

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**JANUARY 17, 2006 – 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 6:04 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 (arrived at 6:29 p.m.)

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

**ABSENT:** City Treasurer Margarita Solis

**INVOCATION**

Mayor Ruelas read from a speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**PRESENTATIONS**

A) INTRODUCTION OF NEW CITY EMPLOYEE DANIEL WALL

Public Works Director Ron Ruiz introduced Mr. Wall and he was welcomed by Councilmembers.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Cub Scouts (Wolf Pack 104) led the pledge.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Pulido reported that staff was removing Item No. 7 from the agenda.

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

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

Ray Groff, 327 No. Alexander St., talked about people honking their car horns, loud music, and said there is crime occurring almost daily.

Ruben Gonzales, 200 N. Main St., Los Angeles, Deputy Los Angeles City Controller, requested the City of San Fernando's official support of Controller Laura Chick's efforts to audit the Los Angeles Unified School District.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to approve the following Consent Calendar Items.

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2006
- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 06-012
- 3) ORDINANCE REGARDING CAPITAL FACILITIES CHARGES FOR SEWER CONNECTIONS
- 4) STREET IMPROVEMENTS – REJECT THE BID FOR CONSTRUCTION:  
LIBRARY STREET IMPROVEMENT, GRISWOLD AVENUE TO MACLAY STREET (PROJECT NO. CDBG 600786-05 - JOB NO. 7530 – PLAN NO. 697)  
ALLEY WEST OF HARPS STREET IMPROVEMENT, LIBRARY STREET TO FIFTH STREET (PROJECT NO. CDBG 600786-05 - JOB NO. 7531 – PLAN NO. 698)  
ALLEY WEST OF ALEXANDER STREET IMPROVEMENT, LIBRARY STREET TO FIFTH STREET (PROJECT NO. CDBG 600786-05 - JOB NO. 7532 – PLAN NO. 699)
- 5) ACCEPTANCE OF URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE GRANT FUNDS FISCAL YEAR 2005

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Martinez, Hernández, Ruelas, Veres – 4

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ABSENT: De La Torre - 1

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- 6) ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE; REFERENCING FIRST STREET (FROM JESSIE STREET SOUTH TO THE CUL-DE-SAC) TO NOW READ ROBERT F. KENNEDY DRIVE

Public Works Director Ron Ruiz presented the staff report.

*At this time, Councilmember Veres stepped away from the dais.*

Mayor Ruelas declared the Public Hearing open and called for public testimony, either in favor or opposed.

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

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, to introduce for first reading, in title only, and waive all further reading of “An Ordinance of the City of San Fernando Amending Sections 90-941, 90-942, 90-946, 90-947, and 90-951 of the Municipal Code by Changing the Reference to First Street (from Jessie Street South to the Cul-de-Sac), in the City of San Fernando to Now Read Robert F. Kennedy Drive.” The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Hernández, Martinez, Ruelas – 3

ABSENT: De La Torre, Veres - 2

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 7) APPROVAL OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION ARCHITECTURAL FIRM FOR THE LOPEZ ADOBE PRESERVATION PROJECT

*This item was removed under Approval of Agenda.*

- 8) CALIFORNIA CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ENDOWMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Community Development Director Paul Deibel presented the staff report.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to approve a Resolution supporting the City’s grant application to the State of California Cultural and Historical Endowment to complete the preservation work on the Lopez Adobe. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Hernández, Martinez, Ruelas – 3

ABSENT: De La Torre, Veres – 2

**CITY COUNCIL ITEMS**

9) **AUDIT OF LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BY CITY OF LOS ANGELES CONTROLLER**

In response to questions from Councilmembers, Ruben Gonzales (Deputy Los Angeles City Controller) reported that the recent agreement between UTLA and the LAUSD called for an audit of the central bureaucracy of the School District and that was what initiated the offer from the Los Angeles City Controller.

He also stated that LAUSD would be paying for the audit (estimated at \$800,000) and the timeline was projected at six to eight months for a comprehensive audit of the management and operation of the district.

*Councilmember De La Torre arrived at this time.*

Councilmember De La Torre inquired about prior audits that had been done and believes that the money would be better utilized for developing necessary educational programming for the children and better staffing for the schools.

Mayor Ruelas stated that LAUSD is not obligated to accept the Los Angeles City Controller's offer.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, to present a letter of support for an audit concept to include certain contingencies and concerns raised by Councilmembers.

The above motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Veres, Martinez, Ruelas, Hernández – 4

NOES: De La Torre – 1

Councilmember De La Torre said that she would like her comments to be included in the letter but is opposing recommending the audit.

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Hernández requested that the meeting adjourn in memory of resident Connie Hass.

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Mayor Pro Tem Martinez: 1) inquired about mid-year budget study sessions; and 2) requested that the meeting adjourn in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Councilmember Veres requested that staff provide an update in the next Status Report regarding televising City Council meetings.

Mayor Ruelas: 1) talked about a publication from the US Census Bureau stating that they will be doing surveys earlier (rather than every ten years); and 2) forwarded information to staff from the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Councilmember De La Torre said there was inaccurate information in the resources book provided by the Children, Youth & Families and Mayor Ruelas said that it was a working document and thanked her for pointing out the corrections.

**STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Mr. Ruiz reported that staff has applied for the tire derived product grant program and the City is being recommended \$100,000 for funding. He thanked Helen Collins and Robert Braden for their assistance.

Councilmember Veres gave an update regarding Heritage Park and said there was significant progress and the project was moving along.

Chief Alba reported that the Police Department provided a ride-along to a young man that had gone through brain cancer surgery.

In response to Mayor Ruelas' question, Mr. Ruiz reported that staff will be putting together information regarding the trolleys and possibly scheduling a Study Session to discuss this matter.

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (7:15 PM)**

By consensus, the City Council recessed to the following Closed Session, thereafter to adjourn in memory of Connie Hass and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL**

The City Council finds, based on advice from legal counsel, that discussion in open session will prejudice the position of the local agency in the litigation.

Existing Litigation:  
G.C. 54956.9(a)

San Fernando Station LLC v. City of San Fernando, Councilmember Dr. Jose Hernandez, and Mayor Julie Ruelas, Case No. BS 097994.  
No reportable action.