

**MINUTES  
Regular Meeting of the  
City of Gardena City Council  
Tuesday, June 11, 2019**

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 1700 West 162<sup>nd</sup> Street, Gardena, California; Mayor Tasha Cerda presiding.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Tasha Cerda; Mayor Pro Tem Art Kaskanian; Council Member Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Dan Medina; and Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka. 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.

At 7:00 p.m., the City Council recessed into Closed Session in the Management Information Center of the Council Chambers at City Hall, with the following in attendance: Mayor Tasha Cerda; Mayor Pro Tem Art Kaskanian; Council Member Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Dan Medina; Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka; City Manager Edward Medrano; and City Attorney Peter L. Wallin.

**2. CLOSED SESSION**

**A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS**

Government Code Section 54957.6

**(1) Agency Designated Representative:**

Edward Medrano, City Manager

**Employee Organizations:**

Gardena Police Officers Association (GPOA)

Mike Sargent, Association President

Gardena Management Employees Organization (GMEO)

Vicky L. Barker, Attorney

Gardena Municipal Employees Association (GMEA)

Fred G. Quiel, Attorney

Unrepresented Employees

**Mayor Cerda reconvened the meeting to the Regular Open Session at 7:39 p.m., and the City Clerk noted the return of all Council Members who were present at the meeting.**

*When City Attorney Wallin was asked if there were any reportable actions from Closed Session, he stated that no reportable action was taken.*

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION**

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Jaylen Norris and Austin Norris led the Pledge of Allegiance. Both Jaylen and Austin attend Rogers Middle School in Lawndale and are the children of Reverend Nathaniel J. Session, Senior Pastor of Enlightened Motorcycle Ministries who gave the Invocation at tonight's City Council Meeting. They introduced their parents and thanked the Council for inviting them to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION (Continued)

B. INVOCATION

The Reverend Nathaniel J. Session, Senior Pastor, of Enlightened Motorcycle Ministries, gave the Invocation.

4. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, & APPOINTMENTS

A. PRESENTATIONS

- (1) Gardena Military Veteran Recognition to Honor Veteran Mrs. Leona "Lee" Hull, who served in the U.S. Airforce. *Mayor Tasha Cerda read a brief Biography, then Council Member Henderson presented Mrs. Hull with a City of Gardena Veterans Commemorative Coin. Also, on behalf of California Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian read the text of a Certificate of Recognition for Mrs. Hull. Mrs. Hull was given an opportunity to speak, and appropriate photos were taken.*

B. PROCLAMATIONS

- (1) "PAUSE FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 21 DAYS TO HONOR AMERICA," June 14, 2019, through July 4, 2019 – *was proclaimed by Mayor Cerda*
- (2) "CRAFT BEER WEEK," June 15-23, 2019
- a) State Brewing Co., LLC – *was accepted by Stephan Widmer, State Brewing Co., LLC.*
  - b) Ximix Craft Exploration – *was accepted by a Representative of Ximix Craft Exploration*

C. APPOINTMENTS

- (1) Council Appoints to Commissions, Committee, Board, and Council  
(Planning and Environmental Quality Commission Appointees to be Ratified and Sworn in;  
Other Commission, Committee, Council, and Board 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, May 28, 2019
- (2) Approved: Affidavit of Posting Agenda on June 7, 2019

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR (Continued)**

**C. CITY TREASURER**

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

(a) June 11, 2019: Wire Transfer: 11778-11784, Prepay: 154376-154380; Check Nos. 154381-154523; for a total Warrants issued amount of \$6,967,485.96; Total Payroll Issued for June 7, 2019, \$1,663,675.73

**D. CITY MANAGER**

**(1) Approved: Personnel Report No. P-2019-11**

**(2) Adopted: RESOLUTION NO. 6388, Approving the Amended Joint Powers Agreement forming the California Transit System Joint Powers Authority and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Documents**

**RESOLUTION NO. 6388**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE AMENDED JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY AGREEMENT FORMING THE CALIFORNIA TRANSIT SYSTEMS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

**(3) Adopted: RESOLUTION NO. 6389, Authorizing the Application for the Federal Transit Administration's 2019 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program**

**RESOLUTION NO. 6389**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATION WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY 49 U.S.C. 5339 (b) (1) UNITED STATES CODE, AND OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

**(4) Adopted: RESOLUTION NO. 6390, Authorizing the Filing of FY19 Grant Application for Federal Transportation Assistance**

**RESOLUTION NO. 6390**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATION WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY 49 U.S.C. CHAPTER 53, TITLE 23 UNITED STATES CODE, AND OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR (Continued)**

**D. CITY MANAGER (Continued)**

- (4) **Adopted**: RESOLUTION NO. 6390, Authorizing the Filing of FY19 Grant Application for Federal Transportation Assistance (Continued)

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

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

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** None

**6. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR**

**7. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET**

**A. JUNE 4, 2019, MEETING – *Meeting Cancelled***

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

- (1) Mr. Benjamin Butler, resident, spoke about the property located at 14522 Watkins containing an overgrowth of trees and vegetation, plus people are trespassing on the property. He and his wife have witnessed people and pets relieving themselves on the property in public. He requested that the City come out and clean it up.
- (2) Ms. Fouzia Almarou, mother of Mr. Kenneth Ross Jr.: spoke about her son Kenneth Ross Jr., and requested that body cam video footage be released to the public.
- (3) Ms. Kimberly Hatten, representative from Junipero Serra High School: Gave miscellaneous news and updates. Also, she congratulated the 2019 graduating class.
- (4) Ms. Shirley Conley, resident, voiced her concerns and opposition of allowing Fireworks in the City and their various negative effects.
- (5) Pastor Eddie Jones Jr., President of Los Angeles Civil Rights Association, spoke about the untimely death of Mr. Kenneth Ross Jr.; and civil and constitution rights.
- (6) Ms. Silvia Gutierrez, resident, spoke on behalf of her mother, a resident of Gardena, asking that the City reconsider the removal of a tree that is in front of her mother's property currently scheduled to be removed.
- (7) Mr. Haythan Faraj, Attorney for Ms. Fouzia Almarou, the mother of Kenneth Ross Jr., requested that council release body cam video footage of Mr. Kenneth Ross Jr. incident, and asked for an estimated time of the release.
- (8) Mr. Mateo Nagassi, Mr. Phil Jackson, Ms. Antoinette Baily, Mr. John Williams, and Ms. Parker, representatives from (BLMLA) Black Lives Matter Los Angeles organization, all spoke about requesting the release of the body cam video regarding the incident involving Mr. Kenneth Ross Jr.
- (9) Ms. Krystal Toore and Ms. Jeremi White, residents spoke about the incident involving Mr. Kenneth Ross Jr.
- (10) Ms. Valerie Rivera, representative for Mothers Against Police Brutality, spoke about the incident involving Mr. Kenneth Ross Jr.

***At 8:31 p.m. Mayor Cerda called for a recess and asked that everyone leave and that the Council Chambers be cleared out. After a short recess, Mayor Cerda reconvened the meeting at 8:39 p.m.***

**8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS**

**A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

- (1) PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION NO. 6386, Adopting New Fee Schedule for Services and for Facility Rentals

RESOLUTION NO. 6386

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING NEW FEE SCHEDULES FOR CITY SERVICES AND FACILITY RENTALS IN THE CITY OF GARDENA

City Manager Medrano gave a Power Point presentation.

Mayor Cerda opened the Public Hearing at 8:48 p.m. and asked if there were any comments.

There was a discussion which included Council Member Henderson, Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian, Council Member Medina and City Manager Medrano regarding how we keep track of specific departments budgets, how alarm and permit fees are categorized, and if traffic and parking violations were included in our fees. City Manager Medrano replied each department has their own line items within their budget; they can do internal transfers as long as their financial bottom line doesn't change. He continued to say that alarm and permit fees fall into different categories; the fee schedule maintains waivers for low income users as well as senior citizens, and parking and traffic violations are fines imposed by the State of California; they are not included in our fees.

Hearing that there were no comments from the public, Mayor Cerda closed the Public Hearing at 8:51 p.m.

**It was moved by Council Member Tanaka, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt Resolution No. 6386:**

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

**Noes: None**

**Absent: None**

- (2) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report – Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018.

City Manager Medrano presented the Staff Report.

Council Member Tanaka congratulated our Finance Division Staff, and Council Member Henderson asked if there was any other City that had a near perfect record like Gardena. City Manager Medrano replied that he doesn't know the answer to his questions but knows there are some Cities that haven't received this award in a long time. He continued, saying that it's good for our community that we are transparent about our finances. Mayor Cerda also congratulated our Finance Staff.

**This Item was Received and Filed.**

**8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)**

**A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (Continued)**

- (3) RESOLUTION NO. 6393, Reassigning \$7,060,000 of the \$15,000,000 Balance Previously Committed to the Civic Center Improvement, Now Committed to Pension Stabilization.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6393**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, REASSIGNING \$7,060,000 OF THE \$15,000,000 BALANCE PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED TO THE CIVIC CENTER IMPROVEMENT, NOW COMMITTED TO PENSION STABILIZATION

City Manager Medrano presented the Staff Report.

**It was moved by Council Member Medina, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt Resolution No. 6393:**

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

**B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – *No Items***

**C. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

- (1) Approval of the Professional Services Agreement with Koff & Associates for the Citywide Classification Study in the Amount of \$116,482

City Manager Medrano presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion which included Council Member Henderson, Mayor Cerda and City Manager Medrano regarding why we didn't take this out to bid and if this applies to Elected Officials as well, like our City Treasurer position? City Manager Medrano replied that we did take this out to bid; there was only one responsive bid, which comes with great experience. The Elected Official positions are not part of this classification plan; their duties and responsibilities are governed under our Government Code.

**It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve the Professional Services Agreement with Koff & Associates:**

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

**8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)**

**D. GENERAL SERVICES**

- (1) Approve Plans and Specifications and Award Contract for Normandie Avenue Street Improvement – Redondo Beach Blvd. to Artesia Blvd., JN 920 to All American Asphalt in the Amount of \$677,770.00

City Manager Medrano presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion which included Council Members Medina and Henderson, Mayor Cerda and City Manager Medrano regarding recycling fees and if they would be deducted from the contract price; if a sign will be going up so our community knows we are using Prop C funds; and what happens if we don't use all the funds? Does that money go back to Prop C or can we use it for another project? City Manager Medrano replied when we put out the bid which included all of those, including the recycling clause, that are put into consideration. Yes, a sign will be going up letting our community know we are using Prop C funds; it is a requirement. He also confirmed that Prop C funds are allocated; we don't lose them. Those monies stay within our Prop C allocation.

**It was moved by Council Member Medina, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Plans and Specifications and Award the Street Improvement Project Contract to All American Asphalt:**

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

**Noes: None**

**Absent: None**

**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**

- (1) Council Member Medina asked:
- (a) Status of City Street Paving, specifically on 158<sup>th</sup> Street, between Normandie and Western Avenues.
- (2) Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian asked:
- (a) Asked clarification regarding the jurisdiction of the railroad tracks/property on Vermont Avenue between Rosecrans Avenue and Gardena Boulevard; is that the City of Gardena's jurisdiction?
- (3) Mayor Cerda asked:
- (a) If we could start swearing in all newly Council-appointed Members to the City's Commissions, Committees, Councils, and Boards?
- This request was seconded by Council Member Medina***

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES, & REMARKS (Continued)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 regarding Waste Resources Rate Increases;
- (2) Disposition regarding a complaint sent to Mayor Cerda; and
- (3) Police Officer Training follow-up report.

D. COUNCIL REMARKS

- (1) COUNCIL MEMBER TANAKA – he reported that he attended the Cherrystone's Pioneer Project fund raiser for senior citizens. He attended the “Coffee with the Cop.” Last, but not least, he attended the Los Angeles County League of California Cities meeting on June 6, 2019.
- (2) COUNCIL MEMBER HENDERSON – since the last Council Meeting, he also attended “Coffee with the Cop” and complained that it was the most expensive Coffee with a Cop he has attended because it was held at Target and said that next time it should be held at a coffee shop which doesn’t include shopping. He attended the Compton College Partnership Celebration with El Camino College and shared that Compton College has received their full accreditation and is now the 114<sup>th</sup> community college in the state of California. Compton College lost their accreditation many years ago, but El Camino College stepped in to help them get their accreditation back. He thanked the President of El Camino College for putting the parking structure on Manhattan Beach Blvd because that relieved pressure in their community with parking. He worked with Centinela Youth Services by helping them streamline some of their IT issues and said it was a great opportunity as a board member. He sent condolences to the family of the gentleman who lost his life, from the Council, and said he will let the judicial process work its way out and move forward after that.
- (3) COUNCIL MEMBER MEDINA – since the last Council Meeting, he made his regular monthly cake deliveries. For the sake of transparency, he noted that Waste Resources Gardena donates the money to buy the cakes from Sam’s Club. He said that the Rotary used to donate the money previously, but now Waste Resources provide the funds for the cakes and that he is just a delivery boy, delivering cakes once a month on the last Friday of the month. He attended the Southern California Association of Governments and announced that there will be new fees Metro Transit and said they will hold another meeting on Friday to discuss that. He went to the Veteran’s Brunch in Hawthorne, where they celebrated the landing at Normandy. He said that there were a lot of veterans who had parents and family members who also landed in Normandy, and said it was very enlightening and very heart-warming. He attended the West Basin Water Association meeting and it was reported that California’s water supply looks good and we are in great shape. He made a shout out to his granddaughter, Angelina, who comes over once every 3-4 months.
- (4) MAYOR CERDA – since the last Council Meeting, she attended a Mayors Conference that Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti hosts every quarter; the main topic was Los Angeles County Fire Department’s dealing with those in their department with PTSD and how they are handling the high rate of suicide among their firefighters. She attended the South Bay Workforce Investment Board’s “Fit for Gold” Ceremony along with Council Member Medina. She presented several awards to seniors at Gardena High School who ...



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

**D. COUNCIL REMARKS (Continued)**

**(4) MAYOR CERDA (Continued)**

... participated in the program by tutoring elementary school children, teaching them about nutrition, as well as working out with them. She also attended the Coffee with the Cop and shared the same concern as Council Member Henderson about the attractiveness of shopping at Target while there. She attended the funeral service for Los Angeles County Fire Battalion Chief Mark Tolbert, who worked for LA County for over 30 years and briefly worked at Gardena Fire Station No. 159. Lastly, she attended the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4<sup>th</sup> Watch), located at 182<sup>nd</sup> Street and Vermont Ave., as they celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and she thanked Chief Kang for attending the celebration with her.

- (5) MAYOR PRO TEM KASKANIAN – said he also attended Coffee with the Cop but noted that he didn't spend any money. He said that he had an opportunity to meet with Supervisor Janice Hahn, along with his colleagues Mayor Cerda and Council Member Henderson, and reported that he asked her questions regarding the homeless, generally in the Los Angeles County area, and she responded that there were tremendous numbers, over 59,000 homeless in the County. He said he shared the numbers from our City and what kind of fees we pay to the State and said it was a very nice meeting.

**10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Cerda announced:

- (1) "Feed So Cal 2019" Food Drive for the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Friday, June 14, 2019, sponsored, with television coverage, by KABC7, from 4:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., at Albertsons, in Gardena.;
- (2) "Flag Day Celebration," sponsored by the Gardena Beautification Committee, on Friday, June 14, 2019, 11:00 a.m., at the Nakaoka Community Center Steps; and
- (3) Free "Hazardous Household Waste Round-up" Recycling event on Saturday, June 15, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at 1919 Torrance Blvd.


**11. REMEMBRANCES - None**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:20 p.m., Mayor Cerda adjourned the Gardena City Council Meeting to a Study Session at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Regular City Council Meeting, at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, June 25, 2019.

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

