

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**MARCH 17, 2008 – 6:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING**

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Julie Ruelas called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Present:

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Councilmember De La Torre

INVOCATION Mayor Ruelas

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Ruelas requested that Item No. 9 (City Council Reorganization) be moved to after the City Council Items.

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez, to approve the agenda with the above noted change. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Dr. James Lawson said that the RFP for the Management and Operation of the San Fernando Regional Swimming Pool Facility was not well written and does not address various important aspects.

SEIU Union Representative Mimi Soto reported that they are insulted and disappointed regarding the recent proposal received from the City.

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Richard Canales expressed support for Steven Veres as the City's next Mayor.

Richard Hopp said that he had not received a timely response regarding his public records request.

Arely Cruz thanked City Council for their continued support for the Cesar E. Chávez commemorative award.

Margarita Lopez also thanked Councilmembers for their annual support of the Cesar E. Chávez award.

Irene Tovar, member of the Cesar E. Chávez award selection committee, talked about the selection process, the excellent candidates, and the opportunity to allow her to serve.

Lisa Jane Rosengren reported that she was Mr. Hopp's attorney who was present to provide him support and looks forward to receiving a call from the City Attorney.

Joe Ruelas said that he appreciates the work Mayor Ruelas has done this past year and said that he hopes whoever is chosen for Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem will demonstrate the same patience and fairness.

Renato Lira said that the next Mayor needs to be able to work with the community to finish up incomplete projects.

Leslie Aisenman asked that Council permanently end the Environmental Impact Report regarding Wilshire Ventures and the parking lots project.

Veronica Casillas said that residents are angry, want to take back their city, and she agrees with Mayor Pro Tem Martinez and would really like to see a master plan in order to finish up the pool and other pending projects.

Sharron Aisenman talked about the recent multi-million lawsuit and asked that Mayor Ruelas and Councilmember Hernández resign.

Mario Hernandez said that it was time to do the right thing and give City employees a fair and reasonable increase.

Brenda Esqueda said that she was bothered by the close relationship between Mr. Pulido and the developer (Enrique Fainchtein) and believes that he does not have the City's best interest in mind and she spoke in support of Councilmember Veres as the City's next Mayor.

Gilbert Berriozabal believes that Councilmember Hernández needs to do the right thing and step down and he requested that Councilmember Veres be the next Mayor.

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Gerardo Guzman reported that the townhall meeting at Cesar E. Chávez Park was a success, many showed up for assistance regarding their foreclosure troubles and thanked City Council for their support.

Ralph Arriola said that Mr. Pulido covered up serious financial information regarding the developer and there needs to be a change in the Administration.

City Clerk Chávez read letters from Fr. Manuel Villarreal (St. Ferdinand Church) opposing the downtown projects parking lots project and from Dr. Raul Ruiz, Professor at California State University, Northridge who wrote in support of Councilmember Hernández.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Ruelas removed Item Nos. 1 and 3 and Councilmember De La Torre removed Item No. 2 for further discussion.

Items Removed for Further Discussion:

Staff responded to questions regarding the following items that were removed.

- 1) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 08-032
- 2) BUDGET RESOLUTION: SELF INSURANCE FUND
- 3) APPROVAL OF THE PLANS FOR THE USE OF PROPOSITION 1B – LOCAL STREETS AND ROADS IMPROVEMENT, CONGESTION RELIEF, AND TRAFFIC SAFETY ACCOUNT FUNDS

Motion was made by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre to approve the Consent Calendar items. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- 4) FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2007-2008 COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION (CBO) FUNDING REALLOCATIONS

Motion by Councilmember De La Torre, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, to return the remaining unallocated funds (\$4,400) that were not accepted by the San Fernando Civic League and the San Fernando Mall Association to the General Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

- 5) CESAR E. CHAVEZ AWARD RATIFICATION

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Discussion ensued between Councilmembers, Cesar E. Chávez Commemorative Award Selection Committee members and Recreation & Community Services Commission Chair Juana Cuiriz, and staff regarding the selection process.

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez to accept the 2008 Cesar E. Chavez award selection made by the Cesar E. Chavez Commemorative Award Selection Committee and not reveal the name of the recipient until the 15th Annual Cesar E. Chavez Cultural Arts Festival on Sunday, March 30, 2008. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

- 6) **ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 7038, REINSTATING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 2005-01, AND DIRECTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR TO REVOKE AND WITHDRAW HIS LETTER DATED AUGUST 7, 2007**

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to adopt a Resolution entitled “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of San Fernando, California Repealing Resolution No. 7038, Reinstating Conditional Use Permit No. 2005-01, and Directing the Community Development Director to Revoke and Withdraw His Letter Dated August 7, 2007.” The motion carried unanimously.

- 7) **REJECTION OF PROPOSAL FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF SAN FERNANDO REGIONAL SWIMMING POOL FACILITY**

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Veres, to reject the proposal received on February 26, 2008 for the Management and Operation of the San Fernando Regional Pool Facility; and authorize the Temporary Public Works and Parks Director, or his designee, to issue a new Request for Proposals for the Management and Operation of the San Fernando Regional Swimming Pool Facility. As part of the process, emphasize the acquisition of grant funds and that the City Council meet at 5:00 p.m. prior to all regular meetings (staff to put together a working calendar agenda) until the completion of the swimming pool facility.

Councilmember Veres offered amendments: 1) that City Atty. Estrada and Mr. Pulido explore the best potential strategy to open up the bid process (check with other cities for the most efficient way to get us to evaluate proposals; and 2) in terms of the budget – list the different kinds of topic.

The amendments were accepted and the motion carried unanimously.

- 8) **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS REGIONAL COUNCIL REDISTRICTING**

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Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to concur with the recommendation of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) District Evaluations Subcommittee to regroup the cities of San Fernando and Santa Clarita into a single regional district for purposes of equitable representation on the SCAG Regional Council. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

Councilmember De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember Veres, that Items No. 10 and 11 be tabled and discussed during budget discussions. The motion carried unanimously.

- 10) REVIEW OF CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION REQUESTS
- 11) REVIEW OF RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION REQUESTS
- 12) CONCERNS REGARDING LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

Discussion ensued but no formal action taken.

- 13) FORMATION OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON SERVICES TO THE DISABLED

Motion by Mayor Ruelas, seconded by Councilmember Hernández to form an Ad Hoc Committee on **Services to the Aged and Disabled** to include Mayor Ruelas and Councilmember Hernández. The motion carried unanimously.

- 14) RENT ISSUES AT 333 NORTH BRAND BOULEVARD

Discussion ensued regarding a letter received from a resident STAFF can refer them to resources.

NEW BUSINESS (CON'T)

- 9) REORGANIZATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL – SELECTION OF MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

City Clerk Chávez opened nominations for the position of Mayor.

Councilmember De La Torre nominated Steve Veres for Mayor. The motion failed with the following vote:

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AYES: De La Torre, Veres – 2
NOES: Hernández, Ruelas – 2
ABSTAIN: Martinez – 1

Mayor Ruelas nominated Nury Martinez for Mayor. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Hernández, Ruelas, Martinez – 3
NOES: De La Torre, Veres – 2

City Clerk Chávez called for nominations for the position of Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Martinez nominated Julie Ruelas; the motion was seconded by Councilmember Hernandez. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Martinez, Hernández, Ruelas – 3
NOES: De La Torre, Veres – 2

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember De La Torre said: 1) she was very disappointed in her colleagues in their lack of respect to Councilmember Veres and the residents that came out to support him for Mayor; and 2) requested to agendize the issue regarding unpaid invoices for fire services.

Councilmember Hernández talked about the mortgage crisis and suggested that staff put together a workshop to assist residents.

Mayor Martinez: 1) thanked all departments involved in Saturday's townhall meeting to assist residents.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruelas: 1) thanked Council staff and commissioners for the past year of support; 2) requested that staff agendize the request for batting cages; and 3) reminded staff to respond to the letter from the L.A. Fire Chief.

Councilmember Veres said there is a problem with the City's leadership and suggested his colleagues their voting bloc for the betterment of the City..

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Mr. Pulido thanked former Mayor Ruelas for her leadership this past year.

Mr. Ruiz announced the Compressed Natural Gas Station Grand Opening on March 28, 2008 at 120 Macneil St.

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RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (9:28 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 unanimously.

A) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (G.C. 54957.6)

City Negotiator: City Administrator José E. Pulido
Employee Organization: San Fernando Public Employees Association

B) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (G.C. 54957.6)

City Negotiator: City Administrator José E. Pulido
Employee Organization: San Fernando Police Officers' Association

No reportable action.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of March 17, 2008 meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

Elena G. Chávez
City Clerk