

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

JANUARY 3, 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 6:03 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 6:08 p.m.)

City Treasurer: Margarita Solis

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ruelas led the pledge.

INVOCATION

Mayor Ruelas read quotes from Mahatma Gandhi.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Pulido reported that staff was removing Item No.s 4 and 9 and those items would be agendaized for future meetings.

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

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Ray Groff, 327 No. Alexander St., said that he's lived here since 1946 and reported that there was very little crime back then and San Fernando was a wonderful place to live. He said that people are intimidated to come to City Council meetings and they ask him to speak on their behalf.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Ruelas pulled Item No. 2 for further discussion.

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

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF:
 - A) JANUARY 18, 2005 – REGULAR MEETING
 - B) FEBRUARY 7, 2005 – REGULAR MEETING
 - C) DECEMBER 5, 2005 – REGULAR MEETING

- 3) CITY AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (RDA) ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

- 4) BID RESULTS AND AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT –
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)

Item No. 4 was removed under Approval of Agenda.

- 5) ACCEPTANCE OF SUPPLEMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES FUNDS (SLESF) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006

- 6) APPROVAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT-USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO AND THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

- 7) ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION FOR REVISED JOB SPECIFICATIONS

Items Pulled for Further Discussion:

2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO'S. 05-122 AND 06-011

Public Works Director Ron Ruiz responded to inquiries from Mayor Ruelas regarding the Urban Water Management consultant and sidewalk repairs (he will follow up regarding sidewalk repair work at Celis St. near Brand Blvd.).

Councilmember Veres expressed concerned regarding payments to Thomas & Thomas and he requested to agendize this for further discussion.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to approve Warrant Register No's. 05-122 and 06-011. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ruelas said that she received the audit reports just prior to the meeting and asked if in the future, those could be provided to the City Council with sufficient time to review more thoroughly.

PUBLIC HEARING

8) ORDINANCE REGARDING CAPITAL FACILITIES CHARGES FOR SEWER CONNECTIONS

Public Works Director Ron Ruiz presented the staff report.

Mayor Ruelas opened the Public Hearing and asked if there were audience members who wished to speak in favor.

Ray Groff, 327 No. Alexander St., said that he lives alone and asked if he is charged the same as a residence that has multiple family members living in the house.

Mr. Ruiz replied that sewer connection charges are irrespective of the actual number of people living in the units.

Mayor Ruelas called for comments in opposition of the project.

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

Mr. Ruiz replied to questions from Councilmembers and reiterated that these fees are for sewer connections for new construction and not for sewer usage.

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to introduce for first reading, in title only, and waive all further reading of “An Ordinance of the City of San Fernando Amending Portions of Chapter 94, Utilities, to Increase Sewer Capital Facility Charges.” The motion carried unanimously.

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9) RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2005 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Item No. 9 was removed under Approval of Agenda.

10) ALLOCATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007

Mayor Ruelas declared the Public Hearing open.

Community Development Director Paul Deibel presented the staff report and replied to questions from Councilmembers.

Mayor Ruelas called for public testimony, either in favor or opposed.

Ray Groff, 327 No. Alexander St., said that streets would last longer if people would obey speed limit laws and drive safely.

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

In response to Councilmember Veres' concern regarding the rise in the number of Code Enforcement violations and how an additional officer would impact the program, Mr. Pulido reported that staff could bring back an analysis during the budget process.

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Councilmember Veres, to adopt a Resolution approving intended allocations; direct staff to submit documentation conveying the Resolution to the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission for approval; and authorize the City Administrator to approve minor program modifications and/or monetary changes that do not exceed 10% of approved total project funding. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

11) CALIFORNIA CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ENDOWMENT (CCHE) GRANT
APPLICATION UPDATE

Mr. Deibel presented the staff report.

Mr. Ramirez provided a brief overview with a slide presentation and responded to inquiries from Councilmembers.

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández to:

- a) Direct staff to proceed with the preparation of a CCHE application for a capital assets project grant to fund an approximate \$1.1 to \$1.2 million dollar project to preserve the Lopez Adobe;

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- b) Direct staff to proceed with Request for Proposals process to identify and select a qualified historic preservation architectural firm to prepare construction drawings, building specifications, bid and construction management services, and update the existing construction cost estimate for the preservation work on the Lopez Adobe;
- c) Direct staff to prepare a Resolution for the allocation of approximately \$52,000 in reserves from the General Fund for the selection of a qualified historic preservation architectural firm to prepare the aforementioned planning and construction documents for the Lopez Adobe (required as part of the CCHE application); and
- d) Direct staff to include as part of the Resolution the \$3,000 to \$8,000 in reserves necessary from the General Fund to supplement the funds committed by the Friends of the Lopez Adobe for the relocation of the Lopez-Villegas House and subsequent mothballing at the Lopez Adobe site.

Councilmember Veres said that he supports finishing up the Lopez Adobe. He asked Mayor Ruelas to consider removing recommendation (d) from the motion since there is no urgency and this is not an immediate need listed by the CCHE.

Mr. Ramirez said that recommendation (d) addresses the motion made at the last meeting regarding allocation of funds and Atty. Estrada stated that it was irrelevant whether this is included in this motion.

Mayor Ruelas did not change the above motion and it carried with the following vote:

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

Councilmember De La Torre stated that she supports staff recommendations (a), (b), and (c), but not recommendation (d).

At this time (8:12 p.m.), Councilmember Veres left the meeting.

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

12) DISASTER COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Mayor Ruelas reported that the Disaster Council met and agreed that membership should be increased from seven to nine members.

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, that the Disaster Council should consist of the following nine members:

- 1) Chair – Mayor
- 2) Vice Chair – Council Member or City Administrator

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- 3) Disaster Communications representative
- 4) Fire Department representative
- 5) San Fernando Police Department representative
- 6) Calif. Emergency Mobile Patrol representative
- 7) LAUSD representative
- 8) American Red Cross representative
- 9) Public Works representative

The above motion carried with the following vote:

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

Atty. Estrada reported that this will affect the Municipal Code; therefore his office would be preparing an Ordinance regarding this change.

13) **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 148 – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:
LICENSING RESTRICTIONS**

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez gave background information and discussion ensued regarding Senate Bill 148.

Mr. Deibel responded to inquiries and reported that this would give cities more leverage regarding legal non-conforming liquor outlets.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to send a letter of support regarding Senate Bill 148 to Senator Jack Scott and copies to local officials. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

14) **APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING COMMISSION**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to appoint Francisco Arrizon to the Planning Commission as Mayor Pro Tem Martinez' representative. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember De La Torre: 1) said she received a letter from a Griswold St. resident regarding problems with businesses and asked that this be agendized for the next meeting; and 2) hoped that everyone had happy holidays.

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Councilmember Hernández: 1) requested that the meeting adjourn in memory of Javier Amaya (Civil Engineering Asst. Patsy Orozco's father) and in memory of Mickey Harvey (mother of Lt. Michael Harvey); 2) asked for clarification regarding the new sewer connection fees (Mr. Ruiz responded); and 4) wished everyone a prosperous and healthy 2006.

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez: 1) thanked the Public Works Dept. for trimming the trees along Maclay Ave.; 2) wished everyone a happy New Year; and 3) also asked that the meeting adjourn in memory of Javier Amaya and Mickey Harvey.

Mayor Ruelas: 1) emphasized continuing to get things done on a timely basis; and 2) also sends her condolences to employees Patsy Orozco, Lt. Michael Harvey and their families.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Mr. Pulido also sends his condolences to the Harvey and Amaya families.

He stated that we are getting ready for the mid-year budget review, he is looking forward to the new budget process, and thanked all staff members that worked on the budget.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (8:40 P.M.)

By common consent, City Councilmembers recessed to the following Closed Session as announced by the City Attorney, thereafter to adjourn.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION (G.C. 54956.9 (a))

Name of Case:	Lopez v. City of San Fernando
Case No:	PC036161

The City Council accepted the plaintiff's settlement demand of \$50,000 and authorized its attorney to finalize an agreement to settle the case.