

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MAY 7, 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 6:12 p.m.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT:

Council: Mayor Julie Ruelas, Mayor Pro Tem Nury Martinez, Councilmembers Steven Veres, Maribel De La Torre and Dr. José Hernández

City Treasurer: Margarita Solis

Staff: City Administrator José E. Pulido, Assistant City Attorney Candice K. Lee, and City Clerk Elena G. Chávez

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Julie Ruelas led the pledge.

INVOCATION

Mayor Ruelas gave the invocation.

PRESENTATION

- A) SMALL BUSINESS AWARD – MAY
GENESIS BRIDAL & PHOTO INC. – ONESIMO & CLAUDIA GONZALEZ

Mayor Ruelas presented the plaque to Onesimo and Claudia Gonzalez and thanked them for the business they provide our residents

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – May 7, 2007

Page 2

B) CROWN DISPOSAL RECYCLING CONTEST – AWARD OF PRIZE MONEY

Tom Ybarra, Crown Disposal, provided money to residents who won the recycling contest.

C) OLDER AMERICANS' RECOGNITION MONTH

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez presented the proclamation to Senior Citizen Board Members Michael, Kmet, Clara Krum, Benita Rivera, Marco Tulio Escobar and thanked them for their services to our community.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Silvia Ballin thanked the City Council for considering her appointment as liaison to the Metropolitan Water District.

Sev Aszkenazy, 601 S. Brand Blvd., would like to work with the City and St. Ferdinand Church to come up with the best scenario to protect the children and staff and also make it manageable for the patients of the medical building next door to the church.

Kevin Glasgow, Police Sergeant, reported that he emailed the City Council a letter on behalf of the Police Officers Association that voted unanimously in supporting Captain Ordelleide as the City's next Police Chief.

Dr. James Lawson, 233 N. Maclay Ave., thanked the City Council for their consideration in appointing him as liaison to the Los Angeles County Vector Control. He also thanked the Maclay Streetscape Ad Hoc Committee and staff for being responsive to the needs of the business owners.

Adriana Gomez, 615 N. Workman St., said that there is a shortage of seniors that have applied for Senior Housing because they can not afford the rent and believes it is an appropriate time to bring up during budget discussions.

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez suggested that the Standing Committee on Affordable Housing meet regarding this issue and suggested agendizing this before the budget is finalized.

Sister Eleanor Ortega, Principal at St. Ferdinand School (1029 Coronel St.), spoke in favor of the school gate closure.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – May 7, 2007

Page 3

Mayor Ruelas reported that St. Ferdinand students had written letters supporting the street closure.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Hernández pulled Item No. 1A, Councilmember Veres removed Item No. 4, and Public Works Director Ron Ruiz asked to pull Item No. 3 for further discussion.

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

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF:
 - A) MARCH 5, 2007 – REGULAR MEETING
 - B) MARCH 19, 2007 – REGULAR MEETING
 - C) APRIL 2, 2007 – SPECIAL MEETING
- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 07-051
- 5) NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND PROJECT ACCEPTANCE FOR RESERVOIR STORAGE AREA AT 12900 DRONFIELD AVENUE, JOB NO. 7539
- 6) SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN ROBERT ORDELHEIDE'S SELECTION AS A "HERO IN LAW ENFORCEMENT" BY THE VALLEY COMMUNITY LEGAL FOUNDATION IN COMMEMORATION OF LAW DAY 2007

Items Removed for Further Discussion:

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2007 – REGULAR MEETING

Councilmember Hernández asked whether his concerns brought up at the March 5, 2007, meeting regarding speeding vehicles on Fifth Street from Hubbard Street had been addressed. Mr. Ruiz reported that he would agendize this for the Transportation & Safety Committee.

In response to Mayor Ruelas' question regarding \$17,000+ in temporary services, Ms. Quijano reported that is for the unfilled positions in the Public Works Department.

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to approve the Warrant Register. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3) RESOLUTION REGARDING ST. FERDINAND SCHOOL GATE CLOSURE

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – May 7, 2007

Page 4

Mr. Ruiz reported that there was a revised Resolution submitted this evening which includes more language than the previous version (no substantive changes).

Staff responded to questions from Councilmembers and reported that a contract will be prepared and brought to City Council for approval which will spell out the responsibilities of the City and the school.

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Ruelas to adopt a Resolution (revised version) authorizing the closure of Coronel Street between Maclay Avenue to the extension of the westernmost property line of City Parking Lot 9. The motion carried unanimously.

4) BUDGET RESOLUTION REGARDING *SAN FERNANDO SUN* NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS FOR MACLAY AVENUE STREETScape PROJECT

Councilmember Veres gave an update regarding the Maclay Avenue Streetscape Ad Hoc Committee meetings and discussions with the business community and reported that this item will be brought back during the advertising phase of the plan.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to table the approval of the Resolution to a later date as recommended by the Maclay Avenue Streetscape Ad Hoc Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

7) PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 22-144 “MOVIE TAKERS AND PRODUCERS GENERALLY”

Ms. Quijano presented the staff report and responded to inquiries from Councilmembers.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Mayor Ruelas that staff proceed with the Municipal Code amendment process regarding proposed revisions to portions of Chapter 22, Businesses, Section 22-144 “Movie Takers and Producers Generally”. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

8) 2007-2008 CITY COUNCIL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Mayor Ruelas talked about the list of recommendations and reported that she offered the MWD liaison position to Silvia Ballin (after she retires from MWD).

After some discussion, the following changes were made to the list: Mayor Ruelas will be liaison to the MTA San Fernando Valley/No. County Corridor, Mayor Pro Tem Martinez will

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – May 7, 2007

Page 5

continue as MTA Governance Council San Fernando Valley Eastern Service Sector, and Dr. James Lawson will be appointed to a four-year term to the Greater L.A. County Vector Control District.

Councilmember Veres said that Ms. Ballin is a fantastic person to fill the MWD position but felt that he was disrespected in the process.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, that the appointment to the MWD be a two-year renewable appointment and that public transportation be provided to and from MWD for the appointee; and that all liaison appointees report back to the City Council on a quarterly basis (oral, written or email).

Mayor Ruelas asked to include in the motion that the MWD appointment would not be effective until Silvia Ballin's retirement from the MWD (with enough time for the transition - possibly around August).

The motion carried unanimously.

In response to Councilmember Veres' earlier comment, Mayor Ruelas stated that she called and informed him that Ms. Ballin had expressed interest.

Councilmembers expressed concern regarding possible conflicts with attending some meetings and Mayor Ruelas suggested that Department Heads keep the Councilmember liaison informed with some sort of report.

9) RECOMMENDED APPOINTEE TO COMPENSATION REVIEW COMMITTEE –
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
(PROPOSITION L)

Mayor Ruelas provided information regarding this item and reported that six mayors signed the letter agreeing to support Personnel Manager Michael Okafor to the Committee (this was an information item only).

10) CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PERS) TAX
UPDATE

Mayor Ruelas reported that at the last budget meeting, a resident spoke regarding this topic and she then requested to have this agenda item for this meeting.

Ms. Quijano reported that in 1946 voters approved the tax for the retirement and she provided background information regarding property tax rate and levy of taxes and the City's obligation to the California Public Employees' Retirement System. As part of the annual budget process, the City Council reviews the amount that the City needs to pay out for the expenditure.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Martinez' question, Ms. Quijano said that the resident was provided this information.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – May 7, 2007

Page 6

By consensus, it was suggested that staff add this item for discussion during the Budget Study Session regarding Special Funds.

11) MANDATE A HEALTHY CITIES COMPONENT FOR EVERY CITY EVENT

Councilmember Veres said that he brought up because he is wondering whether the events, festivals and activities that the City promotes or sponsors could have a component that deals with health or health education (a Healthy City concept).

Councilmember De La Torre and Mayor Pro Tem Martinez concurred that the role and responsibility of the government is to educate our community to exercise more and eat healthier and they agree with adopting that motto.

Mayor Ruelas is supportive of being inclusive of Healthy Cities objectives but believes that options should be provided and allow people to decide for themselves.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember De La Torre: 1) is excited to hear that the City's General Plan may have a health component; 2) commended Capt. Ordelleide for being selected as Hero in Law Enforcement by the Valley Community Legal Foundation; and 3) requested that the meeting adjourn in memory of Erika Hernández.

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez: 1) suggested agendizing the on-going parking problems and Little League issues at our parks; 2) in response to her concern regarding the volunteer ESL teacher that resigned at Las Palmas Park, Ms. Collins will contact Kennedy Adult School; 3) congratulated Captain Ordelleide; 4) reported on the recent proposed MTA fare increase which will impact our residents and announced that there will be an MTA Board Public Hearing on May 24; and 6) wished moms a Happy Mother's Day.

Councilmember Veres: 1) gave an update on Heritage Park (tentative grand opening date is June 9); 2) reported that the cost to become a U.S. citizen will almost double soon and suggested getting the word out and help fast-track those that are considering citizenship; and 4) requested that the City Council allow for public comments for those that arrived late.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL (CON'T)

Victor Ochoa, Pioneer Park Little League board member reported concerns including: pitching mounds not being up to par, lack of lights, recommended removal of tennis courts to allow for growth (registration has increased significantly), parking lot is saturated by church goes on Sundays, and consideration of waiving fees

Councilmembers requested that Mr. Ruiz assist the Little League members and keep the City Council informed of the issues.

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – May 7, 2007

Page 7

Mayor Ruelas: 1) wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day; 2) invited everyone to the Mother's Day Event on Saturday at Las Palmas Park; 3) congratulated Captain Ordelleide; and 3) asked audience member Brenda Esqueda if she had any public comments.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL (CON'T)

Brenda Esqueda reported that there was a good turn-out for the first Huntington Street Neighborhood Watch meeting. Thanked Capt. Ordelleide and the Police Department for the wonderful job they are doing.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Ms. Quijano reminded everyone of the next Study Session on May 14, at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Ruiz announced that the City ranked No. 1 in two categories in the MTA Call for Projects and stated that there is a high probability that we will receive more than \$3 million for the Truman pedestrian improvement project and the Pacoima Wash. He thanked everyone on his staff.

Ms. Collins invited everyone to the Mother's Day celebration this weekend at Cesar Chávez Park and said that the Senior Expo on the May 18 will be a big event for the seniors.

Captain Ordelleide reported that the grand opening of Heritage Park will be in conflict with the annual St. Ferdinand Festival.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (8:24 PM)

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Ruelas, to recess to the following Closed Session, thereafter to adjourn in memory of Erika Hernández. The motion carried unanimously.

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

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – May 7, 2007

Page 8

the City believes are not yet known to the potential plaintiff or plaintiffs, there is a significant exposure to litigation against the City.

C) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

Existing Litigation:

G.C. 54956.9(a)

Name of Case: San Fernando Stakeholders and Adriana Gomez v. City of San Fernando and San Fernando Redevelopment Agency, Case No. BS 106201.

D) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

Existing Litigation:

G.C. 54956.9(a)

Name of Case: San Fernando Station LLC v. City of San Fernando, Councilmember Dr. José Hernández, and Mayor Julie Ruelas, Case No. BS 097994.

No reportable action.