

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**AUGUST 7, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING**

**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
117 MACNEIL STREET  
SAN FERNANDO, CALIFORNIA 91340**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Celeste Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: Council: Mayor Celeste Rodriguez, Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza, and Councilmembers Cindy Montañez, Joel Fajardo and Mary Solorio

Staff: City Manager Nick Kimball, Assistant City Attorney Richard Padilla, Police Chief Fabian Valdez, Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Kanika Kith, Director of Finance Erica Melton, and City Clerk Julia Fritz

Absent: None

**TELECONFERENCING REQUESTS/DISCLOSURE**

No requests considered.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by City Clerk Julia Fritz

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to approve the agenda. The motion carried, unanimously.

Mayor Rodriguez stated that presentations would be received at a subsequent point on the agenda.

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

Angel Zobel-Rodriguez, Education Commissioner spoke in support of Agenda Item No. 12.

Jesus Ochoa, member of Odd Fellows Lodge of San Fernando spoke in support of Agenda Item No. 9.

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Alyssa Carillo, Community Organizer with TreePeople introduced herself and provided updates on future community tree planting events.

Sylvia Ballin spoke in support of Agenda Item No. 8 and Agenda Item No. 12.

Marcela Rodriguez, spoke about concerns with the City's parking issues.

Abigail Garcia, submitted a written comment regarding Los Angeles Mission College SFP Program Tech, Allied Health Office announcing the Eagles for Early Enrollment event.

Sean Rivas, submitted a written comment in support of Agenda Item no. 9, Ordinance No. 1717.

Police Chief Valdez introduced new employee Police Officer Miguel Camarena.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to approve:

- 1) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR:
  - a. May 23, 2005 – Special
  - b. July 18, 2022 - Regular
- 2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER
- 3) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A SECOND READING ADOPTING ORDINANCE NO. 1718 AMENDING DIVISION 6 (PURCHASING) OF ARTICLE IV (FINANCE) OF CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION) OF THE SAN FERNANDO CITY CODE RELATING TO THE PROCEDURES FOR PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING
- 4) CONSIDERATION TO AWARD A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT TO KOUNKUEY DESIGN INITIATIVE, INC. FOR A LAND AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY STUDY TO UPDATE THE PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
- 5) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 SALARY PLAN AND TABLE OF ORGANIZATION
- 6) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIDE LETTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND SAN FERNANDO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION/SEIU LOCAL 721 AND ADOPT RELATED RESOLUTIONS

The motion carried, unanimously.

**Item No. 8 Discussed out of order**

- 8) UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF THE WOMEN SUFFRAGE MURAL COMMEMORATING THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

Councilmember Fajardo presented background information. Mural artist Lalo Garcia spoke briefly on mural ideas.

Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Kanika Kith presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

By consensus, the City Council directed staff to return to the mural ad hoc committee to discuss a Community Engagement Plan consistent with the Community Engagement Framework; explore opportunities to engage a local female artist to work with Lalo Garcia; research the possibility in establishing a crowdfunding account and return to City Council with an update and for final approval.

**PRESENTATIONS**

A. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER KELLY GONEZ

12) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (EDUCATION COMPACT) BETWEEN LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO TO SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS

Mayor Celeste T. Rodriguez introduced Ms. Bella, Ready to Launch Fellow who presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Motion by Mayor Rodriguez, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to approve a partnership with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to enter into a non-financial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Contract No. 2185) (Education Compact) to support students and families in San Fernando; authorize the City Manager to incorporate feedback received from the City Council, execute the MOU and related documents and as amended to include authorize the participation in, use of the City seal for future Education Compact related events, with City Manager approval. The motion carried, unanimously.

14) DISCUSSION REGARDING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS FOR RENAMING THE PACOIMA WASH NATURAL PARK, LOCATED AT 801 EIGHTH STREET, HONORING COUNCILMEMBER CINDY MONTAÑEZ AS A TRIBUTE TO HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

Councilmember Joel Fajardo presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Mayor Rodriguez to direct staff to initiate the process to take the steps necessary to contact park stakeholders Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to take step towards bringing back to the City Council a public hearing staff report to consider renaming the Pacoima Wash Natural Park to Cindy Montañez Natural Park as a tribute to her contributions to the community; and include the planting of milkweeds as a haven for monarch butterflies at the park. The motion carried, unanimously.

It was noted, Councilmember Montañez left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 7) A PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 5473 AND 5473A, APPROVING THE FINAL FORM OF THE DELINQUENT CHARGES REPORT OF PAST DUE ACCOUNTS FOR COMMERCIAL MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES, AND AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF THE DELINQUENT CHARGES REPORT TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY AUDITOR-CONTROLLER FOR COLLECTION ON THE 2023-2024 PROPERTY TAX ROLL

Mayor Rodriguez opened the public hearing.

Management Analyst Kenneth Jones presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Mayor Rodriguez called for public testimony.

There being no further comment, Mayor Rodriguez closed public comment period and closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilmember Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to adopt Resolution No. 8253 approving the final form of the Delinquent Charges Report for past due accounts for commercial municipal solid waste collection and disposal services, and authorizing submittal of the Delinquent Charges Report to the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller for collection on the 2023-2024 property tax roll, as amended and directed staff to inform/educate property owners that they are responsible for payment of delinquent charges if the tenant does not pay their bill. The motion carried, with Councilmember Montañez absent.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- 9) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A SECOND READING TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 1717 APPROVING A ZONE TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE SAN FERNANDO MUNICIPAL CODE, SECTION 106-970, PROJECT NO. ZTA2023-001 TO UPDATE REGULATIONS FOR WALLS AND FENCES

Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Kith presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Motion by Vice Mayor Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to approve for second reading, in title only, and waive all further readings and to adopt Ordinance No. 1717 “An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando, California, approving a Zoning Text Amendment (Project No. ZTA2023-001) to amend San Fernando Municipal Code Section 106-970, Walls and Fences, to update regulations for walls and fences.”

The motion carried by the following vote:

ROLL CALL

AYES: Solorio, Mendoza, Rodriguez - 3  
NAYES: Fajardo - 1  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Montañez

10) RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING (ARPA) AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF, AS APPROPRIATE

Director of Finance Erica Melton presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

By consensus, the City Council directed staff to return to a City Council meeting in October for additional discussion, including status updates of current ARPA funded projects, updated information on costs for the Upper Reservoir Reconstruction project, projected cost/budget for Phase 3 Slurry Seal project with citywide curb painting, current pothole activity data, potential mural funding, and recommendations for reallocating unused ARPA funds.

11) DISCUSSION OF DEPARTMENT WORK PLANS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

Director of Finance Erica Melton presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

City Council received and filed the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Work Plans.

Councilmembers directed staff to include in FY 23-24 adopted Budget the following work plans:

- 1) Include water/sewer bill calculation as part of the update to ERP system in FY 24-25, update the City website with base fee and comparative household data as an interim solution;
- 2) Explore development of Online Community Academy by FY 24-25;
- 3) Update the Pavement Management Master Plan in FY 25-26 as part of a 5 year work plan;
- 4) Enhance contract management/oversight on Waste Management and Street Sweeping services;
- 5) Implement Financial Literacy Program; and
- 6) Proactively seek external funding resources for community events (e.g. 1-mile run)

By consensus, Councilmembers recommended the following:

- 1) Weed abatement to be included as part of the sidewalk repair project;

- 2) Pothole review as a component to the update of the Pavement Management Master Plan with ongoing reporting and remediation through the city's new 311 reporting system;
  - 3) Staff to explore grant funding assistance for repairs towards Pico Street flooding issues; and
  - 4) Councilmember Fajardo to discuss Fox Street sidewalk issues and to seek assistance with Los Angeles Councilmember Monica Rodriguez.
- 13) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CO-SPONSORSHIP OF AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S 2023 RELAY FOR LIFE ACROSS THE GREATER VALLEY EVENT AND USE OF THE CITY SEAL

Mayor Celeste T. Rodriguez presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Councilmember Fajardo to approve Co-Sponsorship of American Cancer Society's 2023 Relay for Life Across the Greater Valley Event; Approve the use of the City seal on the printed material and social media; pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 6904; and Authorize staff to promote the 2023 Relay for Life Across the Greater Valley event through the City's social media, community events, park programming and any other avenue recommended by the City Council and authorize the city manager to approve future events support. The motion carried, with Councilmember Montañez absent.

#### **STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES**

City Clerk Fritz invited City Councilmembers to the City-wide Employee Family Fun Day Picnic being held on August 26, 2023 beginning at 11am to 2pm.

Recreation Services Supervisor Perez provided updates on community events and recreation activities.

Director of Finance Melton had no updates to report.

Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Kith mentioned the Metropolitan Water Districts workshop on July 18 regarding turf replacement rebates, on July 26 Southern California Association of Governments lunch and tour event to discuss the Safe and Active Streets Program and commented on grand opening events.

Police Chief Valdez reported meeting with San Fernando Middle School's administration and discussed development of a framework to begin a parent outreach academy, mentioned August 16 is the Neighborhood Watch meeting being held at Rudy Ortega Park to discuss public safety enhancement during the Halloween celebrations that occurs on Orange Grove Avenue.

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City Manager Kimball thanked Deputy City Manager Kith for her work as Acting City Manager, mentioned the bi-weekly update, and commented on information related to the upcoming Jensen Water Plant Facilities tour.

**GENERAL CITY COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES**

Councilmember Fajardo announced the birth of his new daughter, commented on murals and about the renaming of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Park to Cindy Montañez Natural Park.

Councilmember Solorio extended thanks to a chapel providing backpack giveaways.

Vice Mayor Mendoza had no updates to report.

Mayor Rodriguez spoke about community events, suggested that all City Commissioners be extended an invitation to attend major events and grand openings and mentioned she attended Southern California Association of Governments monthly meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT (9:21 p.m.)**

Mayor Rodriguez adjourned the meeting to the next regular meeting.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the August 7, 2023, Regular meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

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Julia Fritz, CMC  
City Clerk