

# SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES

**JUNE 18, 2007 – 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 6:10 p.m.

The following persons were recorded as present:

#### PRESENT:

Council: Mayor Julie Ruelas, Mayor Pro Tem Nury Martinez, Councilmembers Steven Veres, Councilmember Maribel De La Torre (arrived at 6:29 p.m.) and Dr. José Hernández

City Treasurer: Margarita Solis

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ruelas led the pledge.

### **INVOCATION**

Mayor Ruelas gave the invocation.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

- A) INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE:  
ASSISTANT TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR BRIAN HAWORTH

Mr. Pulido introduced Brian Haworth and he thanked City Council for the opportunity.

- B) INTRODUCTION AND OATH OF OFFICE TO:
- LIEUTENANT ROBERT JACOBS
  - LIEUTENANT TONY RUELAS
  - POLICE OFFICER EDGAR FERNANDEZ

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES – June 18, 2007**

**Page 2**

Lieutenants Jacobs and Ruelas and Officer Fernandez were introduced by Police Chief Robert Ordelheide and were given the Oath by City Clerk Chávez. All were congratulated by City Councilmembers.

**C) METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT SOLAR CUP PRESENTATION**

Councilmember Veres made the presentation.

**D) NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH – JUNE**

Chief Ordelheide read the proclamation.

**E) INTRODUCTION OF MISS SAN FERNANDO COURT 2007**

Mayor Ruelas introduced the 2007 Miss San Fernando Court.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

Dr. James Lawson congratulated Chief Ordelheide, thanked the Maclay Streetscape Ad Hoc Committee for their work, and thanked the City Council for appointing him to the Greater LA County Vector Control District (has already attended two meetings).

Juana Cuiriz requested that Public Works and Recreation & Community Services Departments not be merged and asked how could staff report that the merger will save money when salaries have not been negotiated. She stated that the City has paid over \$240,000 in computer services and equipment last year alone and asked if there was a cataloging or tracking system for each item purchased.

Patty Lopez asked Council to consider setting aside funding for youth and family programs (i.e., graffiti prevention and after school programs).

Selma Madrueño requested that funds be provided for the DARE program and parks and recreation programs for the children.

Jackie Izararraz asked that the City Council support funds for more youth programs.

Diana Lopez requested support for funding for youth programs.

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES – June 18, 2007**

**Page 3**

Veronica Camacho asked the City Council to work with San Fernando Middle School to provide intervention and prevention programs for the students.

Jeff Schnauffer suggested that the City Council take a proactive approach and not only consider Green City USA but Green Power City and offered suggestions on how this could be done.

Dan McCrary asked that the City Council vote in favor of the Employee Free Choice Act Resolution (Item No. 16 on the agenda).

Michael Guadalupe, property and business owner, reported various problems along Maclay Avenue due to the construction. He said that some of the parking was eliminated which escalated problems and it was very frustrating for everyone.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mayor Ruelas pulled Item Nos. 2, 5, 8 and 9, Councilmember De La Torre removed Item No. 3, and Councilmember Veres pulled Items Nos. 7 and 11 for further discussion.

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

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2007 – SPECIAL MEETING
- 4) AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR 501 ROBERT F. KENNEDY DRIVE SEWER MAIN INSTALLATION
- 6) NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND PROJECT ACCEPTANCE - 501 ROBERT F. KENNEDY DRIVE GRADING AND SITE PREPARATION, JOB NO. 7542
- 10) ADOPTION OF NEW JOB SPECIFICATIONS FOR FINANCE OFFICE SPECIALIST

**Items Removed for Further Discussion:**

- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 07-062

Staff responded to questions regarding items on the Warrant Register (police vehicles, senior housing relocation benefits, Master Mariachi Apprentice Program trip, refunds for water accounts).

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez talked about the payment of almost \$26,000 to Aegis Computers. In response to a concern brought up earlier, asked why would we not go out for RFP for computer services. She also asked what is the City doing with the old equipment and requested that staff provide her with a report regarding the contract and to bring this back for further discussion.

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES – June 18, 2007**

**Page 4**

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, to approve the Warrant Register. The motion carried unanimously.

3) **AMENDMENT OF CONTRACT WITH LAIDLAW TRANSIT SERVICES FOR MISSION CITY TRANSIT**

Temporary Recreation & Community Services Director Ron Ruiz responded to questions from Councilmembers regarding the contract.

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Ruelas, to reject the bid received on May 14, 2007, from Laidlaw Transit Service (Laidlaw) and amend the existing Agreement with Laidlaw by extending the term for a period not to exceed one year and by changing the rates and compensation from \$37.74 per hour excluding fuel, to \$48.52 per hour including fuel. The motion carried unanimously.

5) **RESOLUTIONS AMENDING THE SALARY PLAN AND THE TABLE OF ORGANIZATION FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2007-2008**

Personnel Manager Michael Okafor responded to various questions from Mayor Ruelas.

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to approve the amended Salary Plan and the Table of Organization for FY 2007-2008, by the adoption of the Resolutions. The motion carried unanimously.

7) **SAN FERNANDO REGIONAL SWIMMING POOL FACILITY CHANGE ORDER**

Councilmember Veres suggested that change orders over \$100,000 be approved by the City Council (in order to keep updated on the project).

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, to approve a change order in the amount of \$277,386 for the removal of dirt from the San Fernando Regional Swimming Pool Facility site at 208 Park Avenue and give the Public Works Director the authority to approve change orders up to an amount not to exceed \$100,000. The motion carried unanimously.

8) **ADOPTION OF NEW JOB SPECIFICATIONS AND RECLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN JOB CLASSIFICATIONS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Mayor Ruelas said that she pulled the item but her question had already been answered.

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to approve a Resolution adopting new job specifications for Public Works Administrative Analyst, and approve the reclassification of one Civil Engineering Assistant I to Civil Engineering Assistant II. The motion carried unanimously.

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES – June 18, 2007**

**Page 5**

9) **ADOPTION OF NEW JOB SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, to approve a Resolution adopting the job specifications with changes including (under Other Job-Related Duties, #3.) to read *Assistant* Director, also to include *Spanish-speaking is highly desirable*, to state that the individual *will interact with the community and evaluate community needs*, and when interviewing, staff is to request a writing sample on the spot.

Mayor Ruelas amended her motion to include that this individual will be *responsible for day-to-day services* rather than just services and activities.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Martinez' concern regarding involving the Cultural Arts and Recreation & Community Services Commissioners, City Atty. Estrada said it could just be direction from the City Council (doesn't necessarily have to be added to the motion).

The above motion, and amendment, carried with the following vote:

AYES: Ruelas, Martinez, De La Torre, Hernández – 4  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: Veres – 1

11) **TEMPORARY PUBLIC WORKS AND RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES MERGER**

Discussion ensued regarding Councilmembers' concerns about the merger.

Councilmember Veres said that he has a lot of questions that deserve follow up and is not comfortable with the whole process. He wants to make it clear that this temporary merger not exceed a period of two years and it needs to be viewed as an urgency matter (Study Sessions with the Commissioners need to be scheduled very soon).

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to:

- a) Direct staff to schedule Study Sessions (involving the Recreation & Community Services and Cultural Arts Commissions);
- b) Temporarily merge the departments of Public Works and Recreation and Community Services into one department, effective July 1, 2007, for a period not to exceed two years;
- c) That the merged departments be known as the Department of Public Works and Parks, as shown the Temporary Organizational Chart (attached);
- d) The current Public Works Director, Ron Ruiz be appointed as the Temporary Director of Public Works and Parks, and that the current Public Works

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES – June 18, 2007**

**Page 6**

Management Analyst, Helen Collins, be appointed as the Temporary Assistant to the Director of Public Works and Parks both for a period not to exceed two years; and

- e) Authorize the City Administrator to with the City’s labor attorney to develop and implement the terms and conditions for the temporary appointments.

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Ruelas, Martinez, De La Torre, Veres, Hernández – 5

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**12) ADOPTION OF THE CITY’S FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2007-2008 BUDGET**

Mayor Ruelas declared the Public Hearing open.

Finance Director Lorena Quijano presented the staff report.

In response to Councilmember De La Torre’s concern, Ms. Quijano reported that projections regarding the current union salary survey analysis were not taken into account for this budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez believes that residents have waited too long for basic service items and quality of life issues need to be addressed.

Councilmember Veres believes that we should look at consistent method regarding travel for Commissioners and City Council. He inquired whether the City must charge interest on the various inter-fund loans, and the City’s self-insurance fund.

Mayor Ruelas called for public testimony in favor of the proposed budget. There being none, she called for public comments for those in opposition.

Juana Cuiriz expressed concern regarding continued MAP training and consultant expenses that have been going on for several years. She said that the budget included training for City Council and only two Commissions but all Commissioners should be provided the same opportunity. She asked the City Council to take another look at the budget and not adopt it tonight (the municipal code allows until July 20<sup>th</sup>).

Dr. James Lawson reported that the RFP for Farmers Market had been brought up at other meetings and asked why aren’t those revenues and expenditures considered in the budget process.

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES – June 18, 2007**

**Page 7**

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

Councilmember Hernández wonders about the validity of the MAP consultant services and at what extent are we going to continue this expense year after year.

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez asked how much has been spent on MAP in the last several years and why did we not go out for a RFP for Edgesoft, Inc.

Mayor Ruelas said that she was disappointed that funding for MAP and Edgesoft Inc. was automatically included in the budget without allowing City Councilmembers the option.

Councilmember De La Torre expressed her concern regarding the outstanding debts (grants) and suggested continuing support of MAP.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Veres, to adopt a Resolution approving the Final FY 2007-2008 City Budget as evident in Exhibit B as adjusted in Exhibit C, to include funds for Edgesoft, Inc. but no funds for the Management Action Program (MAP), include \$65,000 for sidewalk improvements. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Martinez, Veres, Ruelas, Hernández – 4

NOES: De La Torre – 1

**NEW BUSINESS**

13) **ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2007-2008 REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BUDGET AND LOAN AND REIMBURSEMENT DOCUMENTS**

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to adopt a Resolution approving the FY 2007-2008 Redevelopment Agency (Agency) Budget and the Loan and Reimbursement Agreements between the City and the Agency for Project Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4, and the Housing Funds. The motion carried unanimously.

14) **ORDINANCE DESCRIBING THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY'S PROGRAM FOR ACQUIRING PROPERTY BY EMINENT DOMAIN, AS REQUIRED BY SENATE BILL 53; NOTICE REQUIRED BY SENATE BILL 1809**

Atty. Estrada presented the staff report and responded to questions from Councilmembers.

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to introduce by title only and waive further reading of "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando, California, Describing the San Fernando Redevelopment Agency's Program to Acquire Real Property By Eminent Domain" direct staff to record the notice required by SB 1809. The motion carried unanimously.

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES – June 18, 2007**

**Page 8**

**CITY COUNCIL ITEMS**

- 15) CITY COUNCIL TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS MADE BY CITY COMMISSIONS

Councilmember Hernández said in the past, Councilmembers received copies of the minutes of each Commission meeting and he would like that practice to continue.

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, that staff provide City Councilmembers with minutes of all Commission meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

- 16) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT (RESTORING WORKERS' FREEDOM TO JOIN A UNION)

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Ruelas, to approve a Resolution in support of the Employee Free Choice Act (Restoring Workers' Freedom to Join a Union). The motion carried unanimously.

*At this time (10:00 p.m.), Councilmember Veres left the meeting.*

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember De La Torre reported that there was a corroded Unilab box with discarded medical items at the building across from J&L (Maclay and Library Streets).

Councilmember Hernández thanked the City Administrator and staff for completing the budget and said he wished more residents would participate in the workshops.

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez: 1) wished all fathers a Happy Father's Day; 2) reported that there was multi-colored graffiti on the building next door to Fox Dance Studio and on the billboard on the south side of Maclay (between the Masonic Temple and the Northeast Valley Health Corp.); and 3) asked to agendize the environmental commission item which was brought up during public comments.

Mayor Ruelas: 1) agrees with Mayor Pro Tem Martinez regarding bringing forth an item to discuss creating a commission or advisory committee regarding the environment; and 2) reminded everyone regarding the Maclay Avenue Streetscape meeting tomorrow (will be at 7:30 p.m. due to the CERT class ceremony).

Councilmember De La Torre said that she ran into Jerry Lozano and he is concerned that he has not received direction regarding the Menudo Festival.

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES – June 18, 2007**

**Page 9**

**STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Mr. Pulido said it's never easy making decisions regarding the budget and thanked the City Council. He also reported that the Chamber of Commerce paid \$4,000 toward their outstanding debt and they will pay the remaining \$2,300 before the end of the year.

**ADJOURNMENT (10:17 P.M.)**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Mayor Ruelas, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.