and other disasters, he has found that it takes approximately 72 hours for the military to respond and that is why it is so important for local government to have a disaster plan in place.

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez agreed that the Disaster Council should be revived and suggested that the City tap into local resources for assistance. She also thanked the Fire Department for all their hard work.

Councilmember Veres stressed the importance of local coordination in a disaster; utilizing schools and public facilities in an emergency; and doing what we can as a City to address the crisis of the shortage of hospitals in this area.

Mayor Ruelas asked who would be involved if the City conducted a drill and said it is very reassuring to know that Los Angeles Fire is so well prepared.

Chief Rhodes responded that a small or large scale drill could be coordinated through Chief Alba.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to agendaize emergency preparedness for an upcoming study session. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Ray Groff, 327 Alexander Street, upset over the frequent ads in the newspaper advertising alcoholic beverages which target young people and stated that drinking alcohol is dangerous.

(Councilmember Dr. Hernández stepped away from the dais at 7:45 p.m. and returned at 7:47 p.m.)

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Julio Rivera, 1122 Pico Street, stated he has submitted several applications to Recreation and Community Services Director Dan LaBrado for the use of the park by his soccer team and Mr. LaBrado does not contact him.

Mr. LaBrado, responded that he has had numerous conversations with Mr. Rivera regarding his facility use and recommends that the City Council agendaize this item for a future meeting or refer it to the Recreation and Community Services Commission.

City Attorney Estrada concurred with Mr. LaBrado's recommendation.

Mayor Ruelas directed Mr. LaBrado to refer the item to the Commission at their next meeting and report back to the City Council with the outcome.

Assembly Member Cindy Montanez spoke on Item No. 3 Project Labor Agreement stating she was happy that the Council worked with the different building trades to develop a project labor agreement and feels this will be mutually beneficial to the City as well as the residents. She urged the Council to approve the Project Labor Agreement.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Ruelas removed Item Nos. 1 and 2 for further discussion.

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF:
 - A) AUGUST 1, 2005 – REGULAR MEETING
 - B) AUGUST 1, 2005 – SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
 - C) SEPTEMBER 6, 2005 – REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Ruelas directed staff to make one correction to page 8 of the August 1, 2005 - Special Joint Meeting minutes.

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez to approve the minutes with the noted correction. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 05-092

Mayor Ruelas asked if the Aegis Computers amounts are still within budget; what the Street Survey Fund 50 was; and if the City is still installing speed humps.

Finance Director Lorena Quijano responded that the Aegis Computer amounts are currently within budget and the Street Survey Fund 50 is the payment fund.

Public Works Director Ron Ruiz responded that the installation of speed humps is an ongoing program.

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Steve Veres to approve the Warrant Register. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Veres requested that staff provide Council with a map of the locations of all new speed humps.

NEW BUSINESS

3) PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT (PLA)

City Administrator José Pulido presented the staff report.

Councilmember De La Torre asked if the project labor coordinator is the Public Works Director; and if there is any monetary value attached to community outreach.

Mr. Ruiz responded that a management analyst will act as the project labor coordinator; and stated staff can present some scenarios regarding community outreach to Council at a later date.

Mr. Richard Slawson, Executive Secretary, Los Angeles and Orange County Building and Construction Trades Council stated they currently have 15 Project Labor Agreements in place and include outreach programs which are coordinated with the public agencies and their staff. He explained that apprenticeship coordinators and union representatives participate in job fairs, distribution of materials in schools, and anywhere there would be an interest in careers in the construction industry.

Councilmember De La Torre asked if the City would still be able to use City staff to work on certain portions of contracts that exceed \$25,000.

Mr. Ruiz responded that staff will evaluate each project and use City staff when it makes sense to do so.

Mr. Slawson also responded that this agreement only covers work that the City bids out to outside contractors, so if the City decides that any project is to be held and performed by City employees this agreement does not interfere with that.

Councilmember De La Torre requested clarification on where it stated that authorized representatives of the union will have access to project sites and asked about creating partnerships with schools and outreach to young people.

City Attorney Estrada explained that each successful bidder will be required to enter into this agreement as well, and the City's standard public works contract provides for the City to have access to the project sites.

Mr. Slawson responded that there is an agreement currently in place with the LAUSD addressing outreach programs on all of their projects and there are ongoing efforts with LAUSD to inform

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students of the availability of jobs. He said they look forward to working with the City of San Fernando to create outreach programs which are connected to jobs.

Councilmember De La Torre asked that an outreach referral name and phone number be included in the agreement.

Councilmember Dr. Hernández stated he was part of the Ad Hoc Committee and said it took several months and he was impressed with the apprentice program.

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez thanked Mr. Slawson, Sergio Rascon, Francisco Arrizon and City staff for their help and dedication throughout this process and she hopes this will help local businesses prosper and also become a model for other cities. She stated that she'd like the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its relationship with the Trades Council and said there is still some work to be done.

Councilmember Veres stated that there is total Council commitment to do this and the benefits of this PLA are phenomenal. He said the more cities that understand this process, the more they will be aware of all the issues that exist within our communities.

Mayor Ruelas asked if the embolden items had been addressed and pointed out an error in grammar on pages 25 and 26. She also asked for clarification on the grievance procedure and asked who would sign on behalf of the City.

City Attorney Estrada stated that corrections would be made and the Mayor would sign on behalf of the City.

Mr. Slawson responded that the construction industry grievance procedure is to first give an oral notice then a written notice.

Mayor Ruelas asked what the apprentice pay rate was and encouraged apprentices to also obtain some college education.

Mr. Slawson responded that pay rates are constantly changing, but generally run between 40 and 50 percent of journeyman wage, and also agreed that a college education would be beneficial.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Councilmember Hernández to approve the draft Project Labor Agreement.

Councilmember De La Torre made a friendly amendment to include that training programs be included to target the local high schools and adult schools and that a relationship be established.

City Attorney Estrada referred to page 40, 19.1b which references the five year term of the agreement and stated that anytime after the first three years, the City has the ability to review how successful the agreement has been for the City's goals of local hiring and apprenticeship programs and at that time Council would have a right to terminate if you feel if it is not working.

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Councilmember Hernandez stated he was opposed to the friendly amendment because he said if the agreement is sent back for review, then everyone will have to be consulted and the City has been waiting so long to get to this point.

Councilmember De La Torre stated she just wants to make sure that young people are being targeted to build a good career and that the City is making a concerted effort to reach those who may not go on to college.

City Attorney Estrada suggested that the City Council give direction to the Labor Council as to what you would like to see happen and then it would be incumbent upon the Labor Council to make it happen.

Councilmember Veres stated that a simple way to address this issue would be to include job information from the Building Trades Council for display where other job bulletins are posted for public review.

Mayor Ruelas asked that her corrections also be included in the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

4) ORDINANCE REGARDING ANIMAL FACILITIES INSPECTIONS AND GRADE CARDS

(Mayor Pro Tem Martinez stepped away from the dais at 8:41 p.m. and returned at 8:45 p.m.)

Community Development Director Paul Deibel presented the staff report.

Councilmember Veres asked if this would impact a kennel within an animal hospital, and if this Ordinance would cover the number and type of animals a residence can have.

Mr. Deibel responded that if the kennel operates under a County permit then they would be subject to this grade and said the City's code does limit the number of animals that can be kept at a residence.

Mayor Ruelas requested clarification on page 8 where it references the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles and asked if that should be changed to say City of San Fernando.

Mr. Estrada responded there is a provision in the City's Code Section 14-43 that makes it clear that all of those references would automatically apply to San Fernando.

Councilmember De La Torre asked if a petting zoo would receive a grade.

Mr. Deibel responded that there is a one day permit available for animal facilities which would include a petting zoo.

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Motion by Councilmember Hernandez, seconded by Mayor Ruelas to:

- a) Introduce for first reading, in title only, and waive further reading of “An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando Adopting by Reference Title 10, Animals, of the Los Angeles County Code”; and
- b) Authorize staff to schedule a Public Hearing on October 17, 2005, for the second reading of the Ordinance.

The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Veres asked staff to provide information to the Council of where it states in the City Code how many animals are allowed at one residence.

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

- 5) FORMATION OF LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (LAUSD) AD HOC COMMITTEE

Councilmember De La Torre stated she would like to see an Ad Hoc Committee formed with respect to the development of the new high school and its four academies. She requested that she and the Mayor be appointed to this Ad Hoc Committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez asked if this would also include the new elementary school.

Councilmember De La Torre stated that it would be specifically for the high school.

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez recommended that the name of the committee be LAUSD High School No. 5 Ad Hoc Committee.

Mayor Ruelas and Councilmember De La Torre were appointed by consensus.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember De La Torre: 1) apologized for missing El Grito but said she was in San Francisco attending the Preservation Awards Ceremony; and 2) congratulated City staff for the California Preservation Award and praised them for all their hard work.

Councilmember Hernández: 1) asked if the City still offers the Animal Spay and Neuter Voucher Program; 2) stated that a friend of his recruited two young men off the street for an electrician apprenticeship program and they were able to turn their lives around. He said the PLA is going to be a very worthwhile program.

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Mayor Pro Tem Martinez: 1) congratulated Paul Deibel and his staff on the Preservation Award and thanked them for their dedication and hard work; 2) she said that the El Grito was another successful event; and 3) thanked José Pulido and staff for working on the PLA.

Councilmember Veres: 1) reported that the first meeting of the Heritage Park Ad Hoc Committee just occurred and they will be communicating with the MTA about the bus drop off; 2) he announced that the City of San Fernando was ranked 25th for the MWD Grant, and only the top 22 were awarded, so they will be submitting for the next round; 3) stated the Pacoima Wash Ad Hoc Committee is staying on top of the expansion of the asphalt recycling plant issue; 4) said the Prop 50 Chapter Eight funding request for the Eight Street property grant is currently the number one ranked project in L.A. County and asked Mr. Pulido to meet with each Councilmember prior to the next Council meeting to discuss grant funding; 5) proposed that Council consider and discuss in a study session all of the current Ad Hoc Committees.

Mayor Ruelas asked if Ad Hoc Committees automatically dissolve with each election.

City Attorney Estrada responded that an Ad Hoc can be a committee of one, and they do not automatically dissolve by virtue of an election. He suggested that Council consider re-adopting new Ad Hoc committees and start from scratch.

The City Clerk's office was directed to provide a list to Council of current Ad Hoc Committees and include who is on the committee and the date formed.

Mayor Ruelas: 1) thanked staff for the preservation award and for representing our City. She would like the award to be presented to the public at the next Council meeting; 2) stated she really enjoyed El Grito this year; 3) requested that Mr. LaBrado provide an update on museum roof; 4) announced the LAUSD Governance Commission will be hosting a community forum on October 29th at Las Palmas Park, and the Children Youth and Families Advisory Committee will be hosting a community forum on October 8th at O'Melveny Elementary School; 5) announced a groundbreaking ceremony of the Children's Museum at Hansen Dam on October 18th at 10 a.m.; 6) stated that on October 21st at 1 p.m. there will be a Business and Property Tax Bill of Rights hearing at the Board of Equalization in Culver City; 7) asked if the City will be applying for HELP Funds this year.

Mr. Ruiz, Public Works Director, responded that the City Council approved \$18,000 in the current budget for repair of the roof and said staff will be obtaining estimates soon.

Councilmember De La Torre stated Cesar Arredondo of the Sun Newspaper will be writing an article regarding the first time homebuyers program.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

José Pulido: 1) stated that before Mr. Slawson left the meeting he said a roster, as well as the apprenticeship programs, will be referenced in the PLA document; 2) thanked Council and Mr.

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Deibel for the preservation award and stated it was a proud moment for San Fernando; and 3) thanked Dan LaBrado for the successful El Grito event.

(Councilmember Hernández left the dais at 9:30 p.m.)

ADJOURNMENT (9:31 P.M.)

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

ABSENT: Hernandez – 1