

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**January 26, 2009 – 6:00 P.M.
SPECIAL 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 6:01 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, Assistant City Attorney Melissa
Crosthwaite, and City Clerk Elena G. Chávez

Absent: Councilmember Nury Martinez (on maternity leave)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Veres requested that Item No. 4 be discussed after Item No. 2.

Motion by Councilmember De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to approve the agenda. By consensus, the motion carried.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Norma Virgin said that parking tickets received by various employees at the clinic at 1037 Truman St. were unjust. Mayor Veres requested that Lt. Robert Jacobs (who was in the audience) assist Ms. Virgin with her concerns.

Juana Cuiriz, San Fernando Downtown Association, talked about agenda Item No. 5, and said that their audit was incomplete due to City obstacles.

Leslie Aisenman asked that the City Council reject the decision of the Planning Commission regarding the Charter School, reported that City trolleys are usually empty and has also witnessed them speeding, and suggested that public comments be allowed at the end of the meeting as well.

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NEW BUSINESS

1) CITY COUNCIL AD HOC COMMITTEES AND FORMATION OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Motion by Councilmember De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to approve Mayor Veres’ recommendations and assignments which include the following:

The formation of the following five Standing Committees:

Committee No.	Standing Committee Name:	Members:
No. 1	Budget, Personnel, and Finance	Chair Maribel De La Torre Brenda Esqueda
No. 2	Housing, Community & Economic Development and Parking	Chair Steven Veres Nury Martinez
No. 3	Natural Resources, Infrastructure, Water Energy and Waste Management	Chair Nury Martinez Maribel De La Torre
No. 4	Public Safety, Veteran Affairs, Technology and Transportation	Chair Brenda Esqueda Ernesto Rubio Hernández
No. 5	Education, Parks, Arts, Health, Youth and Aging	Chair Ernesto Rubio Hernández Steven Veres

Also:

- 1) Each Councilmember is to serve on two Committees and chair one.
- 2) Assignments are to be delegated by the Mayor.
- 3) Committees are to hold regular monthly meetings with a posted agenda.
- 4) Meeting times/dates are to be agreed upon by the Committee members (to be established by the next City Council meeting).
- 5) The meetings are to take place even if only one member is able to attend.
- 6) City Council meeting agendas to include a section entitled *Standing Committee Updates*. The Committee Chair is responsible for making a brief report on the activities of the committee to the full City Council. If there is nothing to report, then “Nothing to Report” is an acceptable comment.
- 7) Committees are to provide clear and direct input to staff. City Council should not be forced to deal with large and difficult issues at their meetings without any prior formal discussion or analytical input to guide staff’s work product.

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- 8) Based on agenda topics, the City Administrator and Department Heads will assign and provide appropriate staffing.

- 9) Councilmembers are encouraged to submit new item requests to the Mayor, City Administrator or Committee Chair by personal communication (i.e., phone, email). Issues may also be brought up during the City Council meetings under the General Council Comments section of the agenda.

The following assignments were made regarding the current Standing/Ad Hoc Committees:

	Standing Committee:	Members:	Date Formed:	Assign To:
1)	Affordable Housing	Hernández Martinez	9/2/03	#2 Housing, Community & Economic Development and Parking
2)	Alcohol Outlets	Martinez Hernández	10/17/05	#2 Housing, Community & Economic Development and Parking
3)	Labor Relations	Hernández Martinez	1/5/04	#1 Budget, Personnel and Finance
4)	LAUSD High School No. 5	Ruelas De La Torre	9/19/05	#5 Education, Parks, Arts, Health, Youth and Aging
5)	Mission Community Hospital	Martinez Ruelas		#5 Education, Parks, Arts, Health, Youth and Aging
6)	New Elementary School	De La Torre Martinez	11/1/04	#5 Education, Parks, Arts, Health, Youth and Aging
7)	Pacoima Wash Greenway	Veres Martinez	5/5/03	#3 Natural Resources, Infrastructure, Water Energy and Waste Management
8)	Pool Operations & Programs	De La Torre Veres	4/21/08	Recommend to continue as a separate committee then reassign <i>programming</i> to Committee #5 Education, Parks, Arts, Health, Youth and Aging and <i>operation matters</i> to Committee #1 Budget, Personnel and Finance
9)	Public Safety	Hernández Martinez	9/2/03	#4 Public Safety, Veteran Affairs, Technology and Transportation

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	Skate Park	Ruelas Hernandez	10/3/05	#5 Education, Parks, Arts, Health, Youth and Aging
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Ad Hoc:	Members:	Date Formed:	Assign To:
Alley Ad Hoc	Hernández Veres	6/6/05	#3 Natural Resources, Infrastructure, Water Energy and Waste Management
Batting Cages	Veres Ruelas	5/5/08	#5 Education, Parks, Arts, Health, Youth and Aging
City Yard	Martinez Hernández	5/5/08	#3 Natural Resources, Infrastructure, Water Energy and Waste Management
Drop Out Recovery	Martinez Ruelas	11/20/06	<i>Dissolve</i>
Ed Criteria for R&CS Position	Ruelas Hernández	9/5/06	#1 Budget, Personnel and Finance
Environmental Advisory Committee	Ruelas Martinez	7/2/07	#3 Natural Resources, Infrastructure, Water Energy and Waste Management
Heritage Park Programming	De La Torre Veres	5/20/02	#5 Education, Parks, Arts, Health, Youth and Aging
Maclay Avenue Streetscape	Ruelas Veres	3/19/07	#3 Natural Resources, Infrastructure, Water Energy and Waste Management
Services to Aged & Disabled	Ruelas Hernández	3/17/08	#5 Education, Parks, Arts, Health, Youth and Aging
Sister City Program	Ruelas Veres	9/17/07	#5 Education, Parks, Arts, Health, Youth and Aging
Swimming Pool Project	Ruelas Martinez	9/6/05	<i>Dissolve</i>
Under-Utilized City Parking Lots	Veres Martinez	7/18/05	#2 Housing, Community & Economic Development and Parking
VFW (Post 3834) Request	Veres Hernández	2/5/07	#4 Public Safety, Veteran Affairs, Technology and Transportation
Youth Center	Ruelas Hernández	11/5/07	#5 Education, Parks, Arts, Health, Youth and Aging

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Mayor Pro Tem Esqueda appointed Julie Cuellar to the Planning and Preservation Commission.

Motion by Mayor Veres, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to approve the appointees and to indicate that the term of service for the prior commissioners (appointed by recalled Councilmembers) to end today. There being no objections, the motion carried.

4) CITY COUNCIL LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

By consensus, appointments were made (refer to attachment).

3) CESAR E. CHÁVEZ PARK WAY FINDING PROBLEMS, SAFETY CONCERNS AND NAMING CLARIFICATIONS

Discussion ensued regarding how to deal with way finding issues and signage involving the park, aquatics center, and the streets such as Jessie St., First St., Robert F. Kennedy Dr., and Wolfskill Ave.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Esqueda, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to change the name of the park back to its original name *San Fernando Recreation Park*. There being no objections, the motion carried by consensus.

Staff was directed to schedule a Study Session to allow for input from the public and the affected business (Bernards Bros.) regarding streetscape, way finding, and street name issues which are all barriers to improving that area.

5) MALL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT AUDIT UPDATE

Mayor Veres requested that staff facilitate the Downtown Mall Association's consultants in completing the Mall Assessment District Audit within a month (by February 28th). The Audit, which should also include current data, is an important component to the upcoming Study Sessions regarding the business improvement districts. He requested that staff be helpful in getting the necessary items completed and provide updates to the City Council (i.e., via the Status Report or email). By consensus, Councilmembers agreed.

6) BROADCAST OF CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Discussion ensued regarding government transparency and the public's accessibility to meetings.

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to move forward in the interim with "affordable" solutions (i.e., continue with streamlining video, placing MP3 files on the City website, begin use of digital format for recording) and to work with the City's Attorney's office regarding a use agreement. Other remaining issues/items (i.e. internship programs) should be addressed by Standing Committee No. 4. There being no objections, the motion carried by consensus.

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7) OPERATION OF CITY TROLLEYS

Councilmembers discussed their concerns including driver training, rider ship, routes, and entertainment features (i.e. powerpoint, radio) on the trolleys.

Councilmembers agreed that these issues should be agendized and addressed by Standing Committee No. 4 (Public Safety, Veteran Affairs, Technology, and Transportation) to allow opportunity for in-depth discussion and a report back to the City Council.

8) DISCUSSION REGARDING LOPEZ VILLEGAS AND LOPEZ ADOBE HOUSE

Discussion ensued regarding the immediate restoration of the rose garden (for public use), the total costs expended to date on the design and relocation of the Lopez Villegas house, and the upcoming bid process involving estimates for rehabilitating the house. By consensus, Councilmembers agreed to disassociate the Lopez Villegas house from the Lopez Adobe house and staff to report back on the possible impacts this may have on the CCHE grant.

9) DISCUSSION REGARDING CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND YOUTH COUNCIL

Motion by Councilmember De La Torre, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Esqueda to dissolve the Children Youth & Families Advisory Committee and to reassign the duties to the Parks, Wellness, and Recreation Commission. Staff is to keep in contact with the local County Service Provider Area. By consensus, Councilmembers agreed.

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Esqueda to dissolve the Youth Council and instead have a “youth group” with open membership. By consensus, Councilmembers agreed.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Mayor Veres said he would like to provide audience members with the opportunity of addressing the City Council.

Henry Romero is pleased to see the direction that the Council has taken.

Leslie Aisenman said he was disappointed that an additional minute for Public Comments is all they were provided.

Mayor Veres said that he was open to experimentation to allow as much public input and comment as possible.

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GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember De La Torre reported that the deadline to apply for Federal funding opportunities is less than three weeks. Mayor Veres requested that this be agendaized for discussion at the next City Council meeting.

Councilmember De La Torre reported that there was a recent workshop held at San Fernando High School and hosted by our Congressman and it was embarrassing that our Councilmembers had not been made aware of the meeting. She requested that, in the future, staff immediately make the City Council aware of any such meetings.

Mayor Pro Tem Esqueda thanked audience members for their patience and for sitting through the meeting for several hours.

Councilmember Hernández said that items/issues that needed to be prioritized very soon were Redevelopment Agency Study Sessions and the selection of a new Recreation & Community Services Director.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Regarding AB1389, Finance Director Quijano informed the City Council that a payment of (up to) \$443,000 was due by February 1st.

ADJOURNMENT (10:19 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 January 26, 2009 meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

*Elena G. Chávez
City Clerk*

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS 2009-2010

<u>AGENCY/COMMITTEE</u>	<u>MEETS</u>	<u>APPOINTEE</u>
Chamber of Commerce/Mall Merchant Assoc.	Morning (1st Thurs.)	Steven Veres
City Selection Committee (L.A. County)	Night	Steven Veres (Must be Mayor)
Disability Retirement Committee	Day	Maribel De La Torre
Economic Alliance of the S.F. Valley	Day	Maribel De La Torre
Independent Cities Association	Night	Ernesto Rubio Hernández
Independent Cities Risk Mgmt. (ICRMA)	Day	Steven Veres Alternate: Lorena Quijano Sub. Alternate: Michael Okafor
Independent Cities Lease Finance Authority	Day	Steven Veres Alternate: Lorena Quijano
League of California Cities	Night (1st Thurs.)	Delegate: Steven Veres Alternate: Ernesto Rubio Hernández
So. California Assoc. of Govts. (SCAG)	Morning (1st Thurs.)	Delegate: Steven Veres Alternate: Ernesto Rubio Hernández
Metropolitan Water District	Day	Sylvia Ballin*
MTA San Fernando Valley/No. County Corridor	Day	Ernesto Rubio Hernández
MTA Governance Council San Fernando Valley Eastern Service Sector	Night	Brenda Esqueda
Greater L.A. County Vector Control District	Night	Dr. James Lawson**

COMMISSIONS

Disaster Council	Day	Chair: Brenda Esqueda Vice-Chair: Ernesto Rubio Hernández
Cultural Arts	Night	Ernesto Rubio Hernández Steven Veres
Parks, Wellness, and Recreation	Night	Ernesto Rubio Hernández Steven Veres
Planning and Preservation	Night	Steven Veres Nury Martinez
Transportation & Safety	Night	Brenda Esqueda Ernesto Rubio Hernández
Tree Commission	Night	Nury Martinez Ernesto Rubio Hernández

**9/4/07: Appointed to a two-year renewable term*

***Appointed May 7, 2007 to a four-year term*