CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
CLOSED SESSION –5:00 P.M.
OPEN SESSION – 6:00 P.M.
MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2026

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – CLOSED SESSION MEETING 5:00 P.M.

Mayor Joel Fajardo called the Special Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Joel Fajardo, Vice Mayor Victoria Garcia and Councilmembers Mary Mendoza, Mary Solorio, and Patty Lopez

Staff: City Manager Kanika Kith, City Attorney Richard Padilla

Absent: None

TELECONFERENCING REQUEST None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC STATEMENTS None

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (5:01 P.M.)

By consensus, Councilmembers recessed to Closed Session.

A) CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957 – PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Title of Employee: City Attorney

B) CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(D)(1) – CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION:

Case Name: Michael Delgado v City of San Fernando
WC Case No.: ADJ18106753
Claim No.: 22-161168

RECONVENED FROM SPECIAL MEETING (CLOSED SESSION) AND REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Padilla reported that there was no reportable action from Item B.

Mayor Fajardo reported that the City Council continued Item A.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – OPEN SESSION MEETING **6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Joel Fajardo called the regular meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.

Present: Council: Mayor Joel Fajardo, Vice Mayor Victoria Garcia and Councilmembers Mary Mendoza, Mary Solorio, and Patty Lopez

Staff: City Manager Kanika Kith, City Attorney Richard Padilla, Director of Administrative Services Erica D. Melton, Director of Recreation and Community Services Julio Salcedo, Director of Public Works Bonnie Tam, and City Clerk Julia Fritz

Absent: None

TELECONFERENCING REQUESTS/DISCLOSURE None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by City Clerk Julia Fritz

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Mayor Fajardo announced that this is a special meeting and that public comments can only be made regarding items specifically on the agenda of the special meeting.

Marcela Rodriguez stated she would hold her comments for a regular meeting.

Ricardo Benitez provided comments about the budget item on translating the budget in Spanish, spoke about streetlights and public safety.

City Attorney Padilla read a statement regarding results of an independent investigation performed by an outside investigation firm without any influence or interference from the city regarding a complaint filed against Councilmember Garcia on whether she intended to sway consideration on the recruitment process for a Commander position and noted that allegations were not sustained and it was found to be that there was no violation of the law or city policy.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza to approve the Consent Calendar:

1) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

a. April 6, 2026 Special & Regular CC Meeting
b. April 20, 2026 Special & Regular CC Meeting
c. May 4, 2026 Special & Regular CC Meeting
d. May 12, 2026 Special CC Meeting
e. May 18, 2026 Special & Regular CC Meeting
f. May 26, 2026 Special CC Meeting

The motion carried, unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2) A CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTING A RESOLUTION APPROVING FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 ANNUAL BUDGET

Mayor Fajardo opened the public hearing.

City Manager Kanika Kith and Director of Administrative Services Erica Melton presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

The City Council discussed Recreation and Community Services Department programming and events.

The City Council recessed the meeting at 7:54 p.m. and reconvened at 8:09 p.m. with all Councilmembers present.

Director of Administrative Services reminded the City Council that there were four (4) events that needed continued discussion and direction provided to staff.

Mayor Fajardo opened public comments.

Ricardo Benitez, spoke in general regarding concerns about the City's budget.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Lopez to close public comments. The motion carried, unanimously.

Motion by Councilmember Lopez, seconded by Vice Mayor Garcia to approve the budget as amended to adopt Resolution No. 8467 approving the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget, subject to such modifications or amendments as may be stated by the City Council in its motion to approve the Resolution (see attachment "A"):

The motion carried by the following vote:

ROLL CALL

AYES:	Lopez, Mendoza, Garcia - 3
NAYES:	Solorio, Fajardo - 2
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

The public hearing was closed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

5) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING UPDATES TO THE CITY COUNCIL PROCEDURAL MANUAL, INCLUDING RELATED PROCEDURES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Mayor Fajardo and City Attorney Richard Padilla presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Lopez to adopt Resolution No. 8421 approving updates to the City Council Procedural Manual, as presented, with stated changes (below) that have three Councilmembers in support, with the understanding that staff will revise some of the language as needed and bring back any revisions by way of resolutions or ordinances that are in conflict with the new procedural manual; and that the City Council should use the last paragraph on the announcement of the opening of public comments: "Please be advised that the City Council's ability to respond to public comments is limited by the Brown act and other applicable laws governing public meetings.

Accordingly and upon the advice of legal counsel, the city council generally refrains from engaging in dialogue or deliberation regarding matters raised during the public statements portion of the agenda":

1. Section 2.2: staff to create a process that allows discussion with City Attorney; and add language stating City Clerk can confer with the City Attorney to add the agenda item;
2. Section 1.3: revise section to formalize process that do not allow new items from City Council to be agendized for special meetings;
3. Section 2.9: City Attorney to clarify wording on public comment deadline, and language to notify public there may not be an option to speak during general comments for public hearing items;
4. Section 3.5: Correct typo of Mayer to Mayor;
5. Section 12.9: Remove the word "Regularly" from the title and reword to Boards, Commissions and Committees;
6. Section 17.3: add Section e. per City Attorney's language regarding unfair advantage regarding incumbent as elections candidate and not speaking at events within 30 calendar days from the date of the election;
7. Add Section 17.5: Add language indicating that, during the annual budget discussion, the City's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB), deferred maintenance costs, and the San Fernando Aquatic Center facility maintenance should the City be responsible for that maintenance will also be addressed;
8. Add language regarding ICFA funds Funding Regarding Independent Cities Finance Authority (ICFA) Annual Allotment:
    1. This policy applies only in years when the City qualifies to receive an ICFA annual allotment.
    2. ICFA funds shall be used only for purposes permitted by ICFA and applicable law.
    3. The City Council recognizes that, although many nonprofit organizations provide valuable services to the community, the selection of a recipient may create an actual or perceived appearance of favoritism or unequal recognition among community organizations or elected officials. It is therefore the intent of this policy to establish a consistent and impartial framework for the use of ICFA funds.
    4. In alternating years, the City Council intends to allocate the ICFA annual allotment to the City's Education Commission for scholarships, educational programs, and other qualifying community activities.
    5. During the years in which the Education Commission does not receive the allotment, the City Council intends to allocate the funds to a City-sponsored program or activity that benefits the community as a whole and is administered in a manner that does not favor or appear to favor any individual Councilmember.
9. Staff to return to a future Council meeting with information on the funds received from ICFA and its intended use;
10. Section 17.4 c. ii: Change "shall" to "should"; and
11. Section 17.4 c. iv: Change "shall" to "should."
12. Section 6: Select City Attorney changes and delete last paragraph "The unused allotted time of on Councilmember may be donated to another councilmember…."

13. Section 17.2 b. iii.: Revise to state Councilmembers should consult with the City Manager to obtain understanding of the issue and context of any such information.

The motion carried, unanimously.

It was noted that the City Council recessed the meeting at 11:03 p.m. due to live broadcasting equipment failure and reconvened at 11:08 p.m. with all Councilmembers present.

4) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE PROPOSED PROGRAM FORMAT AND DATE FOR THE SECOND SAN FERNANDO IMMIGRATION FORUM

Housing Coordinator Kenya Marquez presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Motion by Councilmember Solorio, seconded by Councilmember Lopez to direct staff to move forward with the forum and build in participation through Zoom, and add additional time for panel discussion. The motion carried, unanimously.

3) RECEIVE AND FILE STATUS UPDATE ON WELL NO. 2A NITRATE TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT, PROJECT NO. 7630

Director of Public Works Bonnie Tam presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

The City Council received and filed the report and directed staff to return with an update to the August 3, 2026 Council meeting, to include a cost analysis of purchasing Metropolitan Water District water vs. City water and available funding options; and to return quarterly with a project status update beginning October 5, 2026.

9) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO PLACE AREA B RESOLUTION AND RELATED INFORMATION ONLINE

Mayor Joel Fajardo presented the staff report.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Garcia to post the recently adopted Area B resolution on the City's website with history and background information on the resolution which had been publicly discussed at a previous open public meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Councilmember Lopez to authorize the City Council to respond to questions on whether this matter was discussed at a Closed Session meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

ROLL CALL

AYES:	Lopez, Mendoza, Garcia, Fajardo - 4
NAYES:	Solorio - 1
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

10) CONTINUED DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES

Mayor Joel Fajardo presented the staff report. He stated that at the July 6th meeting, he would like to invite his appointed Commissioners to be given Certificates of Recognition for their service, that clergy from the Police Department offer a prayer at the opening of the meeting, and requested that the advocacy letter be submitted to Metrolink regarding limiting all future ridership to a total trip count under the threshold that would trigger SB79.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, seconded by Vice Mayor Garcia to send a letter to Metro with those Councilmembers who were in support of the letter, to have their signatures included in the letter. The motion carried unanimously.

6) DISCUSSION REGARDING SAN FERNANDO CHRISTMAS PARADE 2026 (TABLED FROM THE JUNE 15, 2026 CITY COUNCIL MEETING)

Councilmember Patty Lopez presented the staff report.

The City Council approved the 2026 Christmas Parade, to be held in coordination with the City's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony contingent upon:

a. Finalizing an MOU with Emprende that outlined a defined scope of work; a process for collecting fundraising revenue to reimburse all parade-related expenses totaling $37,718 (covers City staff costs, Los Angeles Fire Department, other related permit fees, and a traffic control plan); and
b. To include in the MOU the following for Emprende to be responsible for completing the following scope of work:
    i. Emprende to form a community committee that will meet more often than monthly to support parade planning efforts.
    ii. Emprende to provide rules to be established regarding sponsorship criteria.
    iii. Emprende to provide weekly updates on fundraising/sponsorship activities beginning in August.
c. Emprende to create a sponsorship flyer for their use that will be separate from a City. City will create a Save the Date flyer and Event flyer for all the events taking place that day which includes the parade, tree lighting, and photographs with Santa.
d. Provide the city with a semi-monthly update on sponsorships beginning in August (include this information on Staff Report to Council for status of Project/Priorities);

7) DISCUSSION REGARDING OFFICE 133 COUNCILMEMBER WORKSPACE IMPROVEMENTS (TABLED FROM THE JUNE 15, 2026 CITY COUNCIL MEETING)

Continued to next regular meeting of July 20, 2026

8) DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY EVENT PERMITTING AND FACILITY RESERVATION PROCESS (TABLED FROM THE JUNE 15, 2026 CITY COUNCIL MEETING)

Continued to next regular meeting of July 20, 2026.

STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES

No Commission Updates were provided.

Assistant to the City Manager Pettener provide updates regarding Viva Fútbol Watch Party – On 6/24 over 2,000 attendees participated at the Watch Party in the Mall; 250th Independence Day Celebration (Drone Show) – 7/4, 9PM at Recreation Park City Council Swearing-in & Reorg – Held at the 7/6 Regular Meeting Love San Fernando, Shop Local Campaign – Program launched on 6/29, more info to come and on City Beautification Updates – Sidewalk repairs completed.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Solorio thanked staff for their work.

Councilmember Lopez thanked Mayor Fajardo for his dedication and support during the Council meeting, and expressed appreciation to Vice Mayor Garcia and Councilmember Mendoza for their participation in the Olympics Events Watch Party. She also shared concerns raised by businesses in the area near Bank of America regarding homelessness issues, and noted that her Commissioner on the Parks, Wellness, and Recreation Commissioner resigned.

Councilmember Mendoza thanked staff for the budget preparation and on the procedural manual and commented on the FIFA event watch party.

Vice Mayor Garcia thanked everyone for their hard work, noted she attended the LA City Selection Commission meeting, the FIFA watch party, and the 250th Independence Day Celebration.

Mayor Fajardo thanked everyone and commented on the ICFA meeting funds and mentioned that agenda items that have speakers presenting the item should be presented earlier in the meeting and talked about the balance of his Community Investment Funds and shared that batteries can be dropped off in Public Works at City Hall for recycling purposes.

ADJOURNMENT 12:37 p.m.

Motion by Mayor Fajardo, second by Vice Mayor Garcia, to adjourn to the regular meeting of June 29, 2026.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the June 29, 2026, Regular meeting and approved by the San Fernando City Council at the meeting of September 8, 2026

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Julia Fritz, CMC
City Clerk