

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**March 16, 2009 – 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING**

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Steven Veres called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Steven Veres, Mayor Pro Tem Brenda Esqueda,
Councilmembers Ernesto Rubio Hernández and Maribel De La
Torre

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

Absent: Councilmember Nury Martinez (on maternity leave)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mayor Veres

INVOCATION Mayor Veres

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Veres, to approve the agenda. By consensus, the motion carried.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Joe Ruelas congratulated Margarita Solis and said that spending \$70,000 for a consultant regarding retail opportunities would be a grave mistake during these economic times.

Mimi Soto, SEIU Local 721, thanked Brenda Esqueda for all her hard work. She said she is a courageous and strong woman and hopes to continue working with her.

Leslie Aisenman wished outgoing and incoming City Councilmembers well.

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Sylvia Ballin said that Brenda Esqueda changed the course of history and admires her for standing up and fighting for what she believes in.

Julie Cuellar said that Brenda has done much in a short period of time, she has fought a strong, hard battle and this is not the last we will see of her.

Juana Cuiriz expressed concern regarding a former employee that comes in on a regular basis to assist staff, congratulated Margarita Solis and Mario F. Hernández, and hopes to see Brenda Esqueda return to the City Council.

Adriana Gomez said that Brenda Esqueda has paved the way for lots of good things to happen and said that (more than anything) she's found a great friend and hopes to see her back up on the Council very soon.

Sharron Aisenman congratulated and wished everyone well and said that the City is going to need everyone working together to pull things off.

CONSENT CALENDAR

City Clerk Chávez reported that a revised exhibit to Item No. 3 had been provided to the City Councilmembers.

Item No. 1 was removed for further discussion.

Motion by Mayor Veres, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to approve the remaining Consent Calendar items:

- 2) ORDINANCE NO. 1586 - AMENDMENTS TO VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE SAN FERNANDO CITY CODE RELATING TO COMMISSIONS
- 3) RESOLUTION DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE MARCH 3, 2009 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Items Removed for Further Discussion:

- 1) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 09-032

Councilmembers inquired about various charges (i.e., by Aegis Computers, Crown Disposal, San Fernando Station, LLC).

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Motion by Mayor Veres, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to approve the Warrant Register but to hold off on the payment to Aegis Computers until clarification is received from staff regarding those expenses. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED BY CITY CLERK TO NEW CITY COUNCIL-MEMBERS AND CITY TREASURER

Brenda Esqueda thanked the residents for their support and said that she will continue to fight for what's best for the City. She is very disappointed of what's going on and said it's unfortunate that employees can't be recalled.

Councilmember De La Torre said that Brenda did a great job and is going down in history for what she has done.

Councilmember E. Hernández said that Brenda Esqueda was the voice of the residents and thanked her.

Mayor Veres thanked Brenda Esqueda for her energy, spirit, and determination to impact change. He said that few people leave such an imprint in a short time, and the residents and community have a lot to be thankful to her for.

City Clerk Chávez presented the Certificate of Election and administered the Oath of Office to the following individuals:

City Council:
Maribel De La Torre
Mario F. Hernández

City Treasurer:
Margarita Solis

RECESS

Mayor Veres called for a brief recess to allow family members to take photographs.

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NEW BUSINESS

4) CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION

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

Councilmember De La Torre nominated Steven Veres; the motion was seconded by Councilmember E. Hernández.

City Clerk Chávez asked if there were any other nominations for Mayor. There being none, and hearing no objections, nominations were closed.

The above motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: De La Torre, E. Hernández, Veres, M. Hernández – 4
NOES: None
ABSENT: Martinez – 1

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

Councilmember De La Torre nominated Mario F. Hernández; the motion was seconded by Councilmember E. Hernández.

City Clerk Chávez asked if there were any other nominations for Mayor Pro Tem. There being none, and hearing no objections, nominations were closed.

The above motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: De La Torre, E. Hernández, Veres, M. Hernández – 4
NOES: None
ABSENT: Martinez – 1

5) AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR UNDERGROUNDING OF OVERHEAD UTILITIES ON PARK AVENUE BETWEEN ROBERT F. KENNEDY DRIVE AND FOURTH STREET

City Engineer Dan Wall presented the staff report and said that there was a correction regarding the recommendation which should be not to exceed \$525,000. Staff also responded to questions from Councilmembers.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember E. Hernández, to authorize the City Administrator to execute a contract with Southern California Edison for an amount not to exceed \$525,000 for the undergrounding of overhead utilities on Park Avenue (between Robert F. Kennedy Drive and Fourth Street). The motion carried with the following vote:

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AYES: De La Torre, E. Hernández, Veres, M. Hernández – 4
NOES: None
ABSENT: Martinez – 1

CITY COUNCIL ITEM

6) **REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES**

Mayor Veres reconfigured the standing committees' membership as follows:

No. 1 Budget, Personnel and Finance (BPF)

Chair Mario F. Hernández
Steven Veres

No. 2 Housing, Community & Economic Development and Parking (HCEP)

Chair Steven Veres
Nury Martinez

No. 3 Natural Resources, Infrastructure, Water Energy and Waste Management (NRIW)

Chair Nury Martinez
Maribel De La Torre

No. 4 Public Safety, Veteran Affairs, Technology and Transportation (PVTT)

Chair Ernesto Rubio Hernández
Mario F. Hernandez

No. 5 Education, Parks, Arts, Health and Aging (EPAH)

Chair Maribel De La Torre
Ernesto Rubio Hernández

Mayor Veres gave an update on the HCEP Standing Committee regarding dealing with vacant parking lot issues and continuing discussions with Gangi Development.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember De La Torre congratulated Mario F. Hernández, thanked him for his dedication, and is excited that we have a City Council that is going to work together. She said she was sorry about Mayor Pro Tem Hernández' father passing away.

Councilmember E. Hernández said he was glad that Mario F. Hernández was here and will put a different perspective on the business of the City. He offered his condolences to him as well.

Mayor Pro Tem M. Hernández thanked everyone for their prayers and support regarding the recent passing of his father. He said that Brenda Esqueda did a lot of work in a short period and hopes it's not the last time we see of her.

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Mayor Veres: 1) thanked Police Chief Robert Ordelheide for his assistance with the Little League Baseball parades; and 2) requested that the meeting adjourn in memory of Mayor Pro Tem Hernández' father Manuel Hernández.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Pulido congratulated Mayor Pro Tem M. Hernández and Councilmember De La Torre on their victories.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem M. Hernández' question and concern involving liability issues, Mr. Ruiz reported that the former City employee did not work on anything, she just came by to have lunch.

ADJOURNMENT (7:43 P.M.)

By consensus, the meeting was adjourned.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of March 16, 2009 meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

Elena G. Chávez
City Clerk