

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 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 6:08 p.m.

The following persons were recorded as present:

**PRESENT:**

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

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

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Maribel De La Torre

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez led the pledge.

**INVOCATION**

Mayor Ruelas gave the invocation.

**PRESENTATIONS**

A) CHILDHOOD INJURY PREVENTION WEEK: SEPTEMBER 23-29, 2007

Temporary Director of Public Works and Parks Ron Ruiz read the proclamation.

B) OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW POLICE SERGEANTS:  
DANIEL AMBRIZ, NICHOLE HANCHETT, AND ALVARO CASTELLON

Sergeants Ambriz, Hanchett, and Castellon were introduced by Police Chief Robert Ordelheide, given the Oath by City Clerk Chávez, and were congratulated by the City Council.

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**C) SHARKS SWIM TEAM MEMBERS CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT**

Carmen Riquelme, Recreation & Community Services Program Specialist, presented the certificates to the swim team and all were congratulated by City Councilmembers.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez, to approve the agenda. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

John Arroyo talked about a “shoot out” in an alley that he said occurred a long time ago and wants to see the alley blocked off. He thanked the Police Dept. for working at the Santa Rosa Church Fiesta.

Janet Malagnini read a proclamation by President Bush regarding celebrating the anniversary of the nation’s Constitution and she asked that Federal, State and local governments, and civic leaders celebrate our Constitution.

Juana Cuiriz, San Fernando Downtown Mall Association, reported that the Environmental Impact Report meeting that was recently held was in English only, and the meeting notice was sent to absentee landlords and not the business owners or home owners. She also spoke in support of the Sister City item on the agenda.

Elvira Orozco spoke in favor of the Sister City Program and said it was good to revisit this.

Dr. James Lawson also talked about the recent EIR meeting and read from the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act which refers to the rights of citizens and residents to effectively communicate with their government (Mayor Ruelas interpreted in Spanish).

Mercedes Galan talked about the Sister City program that began with the city of Colima in the 1960’s and said that it was very important to recognize different cultures and preserve these relationships and programs.

Selma Madrueño said that the Sister City relationship is a good opportunity for us to promote our traditions and cultures.

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**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Veres, to approve the Consent Calendar Items:

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2007 – REGULAR MEETING
- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 07-092
- 3) APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSE PERMIT FOR A DANCING ACADEMY:  
DANZONE
- 4) AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE INSTALLATION OF MONITORING WELLS –  
SYLMAR NOTCH

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Martinez, Hernández, Veres, Ruelas – 4

NOES: None

ABSENT: De La Torre – 1

**CITY COUNCIL ITEMS**

- 5) SISTER CITY PROGRAM WITH THE CITY OF COLIMA, MEXICO

Mayor Ruelas gave background information regarding this item and staff showed a DVD that had been provided to the Mayor.

Councilmember Hernández is opposed to formal agreements and suggested that this be handled by other organizations (i.e. Chamber of Commerce) or private clubs.

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez asked: if there was a process in place in which the City enters into agreements with sister cities; has the City entered into these types of agreements in the past; how many agreements is the City limited to or is it merely symbolic; who follows through; and, is the community and residents involved?

Councilmember Veres believes that cultural exchanges are very positive but we need to create a system to deal with these requests.

Motion by Councilmember Veres, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Declaration of Intent and establish an Ad Hoc Committee to include Mayor Ruelas and Councilmember Veres to work out the process with Colima and research a process regarding the formation of sister cities. The motion carried with the following vote:

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AYES: Veres, Martinez, Ruelas – 3  
NOES: Hernández – 1  
ABSENT: De La Torre – 1

### **GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

In response to Councilmember Hernández' concerns regarding a proposed new area code that may affect the City, Mr. Pulido reported that staff will monitor the process and advise the City Council via the Status Report (the PUC is holding a meeting at San Fernando City Hall on October 23), information will be placed on the City website and at public counters.

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez said she was very disturbed about some of the comments made regarding the outreach efforts involving the EIR. She said it was made clear in her prior motion to hold community meetings and said they should be held in both Spanish and English.

City Atty. Estrada said that this is not a final process. He reported that the scoping meeting was held to identify issues to be analyzed in the EIR and said there will be significant opportunities throughout the process in the coming months before it's complete. He will work with Mr. Pulido regarding this.

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez also asked about the handicap parking spaces at Las Palmas Park and Mr. Ruiz reported that seniors were recently surveyed to find out exactly how many of them have a handicap placard and how many use the Mission City Transit. He said there was a lot of data collected with great results.

In response to the Mayor Pro Tem's question, Ms. Collins said she would forward her information regarding the latest developments on an ESL teacher from Kennedy Adult School.

Councilmember Veres: 1) wished Lenny Castillo well on her new business venture; 2) reported that there has not been a VFW Ad Hoc Committee meeting regarding any progress (asked that staff keep Mr. Lawson in the loop); and 3) gave an update regarding the Heritage Park grand opening.

Mayor Ruelas: 1) said that staff did a great job on the El Grito Event; 2) congratulated Lenny Castillo on her new business and wished her well; 3) said she attended the passport event on Saturday; and 4) thanked Councilmembers for approving the Sister City Program.

### **STAFF COMMUNICATION**

In response to Councilmember Veres' concerns, City Atty. Estrada said that it was not necessary to extend the EIR process. There will be a second and more substantial period of public comment when the draft EIR is complete.

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Mr. Deibel asked about a possible graffiti ordinance study session, and City Councilmembers suggested that it be placed on agenda for final action.

Mr. Pulido reported that the purpose of the meeting with the funding facilitator is to get direction on how to best proceed with a list of projects and pressing issues that require City Council attention.

Mayor Ruelas reported that Senator Alex Padilla's office is holding free workshops throughout regarding homeowner and renters assistance. The first workshop will be held in the City at Las Palmas Park.

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (7:44 P.M.)**

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

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

Name of Case: David Harvey v. City of San Fernando  
WCAB Case No.: VNO0514746  
Claim No.: 20050016SFE

No reportable action.

- B) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION  
(G.C. 54957)

Title: City Administrator

No reportable action.