

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fernandez called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Councilmember James A. Tovias, Councilmember Martin F. Hernandez, Vice Mayor Richard C. Cook and Mayor Ralph J. Fernandez responded to roll call. Councilmember Gonzales was absent. City Manager Jaime M. Fontes, City Attorney John C. Cotti, City Clerk Judy Rice and Deputy City Clerk Lucy Blanco were also present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment.

**CLOSED SESSION**

- A. Appoint Labor Negotiators –Government Code § 54957.6. City Labor Negotiators: Human Resources Manager Lorena Alvarez, Assistant to the City Manager Elisabeth Amador and Finance Director Sandy Easley. Employee Organizations: SEIU Local 721; Santa Paula Police Officers Association (SPPOA); Ventura County Professional Firefighters Association (VCPFA), representing Santa Paula Full-time Firefighters; Community Services Officers (CSO); Mid-Management Association, Supervisory and Professional Association; unrepresented confidential employees (City employees who are not members of bargaining units); and Part-Time/Temporary/Seasonal

Mayor Fernandez recessed the City Council to a closed session at 6:12 p.m., and reconvened the City Council at 6:20 p.m. No reportable action. Mayor Fernandez recessed the City Council at 6:20 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fernandez called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Deacon Al Gulin led the invocation and Vice Mayor Cook led the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL**

Councilmember James A. Tovias, Councilmember Robert S. Gonzales, Councilmember Martin F. Hernandez, Vice Mayor Richard C. Cook, and Mayor Ralph J. Fernandez responded to roll call. City Manager Jaime M. Fontes, City Attorney John C. Cotti, City Clerk Judy Rice and Deputy City Clerk Lucy Blanco were also present.

### **CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

No reportable action.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

No presentations.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Juana Mendez, 230 Standford Street, spoke regarding her opposition to the high sewer rates.

Amaro Arana, 722 Ralph Way, spoke regarding her concerns and opposition to the high sewer and water rates.

Maria Vasquez, 343 N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, asked Council to consider a program to assist low income and elderly with regards to the high water and sewer fees.

Faustina Hernandez, 713 Ralph Way, spoke regarding her opposition to the high water and sewer rates. She stated that she is an elderly, disabled resident and is having much trouble paying the fees to keep her services on.

City Manager Jaime Fontes, gave the public a brief summary of the City and Council's efforts in working on the fees through the Ad Hoc Committee. He invited the public to attend the upcoming meetings which will begin sometime in January.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

A. **Review Procedure for Election of Mayor and Vice Mayor**

City Judy Rice reviewed the procedures for the election of Mayor and Vice Mayor as outlined.

B. **Selection Process for the Mayor of the City of Santa Paula**

Councilmember Tovias nominated Richard C. Cook for Mayor.

It was moved by Councilmember Tovias, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales to close the nominations for Mayor. All were in favor under roll call vote and the motion carried.

C. Selection Process for the Vice Mayor

Mayor Cook opened the nominations for the office of Vice Mayor.

Councilmember Fernandez nominated James A. Tovias for Vice Mayor.

It was moved by Councilmember Fernandez, seconded by Councilmember Gonzales to close the nominations for Vice Mayor. All were in favor under roll call vote and the motion carried.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Richard C. Cook, Vice Mayor James A. Tovias, Councilmember Robert s. Gonzales, Councilmember Ralph J. Fernandez, and Councilmember Martin F. Hernandez all responded to roll call.

**COMMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL**

Mayor Cook presented Councilmember Fernandez with a gavel in appreciation for a job well done during his term as Mayor.

Councilmember Fernandez expressed his gratitude to the Council and thanked them for working together to make the City a better place. He also thanked his wife and children for their support, he thanked City Manager Fontes for helping to make things run smoothly; he thank City staff, Judy Rice, Lucy Blanco and John Cotti for all their assistance.

Councilmember Gonzales thanked Councilmember Fernandez for his leadership as Mayor; for being the City's Statesman; for his tenacity and work on the Heritage Valley Transit issues and the Steckel Park Aviary.

Vice Mayor Tovias thanked Councilmember Fernandez for all he accomplished in the last year as Mayor while balancing a busy personal life with four children.

Councilmember Hernandez thanked Councilmember Fernandez for his leadership as Mayor and his caring of the community's concerns. He expressed his admiration for all Councilmember Fernandez' accomplishments while attending to his busy schedule as a father to his four children.

City Manager Fontes thanked Councilmember Fernandez for his outstanding leadership during the Heritage Valley Transit issues on behalf of the City.

Mayor Cook thanked Councilmember Fernandez for his job well done as Mayor and expressed his anticipation to continue working together.

**STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

No staff communications.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No future items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Cook adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Judy Rice  
City Clerk