

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Gardena City Council
Tuesday, September 10, 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, September 10, 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 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; Assistant City Manager Clint Osorio; City Attorney Peter L. Wallin; Deputy City Attorney Carmen Vasquez; 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 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; Assistant City Manager Clint Osorio; City Attorney Peter L. Wallin; and Deputy City Attorney Carmen Vasquez.

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

Confidential / Unrepresented Employees

Mayor Cerda reconvened the meeting to the Regular Open Session at 8:01 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 the Closed Session, he stated that no reportable action had been taken.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Laura Thompson and Rachel Carter led the Pledge of Allegiance. Both Laura and Rachel were in the Sister City Youth Delegation that went to Ichikawa, Japan, this summer, to represent the City of Gardena. Both are in the 9th grade, Laura attends Palisades Charter High School and Rachel attends Laces Middle/High School. She is the daughter of City of Gardena Police Reserve Officer Andre Carter. She is also the niece of Mayor Tasha Cerda. They introduced their families and thanked the Council for inviting them to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION (Continued)

B. INVOCATION

The Reverend Douglas Brown, Pastor of Gardena Valley Baptist Church, led the Invocation.

4. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, & APPOINTMENTS

A. PRESENTATIONS

- (1) Gardena Military Veteran Recognition to Honor Veteran Mr. John P. Kaper, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps. *Council Member Henderson spoke endearing words of Mr. Kaper recognizing him for his high honors as a Purple heart recipient in the Vietnam War. Mayor Tasha Cerda read a brief Biography, then Council Member Henderson presented Mr. Kaper 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. Kaper. Mr. Kaper was given an opportunity to speak, and appropriate photos were taken.*
- (2) "Reducing Youth Access to Tobacco Products"
Ms. Carol Almeda, a representative of the Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP), gave a presentation about tobacco product use by youths, then two Gardena High School students spoke of their first-hand experience regarding being in the presence of vaping at school and how it is affecting them, other students, and their teachers.

B. PROCLAMATIONS

- (1) "City of Gardena 89th Anniversary Day," September 11, 2019
– *was proclaimed by Mayor Cerda*
- (2) "Constitution Week," September 17-23, 2019
– *was proclaimed by Mayor Cerda*
- (3) "20th Annual Keep Gardena Beautiful Day," September 21, 2019
– *was proclaimed by Mayor Cerda*

C. APPOINTMENTS – *No Appointments were made*

- (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) Gardena City Council Regular Meeting, August 27, 2019

(b) Planning & Environmental Quality Commission Meeting, August 6, 2019

(2) Approved: Affidavit of Posting Agenda on September 6, 2019

C. CITY TREASURER

(1) Approved: Warrants / Payroll Register

(a) September 10, 2019: Wire Transfer: 11803, 11817-11818; Prepay: 155655-155664; Check Nos. 155665-155816; for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$1,362,445.53; Total Payroll Issued for August 30, 2019: \$1,730,659.85

D. CITY MANAGER

(1) Approved: Personnel Report No. P-2019-16

(2) Adopted: RESOLUTION NO. 6410, Approving Modified California Games Collection Rates at Hustler Casino

RESOLUTION NO. 6410

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING MODIFIED CALIFORNIA GAMES COLLECTION RATES AT HUSTLER CASINO

(3) Approved: Assignment and Assumption of Agreement for City Attorney Legal Services

(4) Adopted: RESOLUTION NO. 6411, Exclusively Fixing and Establishing the Wages, Hours, and Terms and Conditions of Employment for all Unrepresented Police Manager Positions

RESOLUTION NO. 6411

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, EXCLUSIVELY FIXING AND ESTABLISHING THE WAGES, HOURS, AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL UNREPRESENTED POLICE MANAGER POSITIONS, REPEALING ANY PREVIOUS RESOLUTION OR MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT, IN FULL OR IN PART, THAT SETS FORTH THE WAGES, HOURS AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL UNREPRESENTED POLICE MANAGER POSITIONS

5. CONSENT CALENDAR (Continued)

D. CITY MANAGER (Continued)

- (5) **Adopted:** ORDINANCE NO. 1807, Making Changes to Chapter 18.19, Mixed Use Overlay Zone, of the Gardena Municipal Code Relating to Transitional and Supportive Housing (Introduced by Council Member Henderson, August 27, 2019)

ORDINANCE NO. 1807

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, MAKING CHANGES TO CHAPTER 18.19, MIXED USE OVERLAY ZONE, OF THE GARDENA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO TRANSITIONAL AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

- (6) **Approved:** Approval of Agreement with Jobel Rentino for Procurement Consulting Services, Not to Exceed Amount of \$75,000

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

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

6. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

7. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET

A. SEPTEMBER 3, 2019, MEETING

(1) Zone Code Amendment #3-19

Ordinance No. 1806, related to Wireless Facilities, will modify the way the City will process applications for wireless facilities in order to comply with federal rules and regulations. References to complying with the Site Plan procedure for wireless facilities will be removed from the Municipal Code and a new section will be added providing the wireless facilities will be processed in accordance with a policy to be adopted by Resolution of the City Council

Project Location: City Wide

Applicant: City

Commission Action: Commission approved Resolution No. PC 10-19, recommending the City Council adopt Ordinance No. 1806.

This item was Received and Filed

(2) Conditional Use Permit #1-19

A request to continue operating an existing massage establishment in the Commercial (C-2) zone, per Section 18.46.030.C28 of the Gardena Municipal Code.

Project Location: 1630 West Redondo Beach Boulevard, Suite 11

Applicant: Shunichiro Kawabata

Commission Action: Commission approved Resolution No. PC 14-19, approving CUP #1-19.

This item was Received and Filed

7. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET (Continued)

A. SEPTEMBER 3, 2019, MEETING (Continued)

(3) Conditional Use Permit #4-19

A request to allow the on-site sale and consumption of beer and wine ancillary to an existing restaurant establishment located in the General Commercial/Mixed-Use Overlay (C-3/MUO) zone, per Section 18.32.030.B of the Gardena Municipal Code.

Project Location: 15420 South Western Ave., Suite B (APN: 6103-015-051)

Applicant: Grace Yang

Commission Action: Commission approved Resolution No. PC 15-19, approving CUP #4-19.

This item was Received and Filed

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- (1) Cheral Sherman, V.P. of Friends of the Gardena Willows Wetland Preserve: invited everyone to the Preserve on October 13, 2019, for a the "Second Sunday Stroll," the theme will be "History of the Area." Sherry Roberts, the docent who will be leading the stroll, was very instrumental in saving the Preserve and making it what it is today.
- (2) Ms. Steacy Trinidad Alfaro, Field Representative from Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi's Office: On behalf of Assembly Member Muratsuchi, she gave legislative updates regarding various Muratsuchi-sponsored Bills.
- (3) Tiffany Shin, Representative from Gracias Music Foundation: introduced herself and invited everyone to their Christmas Musical in September and gave miscellaneous news about the Foundation.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS

A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- (1) Acceptance of Project and Notice of Completion – Nakaoka Center AV Improvement Project – VectorUSA

Assistant City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion and questions which included comments by Mayor Cerda, Council Members Medina and Henderson, City Manager Medrano, and Assistant City Manager Osorio regarding the new audiovisual system that was installed in Nakaoka Community Center using state-of-the-art equipment. This equipment includes a new wireless presentation system, projector, screen, dual zone capability, and a centralized touch screen control panel. It was further discussed that the new system will greatly enhance the City's capability to utilize this state-of-the-art equipment for City events. Council Member Henderson then asked about the wireless infrastructure and if it would be possible to use Park-in-Lieu funds for that project. Assistant City Manager confirmed that, yes, we would be able to use those funds for that purpose.

It was moved by Council Member Medina, seconded by Council Member Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Accept the Project and Notice of Completion for the AV Improvement Project:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – *No Items*

C. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES – *No Items*

D. GENERAL SERVICES

- (1) Approval of \$70,000 Budget Appropriation to 170th Street Improvement, from Normandie Ave. to Vermont Ave., JN 944, to Expand the Scope

Assistant City Manager Clint Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion which included Council Members Medina and Henderson, and Assistant City Manager Osorio regarding the type of work being done and if we would be penalized because of the additional work being added using the Measure R Funds. Assistant City Manager Osorio replied that there are plenty of Measure R Funds, and those will be able to fund the additional work. Osorio then continued, saying that we would also put our financial auditors on notice.

It was moved by Council Member Medina, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Budget Appropriation for the JN 944 170th Street Improvement:

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

- (1) Approve Mini Pitch Program Grant Agreement for Bell Park – Fiscal Year 2020

City Manager Medrano presented the Staff Report and two PowerPoint slides of the Project were shown.

It was moved by Council Member Medina, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve the Mini-Pitch Program Grant Agreement:

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

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

G. TRANSPORTATION

- (1) Approve Agreement with Red Kite Consulting, Inc. for Training Services, Not to Exceed Amount of \$75,000

City Manager Medrano presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion among Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian, Mayor Cerda, Council Member Henderson and City Manager Medrano regarding the type of service this Consultant would provide. City Manager Medrano said that because our bus operators deal with customers who are on drugs and those who have mental illness which could be very challenging, this Consultant would provide our bus operators with the tools to de-escalate situations and reduce confrontation to keep our customers safe and our drivers safe, so that we can deliver the best customer service. It was asked if this is something that could expand to be used by other departments? City Manager Medrano stated that it could but, right now, our Transportation Department is in more significant need of this type of training.

It was moved by Council Member Medina, seconded by Council Member Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve the Agreement with Red Kite Consulting, Inc.:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES, & REMARKS

A. COUNCIL ITEMS – No Items

B. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES

Council Member Tanaka:

- (1) He asked if we could re-formulate the current City Ordinance regarding tobacco use to include banning the sale of flavored vapes. Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian seconded his request.

Council Member Medina then asked that, when re-formulating the City's tobacco Ordinance to consider including all vaping products, not just the flavored ones. City Manager Medrano replied that he would provide a report to Council regarding the City's tobacco ordinance.

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) Information notice regarding the promotion ceremony of Caption Michael Saffell to the position of Deputy Police Chief;
- (2) Memo regarding the pavement conditions at the railroad crossing on Western Avenue;
- (3) The City of Gardena has been selected as a finalist by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation for the most Business-Friendly City. The winner will be announced in November;

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

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

- (4) Patriots Day 18th Anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the United States. A ceremony will take place on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Civic Center Lawn.
- (5) A report on the Vacant Lot Ordinance;
- (6) We will be having cake in honor of Council Member Tanaka's Birthday; and
- (7) As previously announced, City Manager Medrano said that his last day of service with the City of Gardena after serving for over 32 years will be on Thursday, September 19, 2019.

D. COUNCIL REMARKS

- (1) MAYOR PRO TEM KASKANIAN – On August 29, he attended the grand opening for the Adult Korean American class at Nakaoka Community Center. He said there were a lot of seniors in attendance trying to learn English. He encouraged them to contact the City to get more information. He said he attended the Mayor's birthday party and had a lot of fun. On Friday, he attended a fundraising party at the Gardena Elks Lodge, held for children who need funds to pay for treatment expenses.
- (2) COUNCIL MEMBER TANAKA – He said he returned from a short vacation from Maui and apologized to the Mayor for not being able to attend her party but said that he face-timed her, as promised. He attended Officer Knapp's celebration of his life, who passed away from esophageal cancer. He attended the Little Sisters of the Poor fundraiser to help their facility. He went to the Gardena High School All-School Picnic. He said he saw a lot of people he hadn't seen in a long time. He presided over Sergeant Nick Pepper's stepfather's funeral. He attended the South Bay Cities Council of Governments Steering Committee meeting. He attended Coffee with a Cop in the morning. He asked everyone to attend the Patriots Day Ceremony tomorrow, September 11, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the quad, in between the Nakaoka Community Center and the Gardena Police Department.
- (3) COUNCIL MEMBER HENDERSON – Since the last Council Meeting, he attended the Mayor's birthday celebration and enjoyed the facetime with Council Member Tanaka. He attended the Holly Park Homeowners Association Meeting. He conducted a few community visits and phone calls. He received a request to start up Open City Hall again but said that will be considered due to costs involved. He attended a Construction 101 graduation with Playa Vista Jobs. He shared that it helps individuals returning home from incarceration to be given an opportunity for a fresh start in construction trades. He said as their board President he was able to pass out belts and boots. He participated in a webinar regarding artificial intelligence and government. He stated that our City has done quite a bit regarding the use of technology. He shared that we received compliments from couple cities in Northern California about how our Council functions as a body and thanked his colleagues for that.

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

- (4) MAYOR CERDA – She attended the Okinawa Association’s 110th Anniversary event held at the Nakaoka Community Center. She attended the Gardena Valley Friends of the Library annual installation and anniversary celebration. On Sunday, she attended a Patriots Day Service held at Gardena-Torrance Baptist Church, where they recognized first responders. She thanked our Chief of Police, Police Officers, and Firefighters for being there. The church and the congregation were very thankful and pleased to hold the event for them. She attended the South Bay Association of Realtors meeting where they discussed the homeless crisis and the keynote speaker was Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. She thanked the President of the South Bay Association of Realtors, our City Clerk, Mina Semenza. She said that Ms. Semenza did an amazing job with the interview. She thanked her and her organization for putting that event together. She said that Mayor Garcetti mentioned that, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, they paid the homeless \$14 an hour to clean up encampment areas. She also said that one of the panelists, a Police Officer from City of Torrance, mentioned that if you call 9-1-1 because of concern about the homeless, there is not much they can do unless the homeless person was committing a crime. She attended Coffee with a Cop held at the newest Starbucks in Gardena on Crenshaw Boulevard near Rosecrans Avenue and thanked the Chief of Police and his staff. She thanked the entire City for getting us to the level of finalist to compete for an Eddy Award, sponsored by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. She congratulated City Manager Medrano on his new opportunity and his new job at the state level. She said he will be missed, and that he did an amazing job as Chief of Police, Community Development and Public Works Director, City Manager and a great friend to everyone. She made a special recognition to two of the fire fighters from Fire Station 158: Fire Captain, Mike Chavarrie and Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Greenup and his K9, Cota, who were activated to assist in the rescue operation in the tropical storm, Dorian. She mentioned that when the roof at Lucky Lady Casino collapsed, they didn’t have to wait long for the K9 team to arrive.
- (5) COUNCIL MEMBER MEDINA – He congratulated our City Manager for his future endeavors up in Sacramento and congratulated Assistant City Manager Clint Osorio. He shared that he came down with a cold and couldn’t attend the Mayor’s birthday party. He attended the Korean ESL Class at the Nakaoka Community Center and shared with the students that learning a second language could decrease the chances of getting dementia or Alzheimer’s. He delivered cakes to Convalescent Homes, which he does every last Friday of the month and that Waste Resources donates the money to purchase the cakes he delivers. He attended the Southern California Association of Governments meeting at which they rejected a methodology for RHNA proposed by an outside source. He said all the cities in California will have an input as far as home development is concerned. He stated that he was very happy that they overturned it and that our cities will have a ‘say so’ regarding to how they will build homes, buildings, parking, and especially the developments for the homeless.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) Patriots Day 18th Anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the United States. A ceremony will take place on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., on the Civic Center Lawn between Nakaoka Community Center and the Police Station;
- (2) Community Meeting regarding the new Voting System for the 2020 Election will be held on September 11, 2019, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at GTRANS, and on Monday, September 16, 2019, at Rowley Park beginning at 1:00 p.m.;
- (3) Promotion Ceremony for Michael Saffell to the position of Deputy Police Chief on Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 10:30 a.m. in the Council Chamber;
- (4) “A Work-Out to Remember,” Saturday, September 14, 2019, at Mas Fukai Park, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon;

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

- (5) Annual "Keep Gardena Beautiful" Community Clean-Up Day, Saturday September 21, 2019, 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Volunteers from many community organizations and City Staff will be participating; and
- (6) Annual "Food, Wine & Brew" Festival, Saturday, September 28, 2019, from Noon to 6:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser to give financial support to the Senior Day Care/Alzheimer's Center.

11. REMEMBRANCES

All those who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks within the United States on September 11, 2001, Mrs. Frances Alice Greco Langhans, 92 years of age, long-time resident of Gardena and beloved mother of former City of Gardena Personnel Technician Janis Greco, who retired in April 2012, after 45 years of service in the Personnel Division of the City of City Manager's Office; Mrs. Ernestina Madrid Lopez, 90 years of age, beloved Aunt of Customer Service Clerk II Elva Bayardo, in the City of Gardena City Clerk's Office; Mr. Napoleon Debise, 64 years of age, former City of Gardena Police Service Officer, who retired in May 2013 after over 20 years of service in the Police Department; and Mr. Harvey Slaton, 87 years old, former Firefighter/Engineer, who retired in the 1990s after 20 plus years of service as a member of the City of Gardena Fire Department.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:29 p.m., Mayor Cerda adjourned the Gardena City Council Meeting to a Regular City Council Meeting, at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, September 24, 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