

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**July 7, 2008 – 6:00 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING**

City Hall Council Chamber  
117 Macneil Street  
San Fernando, CA 91340

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Nury Martinez called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Present:

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

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

Absent: Councilmember Dr. Jose Hernández

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Mayor Martinez

**INVOCATION** Mayor Martinez

**PRESENTATION**

The following presentation was made:

SMALL BUSINESS AWARD: JULY

- Michael Max Osorio – San Fernando Wedding Chapel

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

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**PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL**

John Arroyo said everyone is still waiting for the pool and asked why Cassell's Records has not been given the Small Business Award.

Ramiro Estrada commended the City for the great fireworks event at the Cesar E. Chávez Park.

Maria Salmeron thanked the City Council and staff for the various cultural events.

Alex Reza said he's been a teacher for 34 years and the City has done a great job in preserving and advocating the legacy of Cesar E. Chávez.

Javier Verdin, Cultural Arts Commissioner, said that the City Council should reconsider the budget cuts to the cultural arts events.

Beto Ruiz emphasized the importance and value of our cultural programs and said that few cities can claim such innovative and high caliber programs such as our Mariachi Master Apprentice Program.

Sergio Alonzo, Cultural Arts Commissioner, spoke in support of youth and arts programs and said there comes a point and a dire need to maintain these programs

Ruben Rodriguez, Cultural Arts Commissioner, asked that the City Council not balance the budget by giving up cultural arts.

Tom Ross asked about Item No. 4 on the agenda, reported that he and his family enjoyed the July 4<sup>th</sup> event and that the Kiwanis Club also donates to support arts programs in the City.

Patty Lopez spoke in support of cultural arts programs in the City and said she is against the recall.

Cathleen Calderon enjoys seeing children involved in programs and said it was important for them to understand their tradition.

Veronica Casillas talked about the American Cancer Society Relay for Life Event this weekend and invited everyone to attend.

Adriana Gomez said that the City spent over \$1 million to pay for Councilmember Hernández' racist remark and residents will suffer for many years to come.

Gilbert Berriozabal read a letter from the National President of the Mexican American Political Association (MAPA) stating that the San Fernando Valley Chapter of MAPA does not exist and those who continue to use the name, do so illegally.

Brenda Esqueda said residents should be able to get involved in a fair and equal process without government intimidation and asked that the Mayor put a stop to her husband's actions.

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**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Mayor Martinez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to approve the following Consent Calendar items:

- 1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF:
  - a) JANUARY 7, 2008 – REGULAR MEETING
  - b) MARCH 17, 2008 – REGULAR MEETING
- 2) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 08-071

The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- 3) SAN FERNANDO HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Motion by Mayor Martinez, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, to accept staff's recommendation to continue the Public Hearing on the proposed Ordinance to August 4, 2008. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

**CITY COUNCIL ITEMS**

- 4) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 1420 REQUIRING NUTRITION INFORMATION ON MENUS AND MENU BOARDS

*During discussion of this item, Councilmember Veres had stepped away from the dais.*

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas, seconded by Mayor Martinez, to support Senate Bill 1420 and staff to write a letter to our California legislators expressing support. The motion carried\* with the following vote:

AYES: Ruelas, Martinez – 2  
NOES: None

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ABSENT: Hernández, Veres – 2

ABSTAIN: De La Torre – 1

*\*Per Rule 7.3 of the City Council Procedural Manual, the abstaining vote is counted as an affirmative vote, and therefore the motion passed.*

**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Community Development Director Paul Deibel responded to Councilmember De La Torre's questions regarding the graffiti issues at the former clinic site on Hubbard St.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas: 1) congratulated staff regarding the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks celebration; 2) requested graffiti removal at the Azteca building; and 3) suggested reconsidering some of the cultural arts budget cuts that were previously made.

Councilmember Veres: 1) reported that the budget reserve is down to \$150,000 and reducing funding for cultural arts was a difficult debate; and 2) believes that the information flow between staff and Council needs to improve so that the special pool meetings can be used for motions and decision-making.

Mayor Martinez said she was taken aback by a newspaper quote from Councilmember Veres and wanted to get the record straight that the quote was untrue.

**STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Temporary Public Works and Parks Director Ron Ruiz thanked staff members that worked on the July 4<sup>th</sup> event and everyone that attended.

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (7:09 P.M.)**

By consensus, Councilmembers agreed to recess to the following Closed Session, thereafter to adjourn:

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

Name of Case: Jorge Cruz, et al v. City of San Fernando

Case No.: BC352521

Claim No.: 302126

No reportable action.

*I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of July 7, 2008 meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.*

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Elena G. Chávez  
City Clerk