

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Gardena City Council
Tuesday, March 26, 2019

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order at 7:40 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 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 Rodney G. Tanaka; Council Member Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Art Kaskanian; and Council Member Dan Medina. Other City officials and employees present: City Manager Edward Medrano; City Attorney Peter L. Wallin; City Clerk Mina Semenza; and Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero. City Treasurer Ingrid Tsukiyama was not in attendance.

2. CLOSED SESSION – No Items

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Kaylin Martinez and Isabel Islas led the Pledge of Allegiance. Both Kaylin and Isabel are in 8th grade and part of St. Anthony School's student government and are continuous role models for other students. They were selected because they take pride in all they do; they take their academics seriously and give their personal best daily. They thanked the Council for inviting them to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced their family members who had brought them to the meeting.

B. INVOCATION

The Reverend John E. Ward, Senior Pastor / Minister of Music of First Southern Baptist Church of Gardena, gave the Invocation.

4. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, & APPOINTMENTS

A. PRESENTATIONS

- (1) Gardena Military Veteran Recognition to Honor Veteran Henry Wayne Buffet, who served in the United States Navy. *Prior to presenting Mr. Buffett with the honors, Council Member Henderson spoke of how he has come to know Mr. Buffett, then Mayor Cerda read a brief biography. Council Member Henderson presented Mr. Buffett with a City of Gardena Veterans Commemorative Coin. Also, on behalf of California Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, he received a Certificate of Recognition. Mr. Buffett was given an opportunity to speak, and appropriate photos were taken.*
- (2) Certificate of Commendation to Street Maintenance Superintendent Michael Duran in Celebration of His Retirement and in Special Recognition of his over 32 years of Service to the City of Gardena.
– *The certificate was accepted by Mr. Duran. He and General Services Director Joseph Cruz were given an opportunity to speak.*

4. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, & APPOINTMENTS (Continued)

B. PROCLAMATIONS

- (1) "SAFETY SEAT CHECK-UP WEEK," March 31, 2019 to April 6, 2019
– *was proclaimed by Mayor Cerda*
- (2) "DMV/DONATE LIFE CALIFORNIA MONTH," April 2019
– *was accepted by OneLegacy Ambassador George Happe*
- (3) "FAIR HOUSING MONTH," April 2019
– *was accepted by Fair Housing Foundation Outreach Assistant Stephanie Luu*

C. APPOINTMENTS – *No appointments were made*

- (1) Council Appointments to Commissions, Committees, Board, and Council (Commission Appointees to be Ratified and Sworn in; Committees, Board and Task Force Appointees to be Ratified Only)
 - (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) **Approved:** Minutes of
 - (a) City Council Regular Meeting, March 12, 2019
- (2) **Approved:** Affidavit of Posting Agenda on March 22, 2019

C. CITY TREASURER

- (1) **Approved:** Warrants / Payroll Registers
 - (a) March 26, 2019: Wire Transfer: 11760-11765, Prepay No. 153232 and Check Nos. 153233-153463; for a total Warrants issued amount of \$3,581,384.61: Total Payroll Issued for March 15, 2019, \$2,023,987.61

5. CONSENT CALENDAR (Continued)

D. CITY MANAGER

- (1) **Approved**: Personnel Report No. P-2019-06
- (2) **Approved**: Payment in the Amount of \$33,000 to the California Cities for Self-Reliance for a Special Assessment Approved by the Joint Powers Authority

Council Member Henderson asked if other counties were forming JPAs or doing something similar; City Manager Medrano explained that the JPA that we are a part of is from the Southern California region and is unique because it's going to help us move forward with our advocacy and help us get information in the next 6-8 months; other counties are not centered around a central JPA.

- (3) **CONTINUED to April 9, 2019, pursuant to request of City Staff: ORDINANCE NO. 1803, Approving Zone Change #2-18 changing the zoning of a 3.9 gross acre site at 14031 South Vermont Avenue, 1101 West 141st Street, and 1017 West 141st Street to Medium-Density Residential (R-3) (Introduced by Council Member Henderson)**

ORDINANCE NO. 1803

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING ZONE CHANGE #2-18 CHANGING THE ZONING OF A 3.9 GROSS ACRE SITE AT 14031 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, 1101 WEST 141ST STREET, AND 1017 WEST 141ST STREET TO MEDIUM-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R 3)

- (4) **Approved**: Carnival Contract with Helm and Sons Amusements, Inc. for Carnival at Mas Fukai Park on April 19-21, 2019

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

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

6. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

7. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET

A. MARCH 19, 2019, MEETING -- *Meeting Cancelled*

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- (1) Gloria Gutierrez, representative from the League of Women Voters of Torrance Area: announced some events that they will be hosting in the future.
- (2) Sterling Kim, Police Officer and representative from the Gardena Juvenile Justice and Intervention Program (GJJIP): informed Council about some upcoming events that AADAP, G-DAAP, and GJJIP will be hosting.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS

A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – *No Items*

B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- (1) RESOLUTION NO. 6368, Confirming the Findings of the 2018 Annual Housing Element Progress Report

RESOLUTION NO. 6368

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, MAKING FINDINGS AND APPROVING THE 2018 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HOUSING ELEMENT FOR THE CITY OF GARDENA

City Manager Medrano presented the Staff Report.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt Resolution No. 6368:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

C. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES – *No Items*

D. GENERAL SERVICES

- (1) Award Construction Contracts for Rowley Park Improvements Totaling \$85,256.78, JN 870, to:
1) *Verrex LLC* in the amount of \$45,822.00 for Auditorium Audiovisual Upgrade; and
2) *J-Squared General Contractors Inc.* in the amount of \$39,434.78 for Auditorium Classroom Remodel

City Manager Medrano presented the Staff Report.

Council Member Henderson commended the Council and staff for properly spending Park-in-Lieu funds.

It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Award the Construction Contracts to *Verrex, LLC* and *J-Squared General Contractors, Inc.*:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

- (2) Authorize a Purchase Order to *VIP Restrooms* in the amount of \$47,428.58 to Lease Temporary Shower & Restroom Trailers at Primm Memorial Pool, JN 975

City Manager Medrano presented the Staff Report.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

D. GENERAL SERVICES (Continued)

- (2) Authorize a Purchase Order to *VIP Restrooms* in the amount of \$47,428.58 to Lease Temporary Shower & Restroom Trailers at Primm Memorial Pool, JN 975 (Continued)

There was a discussion which included Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, Council Member Medina and City Manager Medrano regarding the cost to tear down and put up a new facility and using recycled water in the restrooms. City Manager Medrano replied that the condition of the facilities and restrooms are very poor and most likely the building would be demolished within a year. He then said it would cost more to bring it up to standard. He continued, stating that he would need to research regarding the use of recycled water in the restrooms.

It was moved by Council Member Medina, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Authorize the Purchase Order to *VIP Restrooms*:

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

E. POLICE – *No Items*

F. RECREATION & HUMAN SERVICES – *No Items*

G. TRANSPORTATION

- (1) FY 2019 Low Carbon Transit Operation Program (LCTOP)

- (a) RESOLUTION NO. 6369, Authorizing Project Submittal to the California Department of Transportation

RESOLUTION NO. 6369

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES AND AUTHORIZED AGENT FORMS FOR THE LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM (LCTOP) FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT: CITY OF GARDENA GTRANS – ZERO EMISSION BUS PURCHASE; \$180,006 (FY 2019)

- (b) RESOLUTION NO. 6370, Authorizing the Execution of the Certification and Assurances

RESOLUTION NO. 6370

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE CERTIFICATION AND ASSURANCES FOR THE LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM (LCTOP)

City Manager Medrano introduced the Agenda Item and Director of Transportation Ernie Crespo gave a PowerPoint presentation.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)**G. TRANSPORTATION (Continued)****(1) FY 2019 Low Carbon Transit Operation Program (LCTOP) (Continued)****(a) RESOLUTION NO. 6369 (Continued)****(b) RESOLUTION NO. 6370 (Continued)**

There was a discussion which included Council Member Henderson and Medina, Mayor Cerda, Director Ernie Crespo, and City Manager Medrano regarding the cost of an electric bus. The question was asked, if we could trade in the buses we have now and charging facilities at GTRANS, is there any type of indicator that shows when charging needs to be done? It was pointed out that car manufacturers are constantly improving the batteries for electric cars. Director Crespo responded indicating that a new electric bus costs roughly around \$900,000 to \$1 million dollars, and that the City continues to seek funding to purchase those buses. Yet, we will not be able to use our old buses as a trade in. He continued with the information that technology is constantly changing; that we do have charging facilities at GTRANS for the six electric buses we have now; and that there is a state of charge gauge on the buses that lets drivers and maintenance personnel know how much battery life is left on each of those buses. City Manager Medrano stated that GTRANS gets their funding from all different types of sources and commended Director Crespo and his staff for putting everything together.

It was moved by Council Member Medina, seconded by Council Member Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt Resolution No. 6369 and Resolution No. 6370:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES, & REMARKS**A. COUNCIL ITEMS – No Items****B. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES**

- (1) Council Member Medina** – asked for a follow-up regarding the Nakaoka Community Center audio-visual upgrade and suggested that the City investigate getting our own Wi-Fi in the building, along with speakers in the front that project out toward the audience.
- (2) Council Member Henderson** – wanted to know what it would cost to confiscate the Lime & Bird scooters and wanted to see if this is something we could start doing. Mayor Cerda seconded his directive.

C. CITY MANAGER REMARKS RE: DIRECTIVES / COUNCIL ITEMS

City Manager Medrano gave a verbal report of information to follow-up matters that had been directed or requested by the Mayor and Members of Council. Written reports had already been provided to the Council via copies in their regular mail packets. Those items are, as follows:

- (1) A Memorandum of Understanding between Chamber of Commerce and City of Gardena;**
- (2) A Memorandum of Reorganization of City Council Delegates & Assignments to be done at our April 9, 2019 Council Meeting;**
- (3) Highlight of State of the City video;**

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES, & REMARKS -(Continued)

C. CITY MANAGER REMARKS RE: DIRECTIVES / COUNCIL ITEMS- (Continued)

- (4) The City is now officially a Passport Center and will start scheduling appointments soon;
- (5) City of Gardena Economic Development video will be presented at our April 9, 2019 Council Meeting; and
- (6) Council approved a contract for Grant Writing – and we have already submitted our first Grant.

D. COUNCIL REMARKS

- (1) COUNCIL MEMBER HENDERSON – reported that, since the last Council Meeting, he was able to attend a District 2 Neighborhood Watch meeting and he hosted an Independent Cities Association monthly board meeting here at Gardena City Hall. He said members of the Board were very impressed with our grounds and our office space. He said he had a chance to attend the GTRANS Rodeo. He said was proud of our operators on the GTrans fleet; they were phenomenal. He thanked Director Ernie Crespo for keeping the morale up for the employees who enjoyed seeing him, the Mayor, and fellow Councilmembers at the event. He said he had a chance to meet for lunch with representatives of Centinela Youth Services. He said he works with their volunteers and have appreciation lunches with them one on one, to give them the opportunity to ask questions and share their experiences. He said he had his community meetings. He continued, reporting that, as a local control fanatic, he attended a small cells 5G webinar/conference call and said he asked many questions regarding impact of small cellular towers in 5G in the community. He ended his remarks by sharing that he attended the State of the City and said it was excellent. He said the feedback from residents was wonderful.
- (2) COUNCIL MEMBER MEDINA – he shared that, since the last Council Meeting, he had a telephone conference with members of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and that he was very proud to represent the County of Los Angeles. He said they spoke regarding SCAG voting criteria and that they would have to represent their local regions. The number of members is growing and now up to 198 cities. He said that, as a member of the Regional Council, he represents the cities of Inglewood, Hawthorne and Gardena. He reported that he attended the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCOG) meeting and a good presentation by battery manufacturers made. He reported that the car batteries are improving, and they are adjusting with various cities to have local recharge stations; that it would really improve the longevity with electric bus lines and car lines. He hinted that they are looking into all electric trucks from the port of Los Angeles. He shared that the State of the City was impressive, and it felt like a big party; that he was proud of City staff and thanked Stephany Santin. He ended his report by saying “Hi” to his granddaughter Angelina.
- (3) COUNCIL MEMBER KASKANIAN – he reported that he attended a Gardena Valley Lions Club meeting and he spoke a little about the pantry and the State of the City. At the end of the meeting they decided to collect canned goods for the pantry at every meeting for the year 2019-2020. He said that he also attended the GTRANS Bus Rodeo. He congratulated Transportation Director Ernie Crespo for bringing home third place. He told Mayor Cerda, “job well done for the State of the City.” He congratulated Patricia Worthy for receiving recognition from the El Camino Lions Club. He also thanked the State of Alabama for recognizing Armenian Genocide; it being the 49th state to do so and the only state left is Mississippi.

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

D. COUNCIL REMARKS (Continued)

(4) MAYOR CERDA – shared that she attended a Police Appreciation Luncheon held at the Community Worship Center, pastored by Ruben Del Pilar. She said it was a very nice event for our officers and thanked them for doing a great job and protecting our community. She mentioned the Worship Center served a nice cake in the shape of a police uniform shirt in special honor and in remembrance of Officer Toshio Hirai. The Police Appreciation Luncheon is going to be an annual event. She attended the Five Star Rodeo and said she was proud of GTRANS drivers. On that same day, she attended the annual Koi show; that it was an interesting and great event where she saw unique koi fish and learned different ways to raise koi fish. She attended the koi banquet later that evening at which, besides the technical difficulties with the microphone which led the speakers having to yell, the event was great. She echoed the organization's appreciation to the City for what they did for them and the event. She commended Parks and Recreation staff for doing a great job. She mentioned that the person who originally brought the koi shows to the United States from Japan was present and recognized. She thanked everyone who had a hand in the preparation for the State of the City and with providing her with information to compile for the event. She said it felt like a great networking party and she had a great time. She said that combining the two events was not easy and thanked Stephany Santin, especially, for all the extra time she put in. She shared that one of the attendees told her that, with the examples given, they understood everything and was assured that the tax dollars were being put to good use. She said it was a wonderful event and she was looking forward to next year's event. The next day, she attended a leadership forum, entitled "The Influence of Black Women." The special guests for the forum included, Pat Harvey and Congresswoman Maxine Waters.

(5) MAYOR PRO TEM TANAKA – He reported that he was able to represent the City at the El Camino Lion's Citizen of the year celebration and congratulated their honoree Pat Worthy, his appointee to the Senior Citizens Bureau. He said Pat does wonderful things for the city and volunteers hundreds and hundreds of hours especially for Meals on Wheels. He said he was proud of Mayor Cerda for the State of the City and made his heart full. He said that many of his political friends were wowed by the Mayor. At another time, he attended the fade out party for exalted ruler, Adrian Castaneda, who is now a past exalted ruler. He apologized for not being able to attend the GTRANS Rodeo due to his mother having issues. He announced he joined District 3 on NextDoor. He said that he stopped by the Koi show. He shared that he was a member of the Gardena Mohicans from Gardena High School and held up a copy of the new *Gardena High School Art Collection* book. He said that when Gardena High School was located where Peary Middle School is now located, every senior class would donate a painting to the school, from 1919 to 1956. He stated some of the paintings are worth a lot of money. He then announced that he is donating that copy of the book to the City and gave information as to where they would be able to purchase the book for \$50 and, if they ever wanted to see it, to visit the City Hall.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Cerda announced:

(1) During the week of April 8-12, 2019, GDAAP students will be having an Anti-4/20 Pep Rally at Gardena High School.

11. REMEMBRANCES

Mr. Al Peace, 72 years old, 33-year resident of Gardena, active member of Gardena Elks Lodge No. 1919; Mr. Martin Almaraz, 84 years old, a Gardena-born, life-long resident, married 63 years to his wife, Maria, the father of Michael, Melissa, Mark, Michelle, Marty, Matthew Marcus and Mitchell. He is also a grandfather, great grandfather, and great great grandfather. His community involvement included being a member of the Cinco de Mayo Committee, the Gardena Sister City Association, a past Exalted Ruler of the Gardena Elks Lodge, a member of the Old-Timers Club, and a mentor and friend to countless citizens throughout the South Bay; and Mr. Marcos Antonio Perdomo, in his mid-twenties, the beloved son of Recreation Leader II Carmen Rivera with the Recreation and Human Services Department.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:07 p.m., Mayor Cerda adjourned the Gardena City Council Meeting to the next Regular City Council Meeting, at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

APPROVED:

Tasha Cerda
Tasha Cerda, Mayor

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

By: Mina Semenza
Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk

11/11/2023 10:11:11 AM

11/11/2023 10:11:11 AM

11/11/2023 10:11:11 AM