

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**MAY 1, 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 Nury Martinez called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

The following persons were recorded as present:

**PRESENT:**

Council: Mayor Nury Martinez, Mayor Pro Tem Julie Ruelas, Councilmember Dr. José Hernández

City Treasurer: Margarita Solis

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

**ABSENT:**

Council: Councilmembers Steven Veres and Maribel De La Torre

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chief Jack Wise (L.A. City Fire – Battalion 12) led the pledge.

**INVOCATION**

Mayor Martinez called for a moment of silence in the memory of those that died crossing our borders and for the immigrant community that we are standing with in unity in recognition of today's boycott.

**PRESENTATIONS**

A) NATIONAL TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

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Mayor Martinez presented the certificate to Project Coordinator Gilbert Berriozábal with the Center for Healthier Communities.

**B) OLDER AMERICANS MONTH**

Mayor Martinez presented the certificate to Senior Advisory Board Chair, Joe Lozano and he introduced other Senior Board Members.

**C) MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK (APRIL 30 – MAY 6, 2006)**

Mayor Martinez presented the certificate to City Clerk Elena G. Chávez and thanked her for her services and dedication.

**D) PRESENTATION BY YOUTH COUNCIL**

Jackie Cano, Youth Council President, gave an update regarding their accomplishments, talked about future events, and thanked City Council for their support.

**E) RECOGNITION OF YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas provided certificates of recognition to Youth Council Members and thanked them for their participation and contributions.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

Ray Groff, 327 No. Alexander St., said that we should not have open borders because there are bad immigrants (gangs) causing problems and violating our laws.

Eugene Hernández, 13456 Eldridge, asked for support regarding the initiative to reform the Three Strikes Bill and asked why City Council was taking a late stance regarding Item No. 10 (Resolution Denouncing Anti-Immigration Legislation).

Steven Gallegos gave an update regarding Farmers Market and reported that each week things are improving; they're making adjustments as necessary, and are looking forward to increasing attendance.

Mike Majers, Majers Liquor Store, reported that many stores were closed today to show support for the boycott, said that the Lopez Villegas house is an eyesore, and stated that Cesar Chávez fought for farm workers to earn money for picking grapes, used to make wine and sell in

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restaurants (the City Council is stifling business growth with the liquor ordinance and depriving people an opportunity to earn a living).

Battalion Chief Jack Wise invited everyone to stop by their local fire stations on May 13 for Fire Service Day to join in on the demonstrations and activities.

Mayor Martinez asked him to provide the City with flyers so we could assist with outreach.

Norma Ramirez, 13845 Correnti St., said that she applauds and thanked City Council for speaking up for immigrants.

José Luis Ramirez, 13845 Correnti St., reported that residents are proud of their history and a great part of the history has been contributions made by immigrants (whether documented or undocumented) and he urged City Council to pass the resolution.

Cesar Miranda said that leaders must be at the forefront of any struggle for civil liberties, human rights, and legalization of people who are not criminals, just everyday workers.

Xavier Flores, 38640 15<sup>th</sup> St. East, Palmdale, Executive Director of Pueblo y Salud, (in response to a comment made by a speaker earlier) reported that 75 liquor licenses that once existed in the City have now been reduced to 44. He said that the City has always been at the forefront and taken steps against anti-immigrant legislation and applauds City Council for delaying their actions to coincide with today's events.

Brenda Esqueda said that if the City is backing up the initiative, she wants to make sure that English-only speaking residents are treated equally and their views and needs are also met.

Tom Rios, representing Chivas USA, thanked the City Council for allowing them to participate and be part of the City.

Xavier Perez, Chivas USA, is pleased that the City is allowing them to teach youth how to play soccer and educate soccer fans, and he thanked the City Council for allowing them to come into the City.

Manuel Alvarez said that not all immigrants are bad and people should take the opportunity to learn about immigrants and maybe they would appreciate them.

Liliana Vasquez said that she works at schools and sees the daily struggles of documented and undocumented children and families.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas pulled Item Nos. 4 and 9 for further discussion.

1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF:

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- A) APRIL 17, 2006 – REGULAR MEETING
  - B) APRIL 17, 2006 – SPECIAL MEETING
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- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 06-051
  - 3) RESOLUTION AMENDING CERTAIN JOB SPECIFICATIONS
  - 5) FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM
  - 6) FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 LANDSCAPING & LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT APPROVAL OF ENGINEER’S REPORT AND SETTING A DATE FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING
  - 7) JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION
  - 8) DISPOSITION OF CITY-OWNED SURPLUS AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Mayor Martinez, to approve the remaining Consent Calendar Items. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**Items Pulled for Further Discussion:**

- 4) AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND CHIVAS USA TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH SOCCER

Director of Recreation & Community Services Dan LaBrado responded to Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas’ question regarding the purchase and sales of the tickets.

- 9) AMPLIFIED SOUND PERMIT REQUEST: FAMSA INC., 1030 CELIS STREET

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas’ concern regarding the noise affecting church services, Community Development Director Paul Deibel reported that staff has coordinated this with FAMSA and the church.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Mayor Martinez, to approve staff’s recommendation regarding Consent Calendar Item No.s 4 and 9. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**CITY COUNCIL ITEMS**

10) RESOLUTION DENOUNCING ANTI-IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION

Mayor Martinez reported that this legislation has created much division and it criminalizes hard working people and families. She reported that today millions of people are marching on behalf of civil and immigrant rights in this country and it is symbolic that this item is placed on this agenda. It also provides a venue for residents to voice their opinions. She said that after the meeting, she will return to the march and invited everyone to join also.

Councilmember Hernández said that this proposed Resolution is opposing H.R. 4437. He stated that if H.R. 4437 passes, it would force our Police Department to function as immigration agents and he stated that our PD's main concern is security and safety of our residents.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas reported that some of the items on the Bill are outrageous. As a teacher, she will not turn her back on the children and adults that she works with.

Motion by Mayor Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to adopt a Resolution Opposing the Clear Act and the Sensenbrenner-King Immigration Restriction Bill (H.R. 4437) Being Considered in Congress, and Urging the United States Senate to Reject It.

Councilmember Hernández asked for an amendment indicating that the Resolution should be sent to all elected officials having anything to do with this legislation.

Mayor Martinez accepted the amendment and the motion carried with the following vote:

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

11) EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Mayor Martinez placed this on the agenda because as a member of the Disaster Council, they felt the need to move this along quickly (Plan is long overdue) and work with Roger Mason who has much experience in this area to help us put together a disaster plan for the City.

Mr. Pulido reported that staff could bring back a staff report with a consultant agreement and budget appropriation for Phase I.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas stated that there was a resolution provided by the City Attorney's office regarding appointing stand-by officers and believes it is important that we prepare one also since those individuals need to be identified as soon as possible.

Motion by Mayor Martinez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to direct staff to move forward with preparing a staff report in hiring someone to help us with our Emergency Preparedness Plan. The motion carried with the following vote:

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AYES: Martinez, Ruelas, Hernández – 3

ABSENT: Veres, De La Torre – 2

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Hernández requested that the meeting adjourn in memory of Salvador Rivera.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas commended Community Development Department, Mr. Pulido, and consultant Christy Johnson McAvoy, for the successful visit to Sacramento regarding the \$602,734 CCHE grant for the preservation of the Lopez Adobe.

Mayor Martinez: 1) is glad that Chief Wise was present to promote the Fire Service Day event; 2) reported that May 19 is the Senior Expo event at Las Palmas Park; 3) said that the Healthy Cities Community meeting was on April 20 and encouraged everyone to attend future meetings; 4) congratulated Chief Alba on the Disaster Preparedness Expo (well organized with many supporters); 5) in response to her question, Mr. LaBrado reported that the Master Mariachi Apprentice Program did very well in Arizona and were invited to a couple of other events; 6) said that the Take Our Kids to Work Day event was nice; and 7) attended the Kiwanis mixer and reported they will be having Casino Night on May 13 to raise money for scholarships.

**STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Public Works Director Ron Ruiz mentioned the Public Works Open House on May 23 (in front of City Hall) and invited everyone to the next Transportation & Safety Commission on May 17, (Cesar Chávez Park) regarding the Trolley system.

Mr. Deibel reported that in celebration of Building and Safety Week (May 7-13), Community Development staff is putting on a workshop on May 13 in the Council Chambers, regarding How to Hire a Contractor.

Regarding the CCHE grant, Mr. Pulido thanked Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, staff and mentioned the letter of support from Senator Alarcon's office. He said that it was an overall great team effort.

Mayor Martinez commended everyone and said that it really shows the level of expertise that we have within our City.

Chief Alba said the San Fernando Police Department protects and serves everyone in the community regardless of the language they speak or their station in life. He stated that they do not enforce immigration laws and want immigrants to report crimes that occur whether they are the victims or witnesses.

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**ADJOURNMENT (7:40 PM)**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Mayor Martinez, to adjourn the meeting in memory of Salvador Rivera. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Ruelas, Martinez, Hernández – 3

ABSENT: Veres, De La Torre – 2