

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Gardena City Council
Tuesday, October 13, 2020

In order to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus Governor Newsom has issued Executive Orders that temporarily suspend requirements of the Brown Act. Please be advised that the Council Chambers are closed to the public and that some, or all, of the Gardena City Council Members may attend this meeting telephonically.

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order at 7:33 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 1700 West 162nd Street, Gardena, California: Mayor Tasha Cerda presiding.

1. ROLL CALL

Present via teleconference: Mayor Tasha Cerda; Mayor Pro Tem Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka; Council Member Art Kaskanian; and Council Member Paulette C. Francis. Other City officials and employees present via teleconference: City Manager Clint Osorio; City Attorney Carmen Vasquez; City Clerk Mina Semenza; and Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero. City Treasurer Ingrid Tsukiyama was not present.

2. CLOSED SESSION – No Items

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. INVOCATION

Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka led the Invocation.

4. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, & APPOINTMENTS

A. PRESENTATIONS

- (1) Police Department Commendation for Critical Incident at 13605 S. Vermont. *Chief of Police Mike Saffell spoke of the critical incident that occurred on Friday, September 25, 2020 at 3:00 PM. Mr. Tyrone Vaughn, owner of the building, expressed his gratitude, thanked, and spoke of the outstanding professionalism by the Gardena Police Department.*

B. PROCLAMATIONS – None

C. APPOINTMENTS – No Appointments were made

- (1) Council Appointments to Commissions, Committees, Councils, and Boards
(Appointees to be Ratified and Sworn In)
- (a) Human Services Commission
 - (b) Planning and Environmental Quality Commission
 - (c) Recreation and Parks Commission
 - (d) Senior Citizens Commission

4. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, & APPOINTMENTS (Continued)

C. APPOINTMENTS (Continued)

- (e) Gardena Youth Commission
- (f) Gardena Beautification Committee
- (g) Gardena Economic Business Advisory Council
- (h) Gardena Rent Mediation Board, Owner Representative
- (i) Gardena Rent Mediation Board, Tenant Representative
- (j) Gardena Rent Mediation Board, At-Large Representative

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. WAIVER OF READING IN FULL OF ALL ORDINANCES LISTED ON THIS AGENDA AND THAT THEY BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

B. CITY CLERK

(1) Minutes of

- (a) **Approved:** Special Study Session of the Gardena City Council, July 14, 2020
- (b) **Approved:** Regular Meeting of the City Council, July 14, 2020

(2) **Approved:** Affidavit of Posting Agenda on October 9, 2020

C. CITY TREASURER

(1) **Approved:** Warrants / Payroll Register

- (a) October 13, 2020: Wire Transfer: 11927-11930; Prepay: 160688-160691; Check Nos. 160692-160869 - for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$4,310,982.34; Total Payroll Issued for September 25, 2020: \$1,941,389.74; Total Payroll Issued for October 9, 2020: \$1,388,062.98

(2) **Approved:** Monthly Portfolio

- (a) August 2020

D. CITY MANAGER

(1) **Approved:** Personnel Report No. P-2020-17

(2) **Approved:** HR - Approval of an Alternate Dispute Resolution Agreement between the City of Gardena and the Gardena Police Officers Association

(3) **Approved:** GTRANS - Approval of Purchase of Inverters from NFI Parts – The Aftermarket Parts Company, LLC in the amount of \$287,499.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, seconded by Council Member Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve all Items on the Consent Calendar:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Henderson and Council Members Tanaka, Kaskanian, Francis, and Mayor Cerda
Noes: None
Absent: None

6. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR**7. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET****A. OCTOBER 6, 2020 MEETING – *Meeting Cancelled*****ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

- (1) City Clerk Mina Semenza, read an email from Teame Ozeqbe – *"Honorable City Council, Elected Officials, etc., My name is Teame Ozeqbe. I'm writing this to express my strong opposition to State Measure 16. State Measure 16 uses race to judge the qualifications of applicants to universities, to jobs, etc., This is a textbook definition of racism, pure and simple. If it is passed, how far will we slide down this slippery, dangerous slope? What's next? Set a racial quota for elected positions? Set a racial quota for the NBA and NFL? Set a racial quota for TV anchors? Set a racial quota for movies and songs? Please join us to vote "NO" against State Measure 16"*.
- (2) Traci Saruwatari, Representative of ADAAP & GDAAP: spoke about Red Ribbon Week which is taking place October 23rd through 31st, 2020. She also mentioned that they were joining our Police Department for their "Flap Jack Give Back" on October 24, 2020. She thanked the City and Police Chief Mike Saffell for all their support.
- (3) Matt Larsen, resident of Gardena: spoke regarding an email he received from Mayor Pro Tem Mark Henderson where he referenced himself as the Mayor of Gardena, found it a bit concerning and deceitful about his position in the City, and wanted to bring it to Council's attention.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS**A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – **No Items******B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- (1) Approval of Consultant Agreement with De Novo Planning Group for services related to the environmental review of adoption of the 6th Cycle Housing Element for 2021 – 2029 and changes to the Land Use Plan and Zoning to implement the housing changes; preparation of an Environmental Justice Element and update to the Safety Element of the General Plan and Environmental Services related thereto

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report. He mentioned that Assistant City Attorney Kranitz and representatives from De Novo Planning Group Amanda Tropiano, and Starla Barker are available for any questions you may have.

There was a discussion which included Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, Council Members Kaskanian and Francis, and City Manager Osorio regarding: if the other firms that responded had the opportunity of knowing that they could consolidate the work. City Manager replied that the treatment was consistent with all three consultants; it was then asked how much did we save by consolidating the work. Amanda Tropiano of De Novo Planning Group responded that we were able to save approximately \$25,000 by proposing on both projects concurrently, which will result in better work products for the City with a more comprehensive approach, she continued to say we hope to deliver to you superior work product for these projects. It was then asked, "what is this going to cost us?" Assistant Attorney Kranitz then replied the very last page of the agenda item was the combined budget for the project for these two RFP's which total with the contingency approximately \$344,000 from 2021 – 2029. She clarified that the Safety Plan and the Environmental Justice Element are not covered by these grants; the

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)**B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (Continued)****(1) Approval of Consultant Agreement with De Novo Planning Group (Continued)**

City is currently looking for other grants to cover these costs; she continued to say they are doing significant environmental work on the Housing Element that is going to require significant environmental work under CEQA law; Starla Barker of De Novo Planning Group, then said the technical analysis for the environmental report will include: traffic, air quality, gas emission, notice public service and utilities, just to name a few. City Manager Osorio confirmed that the SB 2 grant for \$310,000 and the Local Early Action Planning grant for \$300,000 should cover most of the work; he then said at the end we are not going to touch the general fund. It was then asked if these elements of the City's General Plan are pretty standard and whether we are adding any new information. Ms. Tropiano then spoke and said the State requires the City to update or analyze these topics periodically, and this is consistent with those state requirements for the topics of housing, environmental justice, and public safety. Assistant City Attorney Kranitz added this is the first year the City will be required to do an Environmental Justice Element, which is a more recent amendment to the General Plan law.

It was moved by Council Member Kaskanian, seconded by Council Member Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Consultant Agreement:

Ayes: Council Members Kaskanian, Tanaka, Mayor Pro Tem Henderson and Council Member Francis, and Mayor Cerda
Noes: None
Absent: None

C. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**(1) Approval of CARES Act Program Funding (CDBG-CV) received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to Alleviate the Negative Economic Impacts of COVID-19**

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion which included Council Member Francis, Mayor Cerda and City Manager Osorio regarding the homeowners who have had a negative impact during this time. City Manager Osorio replied, we don't have anything identified for homeowners at this time; we have reason to believe that there will be another round of funding for mortgage relief. He continued to say that this funding is more specific to rental relief. It was then asked when will we start advertising. City Manager Osorio replied we have already started advertising on Spectrum 1, on our website and all of our social media accounts. He continued to say that we are trying to reach out to as many families as possible through this gracious amount of money allocated to help our residents.

It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Program Guidelines:

Ayes: Council Members Francis, Kaskanian, Mayor Pro Tem Henderson and Council Member Tanaka, and Mayor Cerda
Noes: None
Absent: None

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

C. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (Continued)

(2) Appointment of Representative to the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB)

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, seconded by Council Member Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Appointment of Kevin Metcalfe, CEO of Memorial Hospital of Gardena to the SBWIB:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Henderson and Council Members Tanaka, Kaskanian, Francis, and Mayor Cerda

Noes: None

Absent: None

(3) COVID-19 Update

City Manager Osorio presented the update.

There was a discussion which included Mayor and Council regarding the position we are in because there are other cities that have their bars jammed pack. It was discussed why those cities are not high on this list, and if it was possible that they may not be following the guidelines. It was stated that there is a place on Gardena Blvd., a medical center, where you can get COVID tested. They continued to discuss that churches are closed, but outdoor churches are limited to 40-50 people. City Manager Osorio replied that the City of Gardena is following the Los Angeles County guidelines; the numbers are starting to plateau, and it could be a lot worse if we did allow certain activities. It was then asked if we could decipher the data by zip code. City Manager Osorio replied there is no way for us to decipher the data by zip code. When they indicate Gardena, it could be the unincorporated area. He continued to say that we will keep asking the County if they could provide us a zip code report.

D. PUBLIC WORKS – No Items

E. POLICE – No Items

F. RECREATION & HUMAN SERVICES – No Items

G. TRANSPORTATION – No Items

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS

A. COUNCIL ITEMS – No Items

B. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES

Council Member Kaskanian:

(1) Asked if we could get a Resolution to adopt at our next Council Meeting regarding Standing in Solidarity with the people of Armenia and Artsakh to Condemn Azerbaijan's Aggression (Council Member Francis seconded it)

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS (Continued)

B. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES (Continued)

Council Member Francis:

- (1) Asked if we could go back to having our children lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance; (Mayor Pro Tem seconded it)

(1) CITY MANAGER REMARKS RE: DIRECTIVES / COUNCIL ITEMS

City Manager Osorio gave a verbal report of information to follow-up on matters that had been directed or requested by the Mayor and Members of Council. Those items were, as follows:

- (1) Memo regarding train noise;
- (2) Drive-in Movie Night on October 16, 2020 at 7:30p.m. at Rowley Park;
- (3) Helping Hands 2020 Toy Drive from October 19 to December 4, 2020; asking for donations of new unwrapped toys for all ages;
- (4) K-9 Police Department "Flap Jack Give Back" fundraiser on October 24, 2020 from 7:30-9:30a.m., and a video presentation;
- (5) Halloween video presentation;
- (6) Voting video presentation;
- (7) Senior video presentation;
- (8) A South bay Fiber Network presentation; and
- (9) Wished Mayor Pro Tem Henderson a Happy Belated Birthday.

D. COUNCIL REMARKS

- (1) MAYOR PRO TEM HENDERSON – He mentioned his birthday did pass on October 2nd. He congratulates the new hires at the Gardena Police Department. He also thanked Chief Saffell for the presentation on the de-escalation of the event that happened at 13605 S. Vermont Ave. It was a great report and good to hear these things for our community to know we are practicing what we preach. He also thanked our PD and LA County Fire for their work on the bad accident that took place on 147th Street. It took them under 4 minutes to get to the scene which was very impressive. He also wanted to send prayers to everyone impacted by COVID-19 and encouraged everyone to wear a mask and social distance. He attended the SCAG Race Equity Meeting and they are starting to line up the things we are going to do within the Southern California Region regarding health and equity and opportunity. He attended his Business Federation Responsible Governance Meeting in which it centered around the COVID-19 Task Force and how to back up the economy. He attended Bizz Fed discussion on community college partnerships and what are the opportunities to get people back to work. He also attended the funeral for Bess Hudnall at Holly Park United Methodist Church, and everyone was spread out and social distanced. He thanked the Gardena CERT Team who did a drill on his block and heard it was exciting.

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS (Continued)**D. COUNCIL REMARKS (Continued)**

- (2) COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS – She mentioned Hispanic Heritage month began in 1968 and was originally Hispanic Heritage Week started by President Johnson and was later extended to a month by President Reagan. For our local area we have Secretary of State Alex Padilla as well as the first Latino Mayor of Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia who lost both of his parents to COVID-19. She also mentioned that Caesar Chavez whose birthday is a state Holiday on the State of California. He is one of two Americans whose birthday is a holiday and was not a President. October 12 was indigenous people day formerly Columbus Day. She attended the Virtual Town Hall Meeting for Gardena Schools and City of Gardena partnership. Then she also attended the Gardena Clean- Up Day at Rowley Park and about 80 people had gone through and dumped about 4 bins of waste. She stopped by Fukai Park and there was line around the block. She mentioned it was a great event and hope we can have another one. She said by now everyone should have received their ballots for voting. She said it is an important election and you can vote at Rowley Park, Nakaoka Community Center or drop your ballot in the Drop Boxes. She suggested to vote early and do not wait until the last minute.
- (3) COUNCIL MEMBER KASKANIAN – He attended a lot of meetings regarding the situation in Armenia and unfortunately, we are in a full blown war with Turkey. He has been talking to Congress and Assembly Members and is doing his best to get the information out there. In the last 48 hours, Turkey has been bombing Artsakh churches and the people in the bunkers under the church are being killed by heavy duty missiles. There has been a lot of casualties. He mentioned at the next council meeting he will try to give an update and some numbers of what is going in in Artsakh.
- (4) MAYOR CERDA – She attended the CERT Parade and she helped explain to the community about what CERT is about. She explains CERT is a 3 day, 8-hour course where you learn how to protect your community in an emergency. The event raised awareness and they passed out informational flyers. She also attended a social distance award ceremony for Leroy Bates, one of our golf instructors, he was given an award from the PGA Youth League as number four for recruiting kids to the Junior Golf Program. Most of the time this program is free. She also attended the Bulk Trash Pick Up Event and she mentioned there were so many people that requested another one. She said she thinks the residents loved it and she suggested we do it again. She mentioned the second week in October is Code Enforcement Appreciation Week, so she mentioned we should tell the code enforcement officers that we appreciate them. She said the Halloween Virtual Costume Contest will still take place and submit the photos by October 26, 2020. All Gardena residents are eligible to win the contest. She mentioned there are multiple categories that you can submit photos to on Facebook. She asked a question to the City Attorney or City Manager regarding neighboring city officials putting their election signs in Gardena when they are running for a neighboring city. The City Attorney responded by saying that we cannot regulate the placement of the sign if they are compliant. Mayor Cerda then added to the remembrances the City Councilmen of Inglewood Eloy Morales's Father who passed away. His name was Eloy Morales Sr.
- (5) COUNCIL MEMBER TANAKA – He attended the League of California Cities Conference in which he will give his report at the October 27, 2020 Meeting. He also picked a ticket for the Wine Basket raffle with the Recreation Department. He also attended the South Bay COG's Board Meeting and they talked about the fiber networking and the housing issues. He stopped by the bulky item pickup and he mentioned that he is happy that that event took place. He attended the South Bay COG Steering

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS (Continued)

D. COUNCIL REMARKS (Continued)

(5) COUNCIL MEMBER TANAKA (Continued)

Committee Meeting as well as the special meeting for the South Bay Regional Communications Authority Meeting. He congratulated the newly graduated Gardena Police Officers and apologized for missing the virtual graduation. Lastly, he mentioned his friends Larry, Chris, and Harold Payne lost their mother, Loraine Payne, who lost her life at 97 years old. He wanted to give his condolences.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Cerda announced:

- (1) Two flyers were presented:
 - (a) Vote By Mail Drop Boxes
 - (b) Gardena Votes
- (2) K9 Police Department "Flap Jack Give Back" fundraiser on October 24, 2020 from 7:30-9:30a.m.;
- (3) Drive-in Movie Night on October 16, 2020 at 7:30p.m. at Rowley Park; and
- (4) Helping Hands 2020 Toy Drive from October 19 to December 4, 2020; asking for donations of new unwrapped toys for all ages.

11. REMEMBRANCES

Mr. Samuel F. Magana; 88 years of age, Co-Founder of Diana's Mexican Food Products. Mr. Magana opened his first small grocery store in Gardena, and soon after, his family business began to thrive and expand; Ms. Bess Hudnall; 83 years of age, Ms. Hudnall was an active member of the Casimir Gatekeepers Block Club; Judge Vincent Okamoto; 76 years of age, former City of Gardena Councilmember from 1976-1980 and was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court bench in 2002. Judge Okamoto spoke at the opening of the temporary display replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Mas Fukai Park in April 2018, and he was also named the Grand Marshal of the Nisei Week Parade that same year. Judge Okamoto was also a Vietnam War Veteran, he served in the U.S Army as a Second Lieutenant; and Eloy Morales Sr.; father of Inglewood Council Member Eloy Morales Jr.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 p.m., Mayor Cerda adjourn to the Closed Session portion of the City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

MINA SEMENZA
City Clerk of the City of Gardena and
Ex-officio Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

Tasha Cerda
Tasha Cerda, Mayor

By: Becky Romero
Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk