

**MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Gardena City Council
Tuesday, September 8, 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 8, 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 7:08 p.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 EXISTING LITIGATION

Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)

- (1) Brent Jackson, a minor, Alisha Jackson and Bruce Jackson v City of Gardena, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCP04560

Mayor Cerda reconvened the meeting to the Regular Open Session at 7:56 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

- (1) Presentation regarding the November 3, 2020 Election – was made by City Clerk Mina Semenza
- (2) Certificates of Commendation in Special Recognition of Retirements and Long-Time Service to the City of Gardena:
 - (a) Yvette Evans, Police Officer – 30 years;
 - (b) Rodney Gonsalves, Police Sergeant – 30 years; and
 - (c) Uikilifi Niko, Police Captain – 30 years.

Recognitions were presented by City Manager Osorio. Chief Saffell commented on their exemplary service to the City. Proclamations will be provided to each of them by City Staff, and they may come back at a later date to receive their recognitions in person at a Council Meeting.

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
 - (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, May 26, 2020
 - (b) **Approved:** Gardena City Council Regular Meeting, May 26, 2020
 - (c) **Approved:** Gardena City Council Regular Meeting, June 9, 2020
 - (d) **Approved:** Special Meeting of the Gardena City Council, June 18, 2020
 - (e) **Approved:** Planning & Environmental Quality Commission, August 4, 2020
- (2) **Approved:** Affidavit of Posting Agenda on September 4, 2020

5. CONSENT CALENDAR (Continued)

C. CITY TREASURER

(1) Approved: Warrants / Payroll Register

(a) August 25, 2020: Wire Transfer: 11908-11919; Check Nos. 160213-160386 - for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$3,140,118.24; Total Payroll Issued for August 14, 2020: \$1,508,259.27

(b) September 8, 2020: Prepay: 160387-160390; Check Nos. 160391-160510 - for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$751,338.75; Total Payroll Issued for August 28, 2020: \$1,795,529.70

(2) Approved: Monthly Portfolio

(a) July 2020

D. CITY MANAGER

(1) Approved: Personnel Report No. P-2020-15

(2) Approved: RESOLUTION NO. 6478, Reaffirming Proclamation and Resolution No. 6441 which Declared the Existence of Local Emergency

RESOLUTION NO. 6478

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, REAFFIRMING PROCLAMATION
AND RESOLUTION 6441 WHICH DECLARED THE EXISTENCE
OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

(3) **Approved: CDD** - Approval of Consultant Agreement with De Novo Planning Group for Environmental Consultant Relating to Changes to Hotel Development Standards; Applicant: City of Gardena

(4) **Approved: REC** - Authorization to Purchase a 2020 Toyota Highlander Hybrid LE in the Amount Not to Exceed \$42,543.81

(5) **Approved: REC** - Ratify Administrative Approval of the Elderly Nutrition Program Contract ENP202105 Amendment One – Additional Funding

(6) **Approved: GTRANS** - Approval of GTRANS' Public Transportation Safety Plan (PTASP)

(7) **Approved: GTRANS** - Purchase of Engines and Blanket PO to Tom's Truck

It was moved by Council Member Kaskanian, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve all Items on the Consent Calendar excluding Items 5.D.(3) and 5.D.(4):

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

6. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

Item 5.D.(3) was pulled for discussion by Council Member Francis. Her concern was why does the City have to hire a Consultant, why cannot staff perform this type of work. City Manager Osorio explained that we do not have the technical expertise on staff to perform this type of work. He continued to say it would not be feasible to hire someone with this expertise, but to hire a consultant when they are needed.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Item 5.D.(3):

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Item 5.D.(4) was pulled for discussion by Council Member Francis. Her concern was where the money is coming from for this purchase, especially with the current situation with COVID-19. City Manager Osorio explained that the funds for this purchase will be coming from the Air Quality Management District (AQMD); every year the City is given \$80,000 to supplement our fleet; this vehicle will be used for senior services and will not impact the General Fund.

Mr. Rudy Martinez, resident, spoke in opposition of the above two items that were pulled for discussion.

It was moved by Council Member Tanaka, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Item 5.D.(4):

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

7. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET**A. AUGUST 18, 2020 MEETING****(1) Site Plan Review #4-19; Tentative Tract Map #2-19****Continued from the August 4, 2020 meeting**

The Planning Commission considered a request for site plan review and tentative tract map approval for the construction of six new townhome units in the Medium Density Multiple-Family Residential (R-3) zone per section 18.44.010.E and Chapter 17.08 of the Gardena Municipal Code. Staff had determined that the project qualified for several categorical exemptions, did not meet any of the exceptions to the exemptions, and was therefore exempt from CEQA.

Commission Action: Commission approved Resolution No. PC 8-20, approving Site Plan Review #4-20 and Tentative Tract Map #2-19.

Received and Filed

B. SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 MEETING - *Cancelled*

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- (1) Mr. Rudy Martinez, resident: Spoke about entries on the warrant register with regard to childcare services, looking at our local businesses for work, car and traffic concerns and more statistics.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS

A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- (1) Approval of Update to Guidelines for the Cares Act Program Funding (CDBG-CV) Received from the US 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 regarding the HUD requirements we have used in the past, and if we will continue to use them and how we are making this information available to business owners. City Manager Osorio explained we are relaxing some of the requirements to make it easier for people to qualify; we have increased the limit to \$30,000 and they have up until 6 months for commercial rental assistance. He continued to say that we will make the information available to our business owners through our Economic Development team; we have an email blast and we do direct outreach to them through all our social media outlets letting them know they are welcome to apply; so far 30 applications were received, and 16 awards have been granted.

Mr. Rudy Martinez, resident: spoke about getting the information out to the business owners by preparing a flyer in multiple languages to them as well.

It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Updated Guidelines:

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

B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – No Items

C. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

- (1) COVID-19 Update

City Manager Osorio presented an update.

Mr. Rudy Martinez, resident: He questioned where these cases were happening, and also asked about when the churches and parks will be opening up; he also asked if the City could get more information out to its residents.

Mayor Cerda stated that public health is our number one concern, we are doing the best we can in these trying times; we also plan and prepare as best as we can for our future. Mayor Pro Tem Henderson then stated that the actions we have taken as a City is because we are congruent with LA County Public Health. City Manager Osorio then stated that for LA County to relax some of the restrictions certain milestones and data have to be met; the infection and death rate has to go down, the City cannot act on anything because we do not have our own Public Health Director, we will always divert to LA County Public Health. He continued to say that because the City has an unincorporated area, the cases could be stemming from that area; but because of HIPPA laws, the County has not been able to delineate where the numbers are coming from.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

D. PUBLIC WORKS – No Items

E. POLICE

- (1) Notification of Eligibility for Funding in the Amount of \$22,685.00 Under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, Fiscal Year 2020 Local Formula Solicitation

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion regarding the installation of thirteen devices and if we will be going to bid; City Manager confirmed that RCC takes care of the work.

Mr. Rudy Martinez: resident: asked if an RFP could be done and asked if a back up plan could be put in place.

Received and Filed

F. RECREATION & HUMAN SERVICES – No Items

G. TRANSPORTATION

- (1) Ratify Emergency Purchase of AeroClave Disinfecting Systems

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion regarding the system that is being approved. Mayor Pro Tem stated that it saves a lot of time and is a good investment; he continued to say that he was definitely in support of this; Council Member Tanaka asked if this was industry standard, cutting edge technology. City Manager confirmed that this system definitely saves time and is cutting edge technology.

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

Ayes: Council Members Tanaka, Kaskanian, Mayor Pro Tem Henderson and 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) If we could do a test case with the following abandoned properties: 1) Chase property on Rosecrans & Purche; and 2) El Segundo & Western – Council Member Tanaka seconded it.

City Attorney Vasquez stated that we will agendaize and add this to Closed Session.

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS (Continued)

B. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES (Continued)

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson (Continued)

- (2) If we could get the community educated regarding the terms and glossary of our Budget. Council Member Tanaka seconded it.

Council Member Francis:

- (1) Following up regarding the progress of the business revitalization program for the restaurants in our City;
- (2) Legal notice in the GVN regarding our Pension Obligation Bond; City Manager clarified it is filing an issue with the courts to validate our debt to Cal PERS and confirmed there is no lawsuit.
- (3) She would like to start a Homelessness Education Initiative and ask the City of Gardena to form a task force to educate homeless students and provide all tools that are needed; she stated that there are about 400 homeless students in our City. Mayor Cerda asked if this could be tabled until she finds out more information.

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) Update regarding various properties in Gardena with respect to Council Member Kaskanian's directive;
- 2) A memo regarding Dominguez Channel and homeless encampments;
- 3) A memo regarding Traffic Safety / Concerns at 15200 Atkinson Avenue;
- 4) An update City has deployed as part of the South Bay City Council of Governments regarding Fiber Optic Network Ring;
- 5) PSA regarding Wine Down Wednesdays Raffle that is taking place of our Cigar, Food & Wine Festival;
- 6) September 19, 2020 Grocery Giveaway; and
- 7) A video regarding our upcoming 90th Anniversary; make sure to bring canned goods to our Canned Food Drive-Thru to receive a Free 90th Anniversary limited edition mask.

D. COUNCIL REMARKS

- (1) COUNCIL MEMBER KASKANIAN– He congratulated the officers, captains and sergeants who retired today. Captain Nico, Sergeant Gonsalves and Officer Evans. He thanked them for their service, he has known all three of them for many years and mentioned it was a pleasure working with them, they were a great asset to the city. He also asked Mayor Tasha Cerda to allow him to adjourn the meeting in the memory of his uncle Art Jarkian, who passed today in his sleep he was a long time Gardena business member.

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

- (2) COUNCIL MEMBER TANAKA– He gave his condolences to Council Member Kaskanian, and he hopes everyone had a great Labor Day. Since the last meeting he attended the first District 2 Zoom Meeting he stated it was a good meeting, he thinks this is going to be something new and good for all the District Lieutenants to start doing. He also attended the South Bay COG Board Meeting, and they had a special law enforcement program on Zoom and Mayor Butts from the City of Inglewood was the keynote speaker; he gave them some really good information. He also attended the South Bay COG membership meeting. He also congratulated all retirees, 90 years of knowledge. He mentioned Captain Niko was actually one of his trainees, Vince Osorio was one of his swat guys and Yvette was one of the people who pushed the radio car every day. He also attended the RCC Regional meeting and attended a couple promotions. He also wanted to remind everyone not to forget the 90th anniversary and to bring and donate the canned foods especially during these times and the food pantry really needs our support.
- (3) MAYOR PRO TEM HENDERSON– He gave his condolences to Council Member Kaskanian, he also congratulated the retirees for their 30 years of service and those that have been promoted to new positions. Since the last meeting, he attended the City of Gardena South Bay COG meeting and mentioned the COG is developing a group to determine some of the things that can be done in regard to leveraging fiber within the South Bay. He was also at the Community and Environmental Health Development Committee meeting and they talked about the LAUSD extension of their bond in regard to technology, he gave them some ideas in regard to crossing the digital divide for a lot of people in the community. He also stated that looking at the geography of our city facilities and schools, there's opportunities for funding and to start creating a wireless city. He also attended the COG's dialogue for Elected Officials, and they talked about Law Enforcement and Public Safety. The Police Department takes guidance from Elected Officials so as they put ideas out there and collaborate with the Chief. He then mentioned that at the SCAG meeting they talked about Connect SoCal as it is a plan related to jobs for underserved communities and that the new president of the SCAG organizations is Council Member Rex Richardson from City of Long Beach. He has created a race equity task force and he is a member of that task force they help homeless access resources. He also attended the Business Federation meeting, and they had a discussion of the COVID-19 task force regarding the LA County's move to have public health councils inspecting various businesses within LA County, the supervisors have not made a decision yet in regard to that, but the business community believes that could be a hindrance to their business and would like to propose better ideas like a grading system for business that are trying to meet the standards of being COVID clean. LA Bizfed will be reaching out to the 88 cities as well as the supervisors to see where we can get some clarity on what that means. A lot of our businesses have been negatively impacted and he believes we have to think of a way for them to operate. Lastly, he also participated in the voter registration event, voting is very important and wanted to remind everyone as Madam City Clerk stated is very important and want to make sure everyone participates and understand all the propositions on the ballot.
- (4) MAYOR CERDA – She started off by congratulating those who got promoted, all that will be getting promoted on this coming Thursday and the retirees. She mentioned she once did a ride along with Sargent Gonsalves and saw what they go through on a day-to-day basis and what to expect; she is grateful to have been able to be a part of that especially during these times and thanks to all for their service. She then wanted to reiterate what the City Manager had mentioned earlier and invited everyone to attend the 90th anniversary celebration and to bring nine canned goods or items to receive a special

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

edition 90th anniversary mask. She mentioned that through good and bad at the end of the say we are all still here and she is very happy and excited to be able to celebrate 90 years. She attended a couple events through Zoom, the monthly CCGA meeting where she is the chairperson as it relates to our Casinos that group represents the cities in California, and she mentioned they are still fighting to see what they can do to reopen Casinos. She said it is interesting to hear what the Governor has said that all Casinos must be closed but then there's Native American Casinos that are not only open, but they have commercials, and their business are running as usual. She believes it is a little unfair, but they are doing what they can to maybe do some outdoor entertainment for our Casinos and they are reaching out to the Governor as it related to that. She also attended her monthly sanitation meeting and the third meeting she attended was through and organization called Surf and they help Autistic children and they just talked about some of the issues and concerns they have as it relates to COVID. She explained that they asked adults, and some are depressed, and they are feeling boxed in or not being able to go where they normally go and also the children that have learning disabilities and what it means for them, they questioned if they have been able to express it. She was very happy to have been able to join and had the opportunity to speak. Lastly, she mentioned the Food Giveaway happening on September 19th and that Council Member Herb Wesson from City of LA reached out to her and it is awesome he asked for the City of Gardena to partner up with them, she asked for everyone to share with their family and friends and anyone in need to spread the word.

- (5) COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS – She first wanted to thank our City Clerk Mina Semenza and Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero for their awesome presentation and wanted to reiterate that we have a big election coming up on November 3rd and wants to make sure everyone comes out and votes, if anyone has any questions feel free to call the City Clerk's Office, she said the Office of the City Clerk works very hard to make sure we are covered especially on the North side of Gardena so she thanks them for hearing the concerns and for doing all that they can, a while back she attended the City Clerks Summit so she appreciates everything. She then wanted to thank everyone for their service, and she is sure it has not been easy, but she does appreciate what they have done for us and how well they have presented our City so again she thanked them. After, she mentioned she understands the frustration everyone feels because of COVID and she just wishes we all stay well, safe and healthy. We are all doing the very best we can and that there's always room for growth. Last time they met it was prior to Labor Day and just wanted to say the importance of workers in our country whether it is grocery workers, health care workers, teachers, or postal carriers we all need them because they are all putting their lives on the line as well.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

11. REMEMBRANCES

Mrs. Dorothy Helen Crosby-McCann, 84 years of age, beloved mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. Mrs. Crosby-McCann was born in Mississippi, and before relocating to California, she led a successful boycott of the City of Jackson Mississippi Municipal Bus line. She was an active member of the community and volunteered as a poll worker within the City of Gardena from 1985 through 2000; and Mr. Art Jarkian, Council Member Kaskanian's uncle, who was a long-time business owner in Gardena and who died in his sleep.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:49 p.m., Mayor Cerda adjourned the Gardena City Council Meeting to a Special Study Session prior to the Closed Session portion of the City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2020.

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

APPROVED:

Tasha Cerda
Tasha Cerda, Mayor

By: Mina Semenza
Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk