CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – 5:30 P.M
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – SPECIAL MEETING **5:30 P.M. (CLOSED SESSION)**

Vice Mayor Patty Lopez called the Special Meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Present:

Council: Vice Mayor Patty Lopez, and Councilmembers Mary Mendoza, and Sean M. Rivas

Staff: City Manager Kanika Kith and City Attorney Richard Padilla

Absent: Mayor Victoria Garcia and Councilmember Mary Solorio

TELECONFERENCING REQUEST None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Rivas to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried, with Mayor Garcia and Councilmember Solorio absent.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS None

It was noted that Councilmember Mary Solorio arrived at 5:31 p.m.

By consensus, Councilmembers recessed to Closed Session.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (5:31 P.M.)

It was noted that Mayor Victoria Garia arrived in Closed Session at 5:38 p.m.

A) CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(D)(2) AND 54956.9(E)(1) - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Two (2) matters

RECONVENED FROM SPECIAL MEETING AND REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Padilla noted that only one matter was discussed and stated no reportable action as a result of the Closed Session meeting.

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

Mayor Victoria Garcia called the regular meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

Present: Council: Mayor Victoria Garcia, Vice Mayor Patty Lopez, and Councilmembers Mary Mendoza, Mary Solorio and Sean M. Rivas

Staff: City Manager Kanika Kith, City Attorney Richard Padilla, Interim Police Chief Anthony Miranda, Director of Administrative Services Erica Melton, Director of Recreation and Community Services Julio Salcedo, Director of Community Development Ron Garcia, 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 Councilmember Rivas, seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez to approve the agenda. The motion carried, unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

A) PRESENTATION FROM LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ANDRES E. CHAIT ON INITIATIVES FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

B) ANNUAL PROCLAMATIONS
- PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
- PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 9 AS CALIFORNIA'S 176TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATEHOOD

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

San Fernando Moon submitted a written comment regarding concerns related to the Christmas Parade, Agenda Item No. 6.

Lupita Gonzalez spoke about concerns related to the prevention of ICE operations interrupting local businesses and public safety issues regarding theft.

Dolores Rodriguez spoke in support of the Christmas Parade, Agenda Item No. 6.

Guadalupe Munoz spoke in support of the Christmas Parade, Agenda Item No. 6.

Michelle Alvarez called in and spoke in support of the Christmas Parade, Agenda Item No. 6 but was concerned about any conflict of interest with the relationship between Vice Mayor Lopez and Emprende.

Caller ending in 8738 spoke regarding accountability regarding the Christmas Parade and questioned transparency in the process.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Garcia requested to pull Consent Item No. 1 for discussion.

Vice Mayor Lopez requested to pull Consent Item No. 5 for discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to approve Item Nos. 2, 3 and 4. The motion carried, unanimously.

2) CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WARRANT REGISTER

3) RECEIVE AND FILE STATUS UPDATES FOR CITY PROJECTS AND CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

4) CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT PROJECT COMPLETION AND AUTHORIZE THE RECORDATION OF A NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR THE SAN FERNANDO PACOIMA WASH BIKEWAY AND PEDESTRIAN PATH, FEDERAL PROJECT NO. ATPL-5202(020), JOB NO. 7615, PLAN NO. P-737

The motion carried, unanimously.

1) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

   a. June 29, 2026 Special & Regular CC Meeting

   Motion by Mayor Garcia, seconded by Councilmember Rivas to approve the June 29, 2026 minutes, as amended to change Item 6(d) from bi-monthly to semi-monthly. The motion carried, unanimously.

Items heard out of order

9) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT A PARKS, WELLNESS, AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER

Vice Mayor Patty Lopez presented the staff report.

Motion by Vice Mayor Lopez, seconded by Mayor Garcia to approve Mario Lua be appointed as Commissioner to the Parks, Wellness, and Recreation Commission. The motion carried, unanimously.

7) RECEIVE AND FILE A PRESENTATION BY GISELA MENJIVAR, COLLABORATOR REPRESENTATIVE FOR MEXICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE U.S.A.

Vice Mayor Patty Lopez presented the staff report. The report was received and filed, no action taken.

5) CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

Motion by Councilmember Rivas, seconded by Mayor Garcia to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Small Business Grant Program Guidelines. The motion carried, unanimously.

Mayor Garcia re-opened public comments. The following provided a public comment:

Sylvia Ballin spoke regarding concerns related to the Christmas Parade, Agenda Item No. 6.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

6) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH EMPRENDE TO PRODUCE A CHRISTMAS PARADE IN COORDINATION WITH THE CITY'S ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING EVENT AND TO REIMBURSE THE CITY FOR RELATED PARADE EXPENSES

City Manager Kith and City Attorney Padilla presented the staff report and responded to Councilmember questions.

Two (2) supplemental agenda reports were distributed to the City Council regarding Emprende's estimated parade budget and requested changes to the MOU.

It was noted that Councilmember Rivas left the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

Mayor Garcia read email correspondence dated September 8 at 10:00 a.m. between City Manager Kith and Celia Rivas of Emprende. The correspondence addressed the City's explanation for why the discussion could not be postponed, citing deadlines associated with retaining a traffic control plan vendor, in response to Emprende's request to continue the agenda item to the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

Dolores Rodriguez was in attendance on behalf of Emprende as Celia Rivas was unable to attend due to prior commitments and responded to Councilmember questions.

Vice Mayor Lopez read a statement into the record related to her affiliation with Emprende and on bringing back a Christmas Parade to the City.

Motion by Vice Mayor Lopez, seconded by Councilmember Solorio to direct staff to discontinue efforts on an MOU between the City and Emprende; and approved Option B as stated in the staff report: Emprende to produce the parade on their own without City involvement subject to the City's special event permitting process requirements. The motion carried by the following vote:

ROLL CALL

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

It was noted that the City Council recessed the meeting at 9:21 p.m. and reconvened at 9:35 with Councilmember Rivas absent.

8) DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION REGARDING A CITY COUNCIL LETTER SUPPORTING HUMANE TREATMENT OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

Vice Mayor Patty Lopez presented the staff report.

Motion by Mayor Garcia, seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez to approve the letter, as amended to include citations to reputable sources on certain statements made, and to modify last sentence to site specific resources. The motion carried, with Councilmember Rivas absent.

10) DISCUSSION AND REQUEST OF DIRECTION TO DEVELOP A POLICY TO RESTRICT THE AGENDIZING OF COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING PRESENTATIONS AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councilmember Mary Mendoza presented the staff report.

By consensus, the City Council to direct staff to return with a policy prohibiting City Council agenda items or presentations from being used primarily to advertise, market, sell, endorse, or promote a private business, product, service, or individual. The consensus carried as follows:

ROLL CALL

AYES:	Solorio, Mendoza, Garcia - 3
NAYES:	Lopez - 1
ABSENT:	Rivas - 1
ABSTAIN:	None

11) CONSIDERATION OF CRITICAL INCIDENT MENTAL HEALTH, TRAUMA RESPONSE, AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT RESOURCES

Councilmember Mary Solorio presented the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Solorio, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza to direct staff to create a flyer with current city resources and include any additional mental health resources available through the County of Los Angeles Supervisor Horvath's Office and distribute information through the city's email constant contact and Instagram post on social media. The motion carried, with Councilmember Rivas absent.

STAFF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING COMMISSION UPDATES

Commission updates:

- Planning and Preservation Commission:
  - August 10 meeting was cancelled due to lack of scheduled items, next meeting scheduled for September 14
- Public Safety and Transportation Commission:
  - At the September 3 meeting, the commission heard updates from Public Works and PD regarding the traffic synchronization project and upcoming events and activities
- Parks, Wellness, & Recreation Commission:
  - Next meeting on September 10 will include discussion on the City's Mural Ad Hoc and Public Art process
- Education Commission:
  - At the August 25 meeting, the commission discussed the process for the Student of the Month Award for the 2026-27 school year and worked through options for how to increase Teacher's Spotlight nominations

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND LIAISON UPDATES

Councilmember Mendoza noted that she spent a significant amount of time reviewing this agenda packet and the decisions that Council needs to make are sometimes difficult.

Councilmember Solorio expressed thanks to staff for all their work.

Vice Mayor Lopez commented that she has been working on the parade for the past year and noted this she has learned many things along the way and was transparent throughout the process. She additionally spoke about miscommunication and noted that accurate information is important when being communicated to the City Councilmembers.

Mayor Garcia requested to close the meeting in memory of her aunt Judith Ann Coleman and Jenny Ornales Hernandez.

ADJOURNMENT 10:22 pm

The meeting adjourned to the regular meeting of September 21, 2026.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the September 8, 2026, Regular meeting and approved by the San Fernando City Council at the meeting of November 16, 2026.

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Julia Fritz, CMC
City Clerk