

**MINUTES  
Regular Meeting of the  
City of Gardena City Council  
Tuesday, August 13, 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, August 13, 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 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. Mayor Tasha Cerda arrived a few minutes after the Roll Call, just as Closed Session was to begin.

At 7:05 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 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. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT APPOINTMENT**

Government Code Section 54957

- (1) Appointment of Deputy City Attorney

**B. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS**

Government Code Section 54957.6

- (1) Agency Negotiators: City Manager Edward Medrano and City Attorney Peter L. Wallin  
Negotiation Party: Joseph Nuzzolo, Agent for Sorakubo Family Trust  
Property: 16010 South Harvard Boulevard, Gardena, CA 90247  
Under Negotiation: Purchase and Sales Agreement, Price and Terms of Payment

**C. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS**

- (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  
Confidential / Unrepresented Employees

**Mayor Cerda reconvened the meeting to the Regular Open Session at 7:49 p.m., and the City Clerk noted the return of all Council Members who were present at the meeting.**

2. CLOSED SESSION (Continued)

*When City Attorney Wallin was asked if there were any reportable actions from the Closed Session, he stated that there were two actions to report that:*

- (1) The City received an offer from the owner of the property for the purchase of the property located at 16010 South Harvard Boulevard, Gardena, in the amount of \$1,250,000.00. The City Council approved the purchase; and*
- (2) The City Council approved the appointment of Ms. Carmen Vasquez as Deputy City Attorney.*

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Quovadis Ingram and Aubrey Ingram, sister and brother, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Both Quovadis and Aubrey are participants in the Summer Day Camp at Freeman Memorial Park, sponsored by the Recreation and Human Services Department. They both attend 156<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School. They introduced their parents and thanked the Council for inviting them to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. INVOCATION

The Reverend Christopher Codrington, Pastor of Gardena-Torrance Baptist Church, led the Invocation.

4. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, & APPOINTMENTS

A. PRESENTATIONS

- (1) Gardena Military Veteran Recognition to Honor Veteran Mr. Ronald Jackson, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Council Member Medina briefly spoke about Mr. Jackson commending him of his efforts and his current activities in the community. Mayor Tasha Cerda read a brief Biography, then Council Member Medina presented Mr. Jackson 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 and it was presented to Mr. Jackson. Mr. Jackson was given an opportunity to speak, and appropriate photos were taken.*

B. PROCLAMATIONS – *No Items*

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) Special-Called Gardena City Council Meeting, July 23, 2019
- (b) Gardena City Council Regular Meeting, July 23, 2019
- (c) Planning & Environmental Quality Commission Meeting, May 7, 2019
- (d) Planning & Environmental Quality Commission Meeting, July 16, 2019

**(2) Approved: Affidavit of Posting Agenda on August 9, 2019**

**C. CITY TREASURER**

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

- (a) August 13, 2019: Wire Transfer: 11788, 11801, 11806-11810; Prepay: 155138-155154; Check Nos. 155155-155464; for a total Warrants issued amount of \$8,283,489.74; Total Payroll Issued for August 2, 2019: \$1,646,410.17

**D. CITY MANAGER**

**(1) Approved: Personnel Report No. P-2019-14**

**(2) Approved: Approval of the Amended 2019-2024 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Gardena and the Gardena Police Officers Association (GPOA)**

**(3) Adopted: RESOLUTION NO. 6404, Amending the List of Authorized Games and Authorizing the Play of Certain Games in Licensed Card Clubs**

**RESOLUTION NO. 6404**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE LIST OF AUTHORIZED GAMES AND AUTHORIZING THE PLAY OF CERTAIN GAMES IN LICENSED CARD CLUBS

**(4) Approved: Authorize Payment to the County of Los Angeles for Annual Services Provided in the Amount of \$173,000 for Industrial Waste Services and Traffic Signal Maintenance Performed at Shared Intersections**

**(5) Approved: Acceptance and Notice of Completion of Rowley Park Renovation, JN 870; Auditorium Audiovisual Upgrade, Auditorium Classroom Remodel, and Sun Shade Structure.**

**(6) Approved: Ratify Administrative Approval of the Cooperative Agreement between Los Angeles County and the City of Gardena for Paratransit Service.**

**(7) Approved: Approve Project List for the FY20 State Transit Assistance State of Good Repair Program**

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR (Continued)**

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

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

**6. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

**A. AUGUST 6, 2019, MEETING**

**(1) Conditional Use Permit #17-17**

A request for a conditional use permit, to allow the operation of an indoor practice facility for a roller derby team per section 18.46.030.C.9 of the Gardena Municipal Code in the General Industrial (M-2) zone, that qualifies for a Notice of Exemption.

**Project Location: 1519 West 139<sup>th</sup> Street (APN: 6102-017-009)**

**Applicant: Rachel Johnston, Angel City Derby Girls, Inc.**

**Commission Action:** Commission approved Resolution No. PC 13-19, approving CUP #17-17.

**This Item was Received and Filed**

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

- (1) Mr. Glenn Mitchell, resident: spoke about and asked the City Council to consider creating a recognition program somewhat like the current City's Military Veterans recognition program. He asked the Council if they would consider recognizing an individual at the City Council Meetings for their exceptional diligence and positive contributions to the community. Also, he suggested that the persons being recognized be living persons, not those after they have passed.

**8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS**

**A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – No Items**

**B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- (1) **PUBLIC HEARING:** Zone Code Amendment #2-19, Project Location: City Wide, previously set for August 13, 2019, has been postponed for consideration by the City Council to the next Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

**C. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES – No Items**

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

D. GENERAL SERVICES

(1) Approval of On-Call Professional Consultants for As-Needed Services

City Manager Medrano presented the Staff Report.

There was discussion regarding the collecting of demographic data to see how many disadvantaged, minority, and veteran businesses applied; there was also discussion about the types of projects that could be costing \$100,000. City Manager Medrano stated that we did not collect that data but would do so going forward and explained that we do not have in-house staff to do this type of work. Therefore, we would need to hire a Consultant for the design work such as landscape architecture (like the work that was done on Artesia Boulevard), engineers for redesigning an intersection, and engineers for roadway designs. He also mentioned that most consultants were paid out of project budget, not out of general fund money.

**It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve On-Call Professional Consultant Services for As-Needed Services:**

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

**Noes: None**

**Absent: None**

(2) Approval of Two (2) Year Contract with West Coast Arborists, Inc. in the amount of \$175,000 for Full-Service Forestry Maintenance Program

City Manager Medrano presented the Staff Report.

Victor Gonzalez and Robert Thompson, representatives from West Coast Arborists, Inc. ("WCA") were present to answer any questions that the Council had. There was a discussion regarding how the City of Gardena piggy-backed on an agreement that the City of Temple City had with WCA to avoid time and cost to conduct a bid process. The City of Temple City's results met all the criteria and specifications of the City of Gardena. It was further discussed that ongoing maintenance of City-owned trees is required to preserve the health, safety, and general welfare of the public. It was also stated that routine pruning of trees is necessary to define tree structure as well as to ensure the safety and security of the member of the public who are placed at risk when City trees go unmaintained. The representatives continued to say that they maintain an electronic inventory which tracks the conditions of the trees in developing a comprehensive five (5) year maintenance program which details the entire City of Gardena.

**It was moved by Council Member Medina, seconded by Council Member Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve the Two (2) Year Contract with West Coast Arborists, Inc.:**

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

**Noes: None**

**Absent: None**

**8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)**

**E. POLICE**

- (1) Notification of Eligibility for Funding in the amount of \$24,173.00 under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, Fiscal Year 2019 Local Solicitation.

City Manager Medrano presented the Staff Report.

There was discussion regarding the number of radios needed. City Manager Medrano informed Council that there are approximately 120-130 portable radios. This is for additional portables, which will help offset some of the general fund expenditures. He continued to say that about 1 to 1-1/2 years ago, Council approved \$1.5 million dollars for radios; the City is phasing from a transistor radio system to a digital trunked network. All these radios would need to be able to operate under this digital platform, so these radios would comply with that system.

**This Item was Received and Filed**

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

**G. TRANSPORTATION – No Items**

**9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES, & REMARKS**

**A. COUNCIL ITEMS**

- (1) Designation of Voting Delegate / Representative for the League of California Cities Annual Conference and Expo, October 16-18, 2019, in Long Beach, CA.

City Manager Medrano presented the Staff Report.

**It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Medina, and carried by the following roll call vote to Designate Council Member Rodney Tanaka as the Voting Delegate:**

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

**Noes: None**

**Absent: None**

**B. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES**

- (1) Council Member Medina asked:  
(a) For a follow up status report regarding the Video Taping Contract for the 2019 Jazz Festival.

- (2) Council Member Henderson asked:  
(a) For a statement of work of our needs for a Videographer for the City  
(b) For study sessions regarding an abandoned property ordinance  
(c) City Clerk, Mina Semenza for information regarding Voting Center facilities throughout our City  
This was seconded by Mayor Tasha Cerda

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

B. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES (Continued)

(3) Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian asked:

- (a) City Manager Medrano if the City Council had previously authorized the increase for expenditures from the City Manager from \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 without having to go before Council

(4) Mayor Tasha Cerda asked:

- (a) City Manager Medrano if he could investigate developing a Community Recognition Program, such as one suggested by resident Mr. Glenn Mitchell who spoke at the tonight's City Council Meeting during public comments. She concurred with Mr. Mitchell's asking that the City honor a local resident at the one of our meetings to mirror our Veterans recognition.  
This was seconded by Council Member Medina

(5) Council Member Tanaka asked:

- (a) To Re-establish the City's Wall of Fame  
This was seconded by Council Member Medina

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 were, as follows:

- (1) Signage throughout the City regarding infrastructure projects;
- (2) Annual unfunded liability, Fresh Start, OPEB & PEPRRA;
- (3) English classes serving the Korean community;
- (4) August 2019 – January 2020 "Live, Work, Play in Gardena" Brochure;
- (5) 2019 Jazz Festival, Sunday, August 25, 2019;
- (6) Fraud Prevention Seminar, Saturday, August 24, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.;
- (7) "Operation Backpack," August 2, 2019, at Johnson Park; and
- (8) A video presentation regarding the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Food, Wine & Brew Festival.

D. COUNCIL REMARKS

- (1) COUNCIL MEMBER HENDERSON – since the last meeting, he attended the Centinela Youth Services Meeting as they work to realign some of their IT Services. He said he was at the Gardena Place ribbon cutting located at Van Ness and Rosecrans Ave. He attended the backpack giveaway for Sensory Integration Education Research Foundation. He also made a lot of community visits and phone calls. He said the National Night Out was great and that the location was changed from Target to the front of the City Hall and noticed there were more community members at the event. He attended the Board of Directors Breakfast for Playa Vista Jobs, a non-profit organization. He attended the funeral services of Darren W. Parker; whose family is a well-known in Gardena. It was a great service where Mayor Garcetti, Congresswoman Waters, and many more folks from all around the state and down from Sacramento were present at the service, and shared he was able to speak for the City of Gardena, and also had an opportunity to speak as a friend.

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

- (2) COUNCIL MEMBER MEDINA – since the last Council Meeting, he, as the Chair of the Gardena Beautification Committee, hosted the August 10, 2019, Concert on the Lawn, featuring big band music, and commended Pauline Moses from the Recreation Department for her assistance. He shared that both all you can eat ice cream and sugar-free ice-cream were offered. He attended the Southern California Association of Governments, and said they are voting on getting more members to represent all 118 cities across the Los Angeles, Riverside, and Orange Counties. He had the pleasure of delivering seven birthday cakes to seven Convalescent Homes in Gardena; the cost of the cakes is supported by Waste Management, and he delivers the cakes. At the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), they reported about the homeless count and that there are 76 homeless in Gardena; 72% are men and 25.7% are women. He reported that SBCCOG is working to get some services rendered to the homeless, especially some buildings to be donated so the homeless can have a place to live. He attended the Metro Service Council and shared that they had a presentation about the airport renovation/reconfiguration. He announced that there will be some changes and in a couple years we won't be able to exit the airport like we used to. He thanked all those who attended the Concerts on the Lawn; that there were over 200 people who attended the three successful events.
- (3) MAYOR PRO TEM KASKANIAN – he attended the ribbon cutting at the Gardena Place development with his colleagues, Council Members Henderson and Tanaka, and City Clerk Mina Semenza. He said they are beautiful homes, but by the time they climbed to the third-floor bedroom area, they were worn out and said the option with an elevator was needed. On August 6, 2019, he attended the National Night Out. He thanked and congratulated everyone who organized the event. It was a great idea that the event be held here, at the City Hall, rather than at Target. On August 10, he was supposed to attend the Elks Lodge's softball tournament but was not able to make it and apologized. He shared the good news that Gardena won the softball tournament, and said he was not able to attend because it was his 28<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and gave a shout out to his wife.
- (4) MAYOR CERDA – she attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Girl's Life Enrichment Summer Program, an event put on by the Los Angeles Stentorians, a non-profit from LA County Fire, where their main purpose is to recruit young people to the fire department, especially minorities. She said she spoke to the girls about maybe seeking a career as a Council Member or a Mayor. She attended National Night Out and thanked the entire staff for doing a great job in putting the event together. She attended LA County Lifeguard Medal of Valor ceremony, held on the beach. They honored a lifeguard who received the Lifetime Award for being a lifeguard for over 50 years. She attended her monthly JPA meetings, but instead of meeting once a month, they have been meeting once a week. She mentioned it was a bit tiring, but it was worth doing it.
- (5) COUNCIL MEMBER TANAKA – said he attended the Parks and Recreation "Game On" event, and said it was a lot of fun. He thanked Stephany Santin and staff for putting it on. He went to Gardena Place for the ribbon cutting. He attended the League of California Cities installation of the new President, Juan Garza, from Bellflower. He said that people liked the new venue for the National Police Night Out and having it at the City Hall 'brought it home.' He attended the retirement celebration for firefighter, Bob Gutierrez, from Station 158. He went to the Obon Festival Celebration hosted by the Gardena Buddhist Church on August 9 and 10.



**10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Cerda announced:

- (1) Annual Boat Tour, "Sanitation, and How it Effects Marine Life" a three-hour tour, sponsored by the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, leave out of the harbor out of San Pedro, California, on Saturday, August 24, 2019. If interested, please call (310) 217-9508.
- (2) Gardena Military Veterans Recognition Application forms are available in the City Hall Lobby and at the City Manager's Office. They can also be found on the City of Gardena's web site at [www.cityofgardena.org](http://www.cityofgardena.org). If anyone has a question or would like to request an application, please call (310) 217-9503; and
- (3) 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz Festival, Sunday, August 25, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. This event is sold out, tickets are no longer available;

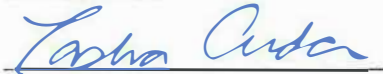
**11. REMEMBRANCES**

Officer Andre Moye Jr., 34 years of age and a member of the California Highway Patrol for 3 years, who was tragically killed by a driver, during a routine traffic stop on the 215 freeway in Riverside, on Monday evening August 12, 2019.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:09 p.m., Mayor Cerda adjourned the Gardena City Council Meeting to a Regular City Council Meeting, at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, August 27, 2019.

APPROVED:



Tasha Cerda, Mayor

MINA SEMENZA

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

By:   
Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk