

**CITY OF SOUTH GATE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Gil Hurtado called a regular City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION Lolita Brown Fletcher, Personnel Director led the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Susan Perez, City Employee, Finance Department led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL Carmen Avalos, City Clerk

PRESENT Mayor Gil Hurtado, Vice Mayor Henry C. Gonzalez, Council Member Gregory Martinez and Council Member Bill De Witt; City Treasurer Rudy Navarro, City Manager Ronald Bates and City Attorney Raul Salinas

ABSENT Council Member Maria Davila

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PROCLAMATIONS The City Council presented a proclamation to Susan Perez in recognition of her 35 years of service to the City of South Gate.

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PRESENTATIONS The City Council heard a presentation from representatives from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

DEVIATE FROM THE AGENDA At this time, there being no objections, Mayor Hurtado stated that Comments from the Audience, Reports and Comments from City Officials and Consent Calendar would be considered out of its regular agenda order.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE Caesar Saldivar-Motts, Executive Director of the Southeast Development Corp., provided an update to City Council and staff members regarding the Southeast Technology Initiative that SCDC and Southeast Cities Technology Collaborative have been working on since the past year.

Samantha Cano addressed City Council and staff that she was nominated to attend the Jr. National Young Leaders Conference in Washington DC. In order to attend she must raise \$2,980 dollars and \$1,840 must go to the Jr. National Young Leaders Conference Council by July 2nd. She has raised \$650 in donations and has fund raised \$180 in a bake sale at St. Helen's Church. She is asking for Council's support in helping her achieve her goals. Her website is Samanthagoestodc.myevent.com.

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COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE CONTINUED

Council Member De Witt thanked Ms. Cano for some cookies that were delivered about a week ago and asked her to return tomorrow afternoon to pick-up a donation.

Vice Mayor Gonzalez asked Ms. Cano to return tomorrow afternoon and pick-up a donation too.

Virginia Johnson, 5751 McKinley Avenue, congratulated City Council on Measure P and was surprised it passed with so many votes. She reported that Poway Elementary School just retrieved their buried treasurers from the past (which was done in 1975) about a month ago. She hopes this City knows where our treasurers are buried, not like the City of Bellflower that has not been able to locate where their treasures are buried.

Araceli Dominguez, 9624 Bowman Avenue, reported that the City of South Gate was on television regarding the River Ride event. She is concerned regarding the parking on curves on Southern Avenue.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Julia James, Director of Finance reported that due to the housing crisis and everything happening on Wall Street with the banking companies, some of our bond security companies that issue insurance for bond issues have also had their ratings down graded. Two bond issues have been affected, the water bond issue and housing bond issue. She will be speaking of this during the budget session.

Robert Dickey, Director of Public Works reported on the final stretch of the bridge widening at the Rio Hondo Chanel on Firestone Boulevard. Public Works has also been working with Caltrans to make an effort to clean up the weeds and debris around the intersection of Firestone and I-710. The City Manager has asked us to start the Adopt a Highway program and we have begun that process.

Paul Dickey, Director of Parks & Recreation announced the grand opening of the swimming pool for this Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and hopes to see everyone present.

Steven Lefever, Director of Community Development informed City Council that the owners of the Hollydale Plaza have made several attempts to solicit state funding to help them redevelop the project. The owners have failed with their third attempt. They have protested the findings and hope to over turn the decision and get funded. He also reported that an application will be going before the Planning Commission in July on the Atlantic Park Plaza on Tweedy and Atlantic Avenue. The developers are redesigning the shopping center. They are removing the housing component from it. The developers for that shopping center also notified