

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS
SEPTEMBER 11, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Velasco, at 6:03 p.m., called the City Council meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Gonzalez, Putnam, Rounds, Serrano, Mayor Velasco

Also present: Fred Latham, City Manager; Barbara Earl, City Clerk; Steve Skolnik, City Attorney; Paul Ashworth, Director of Planning and Development; 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; Fire Chief Alex Rodriguez

12. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

- A. Adjourned City Council Meeting of August 25, 2008

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the minutes as submitted.

- B. Approval of Funding Plan for Replacement of City Hall South Side HVAC System Project

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the funding plan as recommended by staff for the replacement of the City Hall south side HVAC system; and transfer all remaining funds from the list of completed projects on Attachment "A" into the City Hall South Side HVAC Project.

Conference and Meeting Reports

- C. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez' and Councilmember Rounds' Attendance at the 2008 Chamber of Commerce Workshop

Recommendation: That the City Council receive and file the report.

New Business

- D. Implement Water Utility Billing Modifications: Bi-Monthly Billing Cycle and Deposit Requirement for New Accounts

Recommendation: That the City Council authorize the Director of Finance & Administrative Services to implement a bi-monthly billing cycle and a deposit requirement for new accounts.

Councilmember Serrano moved to approve the Consent Agenda, including Item Nos. 12-A, 12-B, 12-C and 12-D. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Councilmember Serrano initiated discussions regarding bi-monthly water billing.

Jose Gomez, Director of Finance, stated that the bi-monthly system would improve efficiency.

Councilmember Serrano expressed his concern that the residents' bills would be double the amount and could present a hardship for them, especially those residents on fixed incomes.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez suggested evaluating the program in six months and coming back to Council with a report.

City Manager Latham inquired as to the expense of reverting back to the original billing system.

Mr. Gomez stated that the major investment would be that of IT staff time for re-programming.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Presentation: Statement of Accounting Standards (SAS) No. 114 – Auditor Communication with Those Charged with Governance

Recommendation: That the City Council receive and file the report; and appoint two (2) members of the City Council to form an audit subcommittee as required by SAS No. 114.

Mr. Gomez introduced Chuck Acocello, the City's auditor, to give a brief overview of SAS No. 114.

City Attorney Skolnik explained that Council will need to appoint two members to form the Audit Review Committee, which will be a standing committee in full compliance with the Brown Act, including the 72-hour notice requirement and the requirement to conduct meetings in public.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez volunteered to serve on the Committee as did Councilmember Rounds.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Velasco ordered the appointments.

14. Appropriation of Funds from the City's Art in Public Places Fund and Authorization to Distribute Monies as Recommended by the Heritage Arts Advisory Committee to Fund the City's Art Education Grant Program

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the appropriation of funds from the City's Art in Public Places Fund, Activity 6350-6100, and authorize the distribution of monies as recommended by the Heritage Arts Advisory Committee to fund the City's Art Education Grant Program.

15. Authorize the Purchase of City Radio Equipment

Recommendation: That the City Council appropriate funds from the Fiscal Year 2008/09 General Fund Reserve for emergency radio equipment in the amount of \$39,941.60; authorize the Director of Purchasing Services to issue purchase orders as needed to facilitate the acquisition of radio equipment from B & W Communications; authorize the Director of Police Services to enter into a five-year Frequency Lease Agreement with Henry Radio, Inc.

16. Resolution No. 9138 – Approving the Use of Community Development Commission Funds for the Street Rehabilitation on Washington Boulevard (Norwalk Boulevard to Westman Avenue) and Norwalk Boulevard (Washington Boulevard to Boer Avenue)

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 9138 finding that the street rehabilitation on Washington Boulevard (Norwalk Boulevard to Westman Avenue) and Norwalk Boulevard (Washington Boulevard to Boer Avenue) benefits the Washington Boulevard Redevelopment Project Area and that no other reasonable means to complete the financing of this project is available within the community.

17. Resolution No. 9139 – Approving the Use of Community Development Commission Funds for the 2008 Commercial/Industrial Street Rehabilitation Program

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 9139 finding that the 2008 Commercial/Industrial Street Rehabilitation Program benefits the Consolidated Redevelopment Project Area and that no other reasonable means to complete the financing of this project are available within the community.

18. Resolution No. 9140 – Approving the Use of Community Development Commission Funds for the Heritage Park Improvement Project

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 9140 finding that the Heritage park Improvement Project benefits the consolidated Redevelopment Project Area and that no other reasonable means to complete the financing of this project is available within the community.

Councilmember Putnam moved to approve Item Nos. 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez seconded the motion.

Fernando Tarin, Director of Police Services, advised of a correction to Item No. 15; the number \$4,900 had not been added to the report.

Councilmember Rounds inquired as to whether staff had gone out to bid for the radios.

Paul Martinez, Director of Purchasing, stated that the radios were purchased through GSA, which is a County contract.

Councilmember Rounds requested that such information be made part of the staff reports in the future.

Mayor Velasco requested a roll call vote, which was recorded as follows:

AYES: Gonzalez, Putnam, Rounds, Serrano, Mayor Velasco

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

RECESS

Mayor Velasco, at 6:35 p.m., recessed the City Council meeting to conduct the Closed Session of the Community Development Commission.

RECONVENE

Mayor Velasco, at 7:10 p.m., reconvened the City Council meeting with all Councilmembers present.

Mayor Velasco delivered comments in recognition of Patriots' Day, the National observance of the tragic events of 9/11. He then called upon Fire Chief Alex Rodriguez who also delivered comments and called for a moment of silence.

3. **INVOCATION**

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez gave the Invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In observance of Patriots' Day, the Honor Guard presented the colors. Members of the Youth Leadership Committee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECESS

Mayor Velasco called for a brief recess so Councilmembers could take pictures with the Color Guard.

RECONVENE

Mayor Velasco reconvened the meeting with all Councilmembers present.

INTRODUCTIONS

5. Representatives from the Youth Leadership Committee

Those members who were present introduced themselves.

6. Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce

Paul Hesse and Susan Crowell were present representing the Chamber of Commerce.

7. Introduction of New Santa Fe Springs Policing Team Member

Captain Petropulos introduced Officer John Draper. Mayor Velasco welcomed him to the Santa Fe Springs family.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Velasco announced that Councilmember Rounds will be celebrating his birthday on September 16. A cake was brought out; staff and the audience sang Happy Birthday to him.

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

Ana Alvarez, Director of Community Services, called upon staff to do a brief overview of the 2008 Fiestas Patrias celebration, including an educational PowerPoint presentation, the sampling of Mexican breads and chocolate, and a presentation of gifts to Council.

PRESENTATIONS

9. Proclamation Declaring September 12, 2008 as the City of Santa Fe Springs 2008 Fiestas Patrias Cultural Celebration

Mayor Velasco called upon City Clerk Barbara Earl to read the Proclamation. Mayor Velasco then presented it to members of the Family & Human Services Committee; pictures with Council followed.

10. Presentation to Laura Berg, 2008 Olympic Medalist as a Member of the United States Softball Team

Thaddeus McCormack, Assistant to the City Manager, introduced Laura Berg, four-time Olympic medalist, and spoke of her prestigious athletic career. Mayor Velasco congratulated her and presented her with an engraved glass plate and a community portrait; pictures with Council and family members followed.

11. Presentation of the Mariachi Festival Concert Held on August 15, 2008 in Benefit of the Family and Human Services Fund and Recognition of Event Volunteers

Ms. Alvarez called upon Wayne Bergeron, Management Assistant, to assist her with the presentation of the final accounting of the concert as well as the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to those community members and staff who helped to make the concert a success. Pictures with Council were taken.

Mayor Velasco presented members of the Family & Human Services Committee with a check for \$60,000 for the "La Familia" Fund; pictures with Council followed.

19. Appointment of Council Liaison to the 2008 Citizen of the Year Committee

Recommendation: That the City Council appoint a liaison to the 2008 Citizen of the Year Committee.

Councilmember Putnam volunteered to serve on the Committee.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Velasco ordered the appointment.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS

20. Committee Appointments

No appointments were made.

21. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Art Escobedo, Los Nietos School District Board Member, thanked Council for their continued support of the School District and shared with them the 2007-08 Accountability Progress Report from the Department of Education, which showed improved scores for the District.

22. **EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS**

Paul Ashworth, Director of Planning and Development, reported that the Planning Department will be hosting a Silent Auction to benefit the Relay on Tuesday, September 16 from 10:00-3:00, with a live auction at 12:30.

Don Jensen, Director of Public Works, reported that his department is running a 50/50 raffle and is also selling t-shirts to support John Rodriguez, the City employee who was recently diagnosed with leukemia; proceeds from the sale will also go to the Relay.

Fernando Tarin, Director of Police Services, reported that his department will be hosting "Taco Time" on Wednesday, September 17 from 11:30-1:30 and also has gift baskets and a TV up for raffle.

Ana Alvarez, Director of Community Services, reported that her department will be selling hotdogs on the Plaza as well as having a bake sale on Tuesday, September 16, to complement the Auction; they also will be running a raffle.

Jose Gomez, Director of Finance, reported that his department will be supporting each of the various events by attending, eating and buying raffle tickets.

Alex Rodriguez, Fire Chief, reported that the Fire Department will be hosting a fundraiser in support of John Rodriguez on Thursday, September 18 from 5:00-9:00 at Shakey's Restaurant.

City Manager Latham advised Council that Chief Rodriguez and Fernando Tarin were co-chairs of the Relay for Life this year; the City has paid entry fees for four City teams which will be participating in the 24-hour walk.

Mr. Latham also advised Council of the various ways the City organization observed Patriots' Day, culminating with the events which took place during the Council meeting.

23. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Velasco, at 8:40 p.m., adjourned the City Council meeting to Tuesday, September 23, 2008, 4:30 p.m., at the Clarke Estate.

Gustavo R. Velasco
Mayor

ATTEST:

Barbara Earl, CMC, City Clerk