

**MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Gardena City Council
Tuesday, September 22, 2020**

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 1700 West 162nd Street, Gardena, California: Mayor Tasha Cerda presiding.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: 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: 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.

At 7:32p.m., the City Council recessed into Closed Session in the Management Information Center of the Council Chamber at City Hall, with the following in attendance: Mayor Tasha Cerda; Mayor Pro Tem Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka; Council Member Art Kaskanian; and Council Member Paulette C. Francis; City Manager Clint Osorio; City Attorney Carmen Vasquez, and Chief of Police Mike Saffell.

2. CLOSED SESSION

**A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL
ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9
(One [1] Matter).

Mayor Cerda reconvened the meeting to the Regular Open Session at 8:28 p.m., and the City Clerk noted the return of all Council Members who were present at the meeting.

When City Attorney Vasquez was asked if there were any reportable actions from the Closed Session, she stated that no reportable action had been taken.

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 – *None*

B. PROCLAMATIONS – *None*

4. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, & APPOINTMENTS (Continued)

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
 - (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**: Gardena City Council Regular Meeting, June 23, 2020
 - (b) **Approved**: Special Study Session of the Gardena City Council, June 30, 2020
- (2) **Approved**: Affidavit of Posting Agenda on September 18, 2020

C. CITY TREASURER

- (1) **Approved**: Warrants / Payroll Register
 - (a) September 22, 2020: Wire Transfer: 11920-11926; Prepay: 160511-160512; Check Nos. 160513-160687 - for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$3,196,740.13; Total Payroll Issued for September 11, 2020: \$1,553,898.67

D. CITY MANAGER

- (1) **Approved**: Personnel Report No. P-2020-16
- (2) **Approved**: PW - Acceptance of Projects and Notice of Completion
 - (a) Pedestrian Safety Improvement 2019-2020 at various locations, JN 956
 - (b) Sidewalk Replacement 2019-2020, JN 958
Kalban, Inc
- (3) **Approved**: GTRANS - Approve Contract for Offsite CNG Fueling

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, Council Members Tanaka, Kaskanian, and Francis, and Mayor Cerda
Noes: None
Absent: None

6. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

7. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET

A. SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 MEETING – *Meeting Cancelled*

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS

A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – **No Items**

B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – **No Items**

C. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

(1) COVID-19 Update

City Manager Osorio presented the update.

D. PUBLIC WORKS – **No Items**

E. POLICE – **No Items**

F. RECREATION & HUMAN SERVICES – **No Items**

G. TRANSPORTATION

(1) Approve Contracts with Luminator Cameras for Buses

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Pro Tem spoke and noted for the record that this is an item that we did previously budgeted for and there was no impact to the General Fund. Mayor Cerda added that having these cameras helps us greatly in identifying the incidents that happen on our buses.

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

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS

A. COUNCIL ITEMS – **No Items**

B. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson:

(1) He spoke about the South Bay Fiber Network Ring Task Force that was just created and asked if he could share with Council some of things that the City of Gardena has been piloting. Council Member Tanaka seconded it.

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS (Continued)

B. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES (Continued)

Mayor Cerda

- (1) Asked if we could look into the CARES Act and see if we could get some funding for our renters through their rental assistance program. Council Member Tanaka seconded it.

C. 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) A memo that refers to Council Member Henderson's directive regarding providing our readers with a better understanding of our finance terminology and administrative functions;
- (2) Information regarding Restaurant and Business Resources, which includes a Business Impact Survey and a Restaurant Resource presentation;
- (3) Our Police Department's Ride Tour information for all three of our Districts;
- (4) Information re: Gardena Clean-up Day taking place at Mas Fukai and Rowley Park on 10/10/2020 from 8:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.;
- (5) Announcements regarding our Food Giveaway that took place on 9/19/2020 at Arthur Johnson Park with Council Member Herb Wesson went well, it was nice to see all the families that came out; and our 90th Anniversary celebration that took place on 9/12/2020; a video was presented; and
- (6) City Manager Osorio wished Council Member Tanaka a Happy Birthday.

D. COUNCIL REMARKS

- (1) COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS – Since the last meeting, she attended the Grocery giveaway with Council Member Herb Wesson and the City of Gardena, she wanted to thank everyone that helped the Recreation Park staff, as they did an excellent job staffing and organizing the event, and the Police Officers that came out to assist. She then mentioned that on September 15th began Hispanic Heritage Month and it's a time that set aside to celebrate the contributions of Hispanic Americans to our country some examples are Sonia Maria Sotomayor who is the first Supreme Court Justice and there's Franklin Chang Diaz who was the first Hispanic American Astronaut and one thing we might not know was the Mendez v. Westminster case paved the way for the Ferguson case that ended racial school segregation in the United States so she mentioned there's a link there between African-American and the Mexican-American community, she also gave the example of The Mendez family and that they wanted to enroll their children at their local Elementary School and she was told that because her children were dark Mexicans they needed to go to the other school where they all went, which was farther away from their home. After, she wanted to remind everyone that by next meeting on October 5th Voting Ballots should be sent out to your mail and by then she wants to encourage everyone to vote. She has seen some voter Ballot Drop Box and this Election is very important as it is a Presidential Election and by voting is the only way your voice will be heard.

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

- (2) COUNCIL MEMBER KASKANIAN – Since the last meeting, he had the opportunity to attend the 90th Anniversary celebration of Gardena and he wished a Happy Birthday to Gardena and to many more years, He also wished a Happy Birthday to Councilmember Tanaka. He then gave a message to Chief Saffell asking him to please congratulate all the officers that got promoted since our last meeting. He also attended the Food Drive at Arthur Lee Johnson Park sponsored and thanked LA City Councilman Herb Wesson, he also thanked Stephany and all the Parks and Rec staff for their hard work. He also attended the candlelight vigil for our GTrans employee Qiana Jenkins who tragically passed; his prayers go to her family and GTrans family.
- (3) COUNCIL MEMBER TANAKA– He first congratulated all those that got promoted; he attended the ceremonies and he mentioned it was a great day for the Police Department; it is a great command staff that was brought on by Chief Saffell; he also believes great things will come from the Police Department. He also attended the 90th Anniversary, tomorrow will be 67 years since he started with the City of Gardena and he said we are the greatest City in the South Bay and that no one can touch us, he loves the things that people ask him how we do certain things and he always responds by saying it is because of the great leadership that we have from Directors with great imaginations that create things and that make it happen. He believes we are the jewel of the South Bay and he appreciates everybody in our City that works so hard. He truly believes it is truly the greatest place. He then congratulated Stephany for a great job on the 90th Celebration he had a lot of fun out there. He also attended the GTrans' bus operator memorial, and his prayers go out to her family. Then he mentioned he also attended the Elks family picnic that they have every year, and it was different because it was a drive by. He wanted to remind everyone about October 8th Blood Drive with UCLA, Elks and City of Gardena and anyone can go online and schedule an appointment. After, he wanted to also thank the officers that ride their bikes around the community and that they are not just stopping by, but they are hugging babies, playing basketball, they are engaging with our community and he believes that is what it is all about. Chief Saffell has a vision and they are all working together to achieve that vision. He applauds that we are always on the forefront and always doing things other cities are not doing and he is very proud of that. Lastly, RBG's passing is terrible but she served and fought for Women's rights and we will all continue to move and continue to do the right things for everyone.
- (4) MAYOR CERDA – Since the last meeting, she attended the promotions ceremony for the two officers and she said it was nice to get together, not as we all wish, but just really nice after so many months to be able to see each other and again congratulate all of those who were promoted, and it is nice to see people as they move up in their careers. She also attended the 90th anniversary drive-thru event and mentioned it was another great and fun event to attend to see the community but of course wearing a mask, socially distancing, and doing everything we could to protect them. She thanked the Parks and Rec staff, and it is definitely going noticed there. She also attended her monthly CCGA meeting and one of the big things they are all trying to do is to get approval to get outdoor gaming for our Casinos and hopefully get it approved until they can open indoors. Another meeting she attended was the monthly sanitation meeting then also attended the City of Hawthorne's food giveaway hosted by Council Member Herb Wesson and it gave her a preview of what to expect for our food giveaway. She felt that when we had ours this past Saturday, it went even better and again would like to thank the staff for doing an amazing job, she heard from Herb Wesson that our city was the best city to work with out of all the cities they have worked with

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS (Continued)**D. COUNCIL REMARKS (Continued)****(4) MAYOR CERDA (Continued)**

and thanks to everyone for working together and not only Council Members attending City events, but other departments. That day she also attended the candlelight vigil for one of our GTrans employee, Qiana Jenkins, and again gave her condolences to the family as well as the GTrans employees and as Council Members they are there with everyone and a loss to the GTrans department is a loss to everyone. Lastly, she wanted to mention a statement that was brought up and was made at our last Council Meeting; she wanted to make sure that it was clarified; the statement made was that there are 400 homeless kids within our community, she added that LAUSD has a different standard of what they call homeless versus what we think of it. She asked LAUSD Superintendent Mike Romero to join the meeting and explain more on this. Mr. Romero first thanked all the Elected Officials for all their support towards youth and families that reside in Gardena, after, he explained how the federal government identifies a homeless student and where the City of Gardena stands. He mentioned the Federal Government has a homeless act called the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act and they require every public school system in America to reach out and identify any student that live in what is considered substandard housing, that is any two families that can be living in an apartment, a family living in a garage or family living in a hotel or shelter they also look for families that could be on the streets or living in a car. He is happy to report that there is slightly more than 200 families that have identified themselves as living two to an apartment or two to a home, he's not sure about families that could be living in a hotel here in Gardena; they do serve 10,000 students in the City of Gardena, so the 200 is a small percentage but it's important and they should be on the lookout, they also do receive a little bit of more money for every child identified as homeless and they do have counselors that reach out to these families. He stated the outreach is very important especially during these times they make sure students are having devices and connected to the internet. He also gave an update on students and mentioned that 99% of students in Gardena have a device and are connected to the internet and the kids that did not have one they worked really hard to get them one. They also serve meals daily at Peary Middle School and thousands of families have taken advantage of the resources; they are also offering live instructions online and he also mentioned that when it is safe they will bring children back to the classroom in a hybrid fashion and that will mean 50% of students would be on campus in the morning and the other 50% in the afternoon. He looks forward to continuing participating in all the city events and thanked the Mayor and Council for all they do. Mayor Tasha Cerda lastly thanked him for joining tonight's meeting.

- (5) **MAYOR PRO TEM HENDERSON** – First he wanted to thank all city staff such as City Manager Clint Osorio for responding to requests that come up in our community and that help our City make it a better City, he again thanks staff for their diligence and helping everyone move forward. Since the last meeting, he attended ICA Board installation of the new president Council Member Sean Aston from the City of Downey it was via Zoom, he also attended the Centinela Youth Services Board Meeting and they had to go over their audit and mentioned CYC is in good standing and they keep looking to provide other support for the community. He also attended the 90th Gardena Anniversary celebration, he believed it was a great event, he congratulated Councilman Tanaka on his birthday as well. He then mentioned he attended the California Governments Legislative and Membership Committee and they talked about moving forward with racial equity in the six counties in the Southern California area, he also attended the Food Giveaway, and it was a great event and thanked Council Member Herb Wesson for supporting the community, he also wanted to share his condolences with the GTrans family and Qiana Jenkins in regard to her tragic loss. After, he thanked Superintendent Romero for sharing and he also did some

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS (Continued)

D. COUNCIL REMARKS (Continued)

(5) MAYOR PRO TEM HENDERSON (Continued)

homework after the last Council Meeting and discovered that Verizon is in agreement with LAUSD to provide hotspots and connectivity to the students and Spectrum is offering Wi-fi connectivity to households that need it, the phone number is 844-488-8395. He congratulated his brother-in-law Sheldon Hunter he got married this weekend and he talked about going to a wedding under these circumstances was weird, but he took his chair and sat in the back but just wanted to take some time to congratulate him and his bride Jessica.

COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS commented again – She wanted to thank Mayor Cerda for inviting Superintendent Mike Romero to explain the situation with students experiencing homelessness. She stated that the number she got was inaccurate; the count that she received was 284 children, so she just wanted to again create a task force to stand and take a look at working with the school district and identify some areas, her concern is just to help since she is a teacher for the past 30 years; she reiterated that her concern is just to help children since she lives in Gardena, she has great concern for the children as well. She believes that strong communities are strong schools and that children have a good safe place to live because one day these children will become adults and she wants to make sure that they will know that in the City of Gardena they were loved, they were cared for and they were looked after.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Cerda announced:

- (1) Gardena Clean-up Day taking place on Saturday, October 10, 2020 from 8:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. at Mas Fukai Park and Rowley Park.

11. REMEMBRANCES

J.W. Fisher, 95 years of age, beloved father of Transit Operations Supervisor, Uneice Jones; Qiana Jenkins, 42 years of age, beloved Bus Operator with the Transportation Department. She began her career with the City of Gardena in May 2013 and provided 7.5 years of service to the City. She was a happy and wonderful person who always carried a beautiful smile, she will be greatly missed; Ms. Maria Gerikian, 54 years old, beloved cousin of Council Member Kaskanian; and Ms. Felix Romero Sanchez, 75 years old, beloved great aunt of Anahi Corte, who works in the City Clerk's office.


12. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:28 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 13, 2020.

MINA SEMENZA

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

APPROVED:


Tasha Cerda, Mayor

By: 
Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk

