

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**MARCH 5, 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 Nury Martinez called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

The following persons were recorded as present:

**PRESENT:**

Council:	Mayor Nury Martinez, Mayor Pro Tem Julie Ruelas, Councilmembers Steven Veres and Dr. José Hernández
Staff:	City Administrator José E. Pulido, City Attorney Michael Estrada, and Deputy City Clerk Laura Valdivia
City Treasurer	Margarita Solis

**ABSENT:** Councilmember De La Torre

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Martinez led the pledge.

**INVOCATION**

Mayor Martinez called for a moment of silence.

**PRESENTATION**

**A) SMALL BUSINESS AWARD – MARCH**

Awardee Alma De La Fuente of Alma Party Supply was not present to accept the award so Mayor Martinez directed staff to mail the plaque to her.

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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to approve the agenda.

The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

Guadalupe Garcia, San Fernando, speaking on the poor treatment of the Middle School students at the McDonalds Restaurant on Truman Street and Brand Boulevard.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas removed Item Nos. 2 and 3 for further discussion.

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

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF:
  - A) NOVEMBER 20, 2006 – SPECIAL MEETING
  - B) NOVEMBER 20, 2006 – REGULAR MEETING
  - C) JANUARY 30, 2007 – SPECIAL MEETING
  
- 4) INVESTMENT POLICY

The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**Items Pulled for Further Discussion:**

- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 07-031

Staff responded to questions from Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas regarding the reconciliation payment of \$164,565 to the City of Los Angeles for capital expenses for sewer; and about the two Ford Ranger Trucks purchased for the Facilities Maintenance and Water Divisions.

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Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Mayor Martinez to approve the Warrant Register.

The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**3) 2006 TREE COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT**

Staff responded to a question from Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas asking if this is the first report presented to Council and why the past years were not included. She requested that staff also submit the previous years' reports to the Council for the record.

Staff also responded to a question from Councilmember Veres regarding a tree stump removal plan and were requested to provide the Council with a written response regarding the plan.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Mayor Martinez, that the City Council review, accept and file the 2006 Tree Commission Annual Report and that staff provide a brief summary to Council of the activities of the Commission dating back to the formation and also include an update on the status of the tree stumps.

The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**5) FY 2007-2008 LANDSCAPING & LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION INITIATING PROCEEDINGS AND ORDERING THE ENGINEER'S  
REPORT**

Public Works Director Ron Ruiz presented the staff report.

Staff responded to a question from Councilmember Dr. Hernandez regarding how long the assessment will be.

Staff responded to questions from Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas regarding the \$331,246.30 Budget Impact, and if or when would a rate increase require a vote of the people.

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Staff responded to an inquiry from Councilmember Veres regarding Southern California Edison's responsibility of maintaining their own street lights. He suggested that a notice be placed in the water bill on how to report a street light outage.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, that the City Council adopt a Resolution initiating the proceedings for the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Levy of Annual Assessments for the Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District; and order the preparation of the Engineer's Report.

The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**CITY COUNCIL ITEMS**

9) CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPLICATION PROCESS AND VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION SUBMITTED

City Administrator Jose Pulido reported that Councilmember De La Torre requested if she was unable to attend this meeting she would like the item to be moved to the March 19, 2007, City Council agenda.

By the consensus, the item was continued to March 19, 2007.

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Dr. Hernandez: 1) suggested that because our Public Works Department gets a better response, they should contact Edison on behalf of residents to report street light outages; and 2) commented on the speeders going down Fifth Street from Hubbard Street and requested that this item be agendized for the next Traffic & Safety Commission meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas: 1) thanked staff for the Teen Center opening; 2) commented on the nice event for the pool facility groundbreaking; 3) thanked staff for the installation of a four-way stop sign at Hollister Street and Maclay Avenue; and 4) asked when the agenda item for the Coronel Street closure can be expected.

Councilmember Veres: 1) asked staff to continue researching a possible graffiti abatement levy and to agendize the item for an upcoming Council meeting; 2) requested that staff continue the Maclay Streetscape Project outreach to residents and suggested that Council consider using Lot 6N for business overflow parking during construction; and 3) stated that he attended the Denny's Restaurant grand opening and asked that the City consider giving the owner a plaque in appreciation for including San Fernando memorabilia as part of the interior décor.

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Mayor Martinez: 1) asked if staff had received any positive responses from the community on the increased Animal Control services and stating that she had a very positive experience; 2) thanked the Recreation & Community Services Department for the pool facility groundbreaking and stated there may be a problem with the mail delivery because a lot of residents did not receive their invite; 3) stated that she recently participated in a police ride-along and encountered taggers at Fifth Street and Maclay Avenue. She suggested creating a zero tolerance task force to recover the cost of police response and for graffiti abatement; and 4) directed staff to exhaust all community outreach efforts for the Maclay Streetscape Project.

**STAFF COMMUNICATION**

None.

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (7:12 P.M.)**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Mayor Martinez, to recess to the following Closed Session, thereafter to adjourn. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**CLOSED SESSION**

- A) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE  
G.C. 54957
- B) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL  
Anticipated Litigation:  
G.C. 54956.9(b)(1)

A point has been reached where, in the opinion of the City Council on the advice of its legal counsel, based on facts and circumstances that might result in litigation but which the City believes are not yet known to the potential plaintiff or plaintiffs, there is a significant exposure to litigation against the City.

No reportable action.