

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS
FEBRUARY 28, 2008**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Serrano, at 6:16 p.m., called the City Council meeting to order.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Gonzalez, Rounds, Serrano, Mayor Velasco

Excused: Councilmember Putnam

Also present: Fred Latham, City Manager; Barbara Earl, City Clerk; Steve Skolnik, City Attorney; Paul Ashworth, Director of Planning and Development; Tom Lopez sitting in for Don Jensen, Director of Public Works; Fernando Tarin, Director of Police Services; Ana Alvarez, Director of Community Services; Jose Gomez, Director of Finance & Administrative Services; Alex Rodriguez, Fire Chief

12. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes

A. Adjourned City Council Meeting of February 12, 2008

B. **Conference and Meeting Reports**

No reports were submitted.

New Business

C. Resolution No. 9092 – Ordering the Preparation of Plans, Specifications, Cost Estimate, Diagram, Assessment and Report Pursuant to the Provisions of Division 15, Part 2 of the Streets and Highways Code of the State of California for Proceedings for Annual Assessment Levy after Formation of a District

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 9092 ordering the preparation of plans, specifications, cost estimate, assessment diagram, assessment and Engineer's Report for the Lighting District.

Treasurer's Reports

D. Treasurer's Reports for the Month of January 2008

Recommendation: Receive and file the Treasurer's Reports for the month of January 2008.

Councilmember Rounds moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Items A, C and D. Councilmember Serrano seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

13. Resolution No. 9090 – Weed Abatement

Recommendation: That the City Council, following the Public Hearing, direct the Agricultural Commissioner to abate the nuisance by having weeds, rubbish and refuse removed.

Mayor Velasco opened the Public Hearing and invited interested parties to come forward to address the Council.

Having no one come forward, Mayor Velasco closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez moved the recommendation for Item No. 13. Councilmember Serrano seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE FOR PASSAGE

14. Ordinance No. 988 – Amending the City Code by Adopting Changes to the Building, Electrical, Plumbing and Mechanical Code as Set Forth in the 2008 Edition of the Los Angeles County Code, Titles 26, 27, 28 and 29, Respectively (City of Santa Fe Springs)

Recommendation: That the City Council waive further reading and adopt Ordinance No. 988.

City Attorney Skolnik read Ordinance No. 988 by title as follows:

An Ordinance of the City of Santa Fe Springs amending the City Code by adopting by reference the 2008 Edition of the Los Angeles County Building Code as set forth in the Los Angeles County Code, Title 26, the 2008 Edition of the Los Angeles County Electrical Code, Title 27, the 2008 Edition of the Los Angeles County Plumbing Code, Title 28, the 2008 Edition of the Los Angeles County Mechanical Code, Title 29, in lieu of the present Building, Plumbing, Mechanical and Electrical Codes of the City

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez moved to waive further reading and adopt Ordinance No. 988. Councilmember Rounds seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Gonzalez, Rounds, Serrano, Mayor Velasco

NOES:

ABSENT: Putnam

ABSTAIN:

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

15. Ordinance No. 989 – An Ordinance of the City of Santa Fe Springs Adding New Chapter 100 to the City Code Regarding Fire Alarms

Recommendation: That the City Council waive further reading and introduce Ordinance No. 989.

City Manager Latham reminded Council that Item No. 15 is a budget-related item and that the Fire Chief did advise the attendees at the Chamber Workshop of the item.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez moved to waive further reading and introduce Ordinance No. 989. Councilmember Serrano seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

16. Additional Engineering Services for the Valley View Avenue Grade Separation Project

Recommendation: That the City Council approve an extension of the contract with Hanson Wilson, Inc. in the amount of \$220,000 to cover the cost of additional engineering services for the Valley View Avenue Grade Separation Project; and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute the work order in order to incorporate these additional services into the contract.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez inquired as to whether anything had been built yet.

City Manager Latham stated the City was a long way from having enough money to build anything; however, the engineering of the project needed to be done.

City Attorney Skolnik noted that the City will be reimbursed by state and county funds and both are in agreement with the City going forward in the process.

17. Amendment to Agreement between the City of Santa Fe Springs and Los Nietos School District

Recommendation: That the City Council amend Section 8 of the attached agreement between the City of Santa Fe Springs and Los Nietos School District to read as referenced in the body of this report; and leave unchanged all other sections of the agreement.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez moved to approve Item Nos. 16 and 17. Councilmember Rounds seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Latham advised that a Subsequent Need Item was also before the Council. He explained that in order for an item to qualify for placement on the agenda as a subsequent need item, it must meet two criteria: 1) that staff became aware of the item after the preparation of the agenda and 2) that the matter could not wait for the next meeting to be acted on. He further stated that this item met both criteria.

SUBSEQUENT NEED ITEM

City Opposition to the Governor’s Proposal to Close Pio Pico State Park

Recommendation: That Mayor Velasco send a letter to the Governor and the City’s State Senator and Assemblymember expressing opposition to the proposed closure of Pio Pico State Park.

Councilmember Serrano moved to place the item on the agenda. Councilmember Rounds seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Gonzalez, Rounds, Serrano, Mayor Velasco

NOES:

ABSENT: Putnam

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez moved the recommendation. Councilmember Serrano seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez inquired as to how much the City spent annually to support the park.

City Manager Latham stated that the majority of the support was in-kind and amounted to less than \$1,000 a year.

RECESS

Mayor Velasco, at 6:33 p.m., recessed the meeting to go into Closed Session.

3. **CLOSED SESSION**

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

A & J Electric Cable Corp. vs. City of Santa Fe Springs

RECONVENE

Mayor Velasco, at 7:08 p.m., reconvened the City Council Meeting with all Councilmembers present.

4. **INVOCATION**

Councilmember Rounds gave the Invocation.

5. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Serrano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS

6. Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce
Wendy Meador, Tangram Interiors, was present representing the Chamber.
7. Representatives from the Youth Leadership Committee
Those representatives that were present came forward and introduced themselves.
8. Introduction of New City Employees
Ted Spaseff, Director of Municipal and Utility Services, introduced Abel Meraz, Electrician. Fire Chief Alex Rodriguez introduced Firefighters Matthew Newbill, Christopher Shields and Joseph Walls.

PRESENTATION

9. Excellence in Innovation Award Presentation to Mike Mendez and Jeff Mahlstedt for Their Leadership in the City's 50th Anniversary Celebration
City Manager Latham thanked Mike and Jeff for the innovation and creativity that they infused into each of the 50th Anniversary events. Mayor Velasco presented each of them with an Innovation statue; pictures with Council followed. Comments and thank you's were also given by Councilmembers Serrano, Rounds and Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez. Ana Romero, Field Representative for Grace Napolitano, also presented certificates of appreciation to each of them.

Councilmember Serrano, at 7:27 p.m., exited the City Council meeting.

10. Presentation to Security Officer Robert Monken
Fernando Tarin, Director of Police Services, described the circumstances surrounding the events for which Officer Monken was being recognized. Mayor Velasco presented him with a letter of appreciation. Pictures with Council, bank employees and family members followed.
11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Miss Armendariz and Miss Hanshaw from Lake Center Middle School thanked Council for their annual support of the 8th Grade Washington, D.C. trip and showed a short DVD of the 2007 trip.

Robert Orpin, President of the Rio Hondo Symphony, along with other Board Members, thanked Council for their continued support of the Symphony and invited Council and the audience to a free concert on Sunday, March 2nd at the Vic Lopez Auditorium at Whittier High School at 3:00. Mr. Orpin also showed a short DVD from the Pops Concert, which was part of the City's 50th Anniversary celebration.

Ana Romero, Field Representative for Grace Napolitano, delivered a personal

invitation to a free housing event on March 29 from 9:00-12:00 p.m. at the Hacienda-La Puente Adult Education Center multi-purpose room to address the declining housing market.

Courtney Lewandowski, Muscular Dystrophy Association representative, recognized the Fire Department, headed by Mike Yule, for their \$32,621 contribution from the annual Fill the Boot Fundraiser; pictures with Council, Fire Department staff and MDA representatives were taken.

Cherie Blake, Public Records Technician, updated the Community Events Calendar.

18. **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS**

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez appointed Kimberly Mette and Janet Martinez-Sanchez to the Sister City Committee.

19. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Velasco opened Oral Communications and invited interested parties to come forward to address the Council.

Having no one come forward, Mayor Velasco closed Oral Communications.

20. **EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS**

Ana Alvarez, Director of Community Services, thanked Mayor Velasco for attending the re-dedication ceremony of the ki at Heritage Park and gave an overview of the events surrounding the City receiving three awards of excellence for Fiestas Patrias.

Mayor Velasco requested, in light of the budget challenges, that staff bring to the March 13 meeting suggestions on how to keep the batting cages open.

Councilmember Rounds agreed the cages should be open in light of the fact that baseball season will be opening soon.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez thanked staff for their patience and for being at the Budget Study Session until 12:00 a.m. on Tuesday.

21. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Velasco, at 8:25 p.m., adjourned the City Council meeting.

Gustavo R. Velasco
Mayor

ATTEST:

Barbara Earl, CMC
City Clerk