

**MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Gardena City Council
Tuesday, September 24, 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 24, 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: Interim 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 7:02 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; Interim City Manager Clint Osorio; City Attorney Peter L. Wallin; Deputy City Attorney Carmen Vasquez; and Human Resources Manager Nora Verceles.

2. CLOSED SESSION

**A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS
Government Code Section 54957.6**

- (1) Agency Designated Representative:
Clint Osorio, Interim 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 7:44 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

Emily Koguchi and Charlie Mendez led the Pledge of Allegiance. Both Emily and Charlie attend Denker Avenue Elementary School in Gardena and represent their 5th grade class, Room 28 taught by Mrs. Morgan. They are outstanding students in the classroom and on the playground. 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 Rob Lee, Lead Pastor of Gardena Valley Assembly, led the Invocation.

4. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, & APPOINTMENTS

A. PRESENTATIONS

- (1) Gardena Military Veteran Recognition to Honor Veteran Ms. Patricia 'Tish' McCauley, who served in the U.S. National Guard. *Council Member Tanaka spoke, saying that he has known "Tish" for a period of time and expressed his deep appreciation for her military service, while presenting her with a City of Gardena Veterans Commemorative Coin. Then Mayor Tasha Cerda read a brief Biography. 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 Ms. McCauley. Ms. McCauley was given an opportunity to speak, and appropriate photos were taken.*

B. PROCLAMATIONS

- (1) "City Employee Recognition Day," September 26, 2019 – *was proclaimed by Mayor Cerda*
- (2) "Gardena Heritage Day," October 5, 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, September 10, 2019
 - (b) Planning & Environmental Quality Commission Meeting, September 3, 2019
- (2) Approved: Affidavit of Posting Agenda on September 20, 2019

5. CONSENT CALENDAR (Continued)

C. CITY TREASURER

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

(a) September 24, 2019: Prepay: 155817-155819; Check Nos. 155820-156029; for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$571,842.89; Total Payroll Issued for September 13, 2019: \$2,061,608.70

D. CITY MANAGER

(1) **Approved:** Personnel Report No. P-2019-17

(2) **Approved:** Consultant Agreement between the City and Fehr & Peers in the Amount of \$59,540.00 for SB743 Implementation

(3) **Approved:** City of Gardena's GTrans 2019 Title VI Program

(4) **Approved:** Carnival Contract with Candyland Amusements for Carnival at Mas Fukai Park on November 8, 9, 10, 11, 2019

It was moved by Council Member Tanaka, 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 Tanaka, Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian, Council Members Medina and Henderson, and Mayor Cerda

Noes: None

Absent: None

6. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

7. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET

A. SEPTEMBER 17, 2019, MEETING

(1) **General Plan Amendment #2-18, Zone Change #3-18, Tentative Tract Map #6-18, Site Plan Review #11-18, and Environmental Assessment #20-18**

A 114-unit townhome project on a 5.6 gross acre property, which included the request for the following entitlements: General Plan Amendment, Zone Change, Tentative Tract Map and a Site Plan Review. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) were prepared to address the environmental impacts. The Commission considered the MND and MMP at the same time and approved those documents for the Tentative Tract Map and Site Plan review, with the added condition that the Applicant would work with staff to reprogram existing open spaces areas. Additionally, the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council adopt the same for the General Plan Amendment and Zone Change

Project Location: 1515 West 178th Street

Applicant: Jeff Weber repressing Melia Homes

Commission Action: Commission approved Resolution No. PC 16-19, adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program for purposes of the Tentative Tract Map and Site Plan Review and recommending that the City Council adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the General Plan Amendment and Zone Change; and approved Resolution No. PC 17-19, recommending that the City Council adopt the General Plan Amendment and Zone Change; and approving the Tentative Tract Map and Site Plan subject to the Legislative approvals.

This Item was Called for Review by Council Member Henderson

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

(2) Site Plan Review #5-18

A proposal to construct a new 22,402 square foot, 12-unit mixed-use housing development with 3,891 square feet of commercial use in the Commercial-Residential (C-R) zone per Gardena Municipal Code Section 18.20.02

Project Location: 1112 West Gardena Boulevard (APN: 6111-0004-032, 033)

Applicant: Zhen Xiang Zhou

Commission Action: Commission approved Resolution No. PC 18-19, approving Site Plan Review #5-18.

This item was Received and Filed

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS

A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- (1) U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2018-2019

Interim City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

This Item was Received and Filed

B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- (1) Award Contract to FilmLA to Provide Film Permit Services

Interim City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Film LA's Representative Donna Washington, Vice-President of Operations, spoke and answered questions from Council.

It was moved by Council Member Medina, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Award Contract to FilmLA:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

C. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES – No Items

D. GENERAL SERVICES – No Items

E. POLICE – No Items

F. RECREATION & HUMAN SERVICES – No Items

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

G. TRANSPORTATION

(1) Approval of GTrans Revised Proposed 2020 Service Changes

Interim City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report. GTrans Director Ernie Crespo gave a PowerPoint Presentation.

Speakers: Kimberly Mason; Lyle Knight; Carolyn Torres, Souleil Helou; Sonya Jewitt; and Irish Liwanag.

There was a lengthy discussion, which included Mayor and Council Members, regarding the proposed service changes. Most of the speakers were parents who were opposed to the Line #3 service change in eliminating the morning and afternoon tripper that drops off and picks up students at Bishop Montgomery High School. These parents spoke about the hardship on their children if this line were to be eliminated; they felt the City of Gardena was making an irrational decision when all these children are doing is trying to get an education. No Bishop Montgomery High School representative was present. Director Crespo indicated that it was going to cost \$34,650 to keep this line going; he mentioned that the principal had offered \$15,000 to help subsidize the cost. There was also some discussion about fundraising in order to raise the money. It was agreed by Mayor and Council that Director Crespo would go back and meet with the school's representatives to see if they could offer more financial assistance. Two of the speakers spoke in opposition to Line #1X and asked Council not to go forward with the proposed changes. After hearing all the speakers, Council approved all the proposed service changes except for Line #3.

It was moved by Mayor Cerda, seconded by Council Member Medina, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve the Proposed 2020 Service Changes, with the exception of Line #3 to Bishop High School:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

(2) Purchase of Three Paratransit Vehicles from Creative Bus Sales for a Total of \$201,422.33 and a Project Total of \$211,422.33

Interim City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

It was moved by Council Member Medina, seconded by Council Member Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve the Purchase of the Vehicles:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

G. TRANSPORTATION (Continued)

- (3) Approve Agreement with Tripspark for Purchase of Scheduling and Operations Management Software and Five Years of Maintenance Support, Plus Contingency, for a Total Program Cost Not to Exceed \$1,394,652

Interim City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion, which included Council Member Henderson, Director Crespo and Interim City Manager Osorio, regarding the maintenance ongoing after the fifth year, and if we are scheduling any depreciation monies so when it's time for system replacement that money will be there; or will we get a new system at the full price? It was also discussed if we can ensure, as upgrades occur, that an interface of the payroll system can also get maintained. Council Member Henderson then asked if cloud solution discussions have been had. Director Crespo stated that GTrans hopes to have Tripspark much longer than six years. So, any money saved would be for the next upgrade and GTrans hosts it in the cloud; that their IT and payroll departments have been on board all along to see how it's going to tie into the city's servers. It was also discussed that the cloud is not always the best solution. Interim City Manager Osorio stated that, as far as the depreciation schedule, the City does depreciate assets, especially involving expenses such as these after seven years.

It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve the Agreement with Tripspark:

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

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES, & REMARKS

A. COUNCIL ITEMS – *None*

B. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES

- (1) Council Member Henderson asked:

- (a) That the City draft a city-wide Ordinance to establish specific development standards regarding abandoned and/or vacant lots or properties.

This request was seconded by Council Member Tanaka

C. CITY MANAGER REMARKS RE: DIRECTIVES / COUNCIL ITEMS

Interim City Manager Osorio 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) Memo regarding the property located at 2403 Marine;
(2) Memo regarding the AV Equipment at the Nakaoaka Community Center;
(3) The vacant lot analysis report;

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

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

- (4) Employee Recognition Day, Thursday, September 26, 2019, Civic Center Lawn;
- (5) "Food, Wine and Brew Festival" Fundraiser for the Senior Day Care Center, Noon to 6:00 p.m., Saturday, September 28, 2019, on the Civic Center Lawn;
- (6) Annual "Toy Drive" Kick Off, Tuesday, October 2 through December 13, 2019;
- (7) 19th Annual Pancake Breakfast, Saturday, October 5, 2019, 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., at Nakaoka Community Center;
- (8) Heritage Festival & Street Fair, Saturday, October 5, 2019, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Civic Center Lawn; and
- (9) Update regarding City-related litigation.

D. COUNCIL REMARKS

- (1) COUNCIL MEMBER MEDINA – thanked City Attorney Peter Wallin for the report on the successful outcome of the litigation with Regional Water Quality Control Board. He attended the meeting with the Gardena Beautification Committee and said they were planning to extend the summer Concerts on the Lawn into September. He attended a farewell party for Ed Medrano. He attended the Keep Gardena Beautiful cleanup day and shared that all five of the Council got together and contributed to the cleanup and learned some planting skills in the process. He asked if they could adjourn the Council Meeting in the name of Rachel Ruiz Adam, who was a part of the Sister City Association and Cinco de Mayo Committee, along with many more community efforts. He asked to adjourn in the name of Karen Tankersley who passed away on September 15. She was a good friend of his who served with the Gardena Valley Lions Club.
- (2) MAYOR PRO TEM KASKANIAN – since the last Council Meeting, he attended the 18th Anniversary of September 11 Memorial here at the Nakaoka Community Center. On the same day, he attended the Voting Solution for All People event put on by City Clerk Mina Semenza and Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero. He said he learned a lot and was very interesting. On September 12, he attended the pinning ceremony for Deputy Chief Mike Saffell. On September 21, he attended the Gardena Beautiful Day event, and thanked Stephany Santin for driving them from one park to another. He said they planted plants under the supervision of Council Members Medina and Tanaka. On September 22, he attended the inaugural visit of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, hosted by Mayor Eric Garcetti and Los Angeles Councilman Paul Krekorian at the City of Los Angeles City Hall. He had the opportunity to meet Armenia's Prime Minister and had a chance to ask questions; he was happy and very proud to have had the opportunity to do so. He also shared that the Prime Minister would be speaking at the United Nations on the following day.

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

- (3) COUNCIL MEMBER TANAKA – said he was honored to do the Invocation and Benediction at this year's Patriots Day event at the City. He said, "We must never forget." He thanked the Police Department and the Honor Guards for putting on that event. He went to GTrans and learned the new way to vote, said it was easy and, if he could figure it out, then anyone could. He congratulated Mike Saffell for his promotion to Deputy Chief of Police. He attended the Korean Thanksgiving celebration at the Nakaoka Center; it was a great event and he loves Korean food. He attended the annual Elks Lodge Family Picnic. He attended South Bay Regional Public Communications Authority (known as RCC) Board of Directors meeting. He also attended the 88 Cities Summit event that took all day in downtown Los Angeles. He said they talked about better ways to serve our community, balanced energy, transportation issues and economic problems, to name a few. He attended City Manager Medrano's farewell party and thanked Ed Medrano for all his hard work and wished him luck in what he does next. He attended the Gardena Beautiful Day cleanup, and thanked Stephany Santin and all who participated. He said he planted plants and hope they live. He thanked Jersey Mikes, Painters Tape, Rascals, and all the places that brought them food. He attended an opening of Aloha Learning Center at the Holly Park Methodist Church sponsored by Pacific Asian Center for Employment (PACE).
- (4) MAYOR CERDA – since the last Council Meeting, she attended the 9/11 Ceremony held here at the Nakaoka Community Center and thanked all who were involved in putting the event together; that it was very special. Later that day, she attended the Voting Solution for All People, put on by the City Clerk's Office, and shared that the new voting system is very simple. She reported that she attended the promotion ceremony for Mike Saffell to Deputy Chief of Police. She said she received a special invitation and attended the 35th Wedding Anniversary for Charlotte and Chris Lynch. She attended the Elks Lodge Family Picnic. She attended the 5th Grand Opening of The Pan, this one in the City of Lomita. She attended her monthly Sanitation District Board meeting. She also attended a Press Conference at which County Supervisor Janice Hahn introduced a new stroke paramedic ambulance. She explained that the special ambulance will be servicing different areas in the County and it is equipped with a mini CT Scanner, lab testing equipment, and medication to help determine which type of stroke you are having and to administer the right kind of medicine. The next day, she attended the funeral services for her neighbor and a long-time resident of Gardena, Mr. Drew Beavers, who passed away in a tragic car accident on Labor Day weekend. She also attended the funeral service for Dr. Markell La'Keith Trinh, a doctor who passed away at the age of 37 years old. She attended the farewell party for Ed Medrano and thanked the entire staff for putting that together; that it was a great send off and the video that they put together was nice. She participated in Keep Gardena Beautiful Day and thanked everyone who came out to help. She participated in a photo-op with Southwest Office Printing and Gardena Juvenile Justice and Intervention Program (GJJIP). She shared that Southwest Office Printing held a golf tournament to raise funds and the proceeds of \$5,000 were donated to GJJIP. She thanked Southwest Office Printing. Lastly, she attended the grand opening of the Aloha Daycare Center. She mentioned that the daycare is free for anyone who fits the income requirements. She shared that the daycare takes up to 50 kids and PACE spent over \$620,000 in remodeling the area to make it suitable for this program.

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

D. COUNCIL REMARKS (Continued)

- (5) COUNCIL MEMBER HENDERSON – he started by sharing that Holly Park United Methodist Church was excited that Mayor Cerda and Council Member Tanaka were there at the Day Care Center Ribbon-Cutting and would like them to attend their church on Sunday. He attended the Patriots Day observation and said it's always a somber event. He attended the Police District 2 meeting at Serra High School. He also attended the Korean Harvest celebration. He reminded everyone that Gardena Direct does work. He enjoyed Ed Medrano's departing ceremony and said it was great to see everyone come out to support him. It is great to see him "move up the ladder." He said that the Gardena Beautiful Clean-up Day was an awesome day and thanked his colleagues. It was a great day and there were a lot of participants. Since the last Council meeting, he also made some visits around the community visits. He announced that, on Thursday, September 26, the Independent Cities Association will be installing a new President, Councilman Richard Montgomery from Manhattan Beach, and he will then be the past President. He shared that his goal as President of ICA was to expand beyond Los Angeles County. He thanked his colleagues for being supportive of him in his role in leading all the other ICA cities.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) "Food, Wine & Brew Festival," Saturday, September 28, 2019, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. at the Nakaoaka Community Center;
- (2) "Heritage Festival & Street Fair," Saturday, October 5, 2019, from 9:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on 162nd Street;
- (3) 19th Annual Pancake Breakfast, Saturday, October 5th at 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Nakaoaka Community Center;
- (4) American Red Cross, in partnership with the City of Gardena, will host their annual Blood Drive, Thursday, October 31, 2019, at Nakaoka Community Center;
- (5) Potential participants are sought by Los Angeles County to serve on the Civil Grand Jury. Applications are available in the City Manager's Office;
- (6) Gardena Military Veterans recognition applications are available in the Gardena City Hall Lobby; and
- (7) Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian invited everyone for cake after tonight's council meeting, in celebration of Council Member Henderson's birthday.

11. REMEMBRANCES

Mr. Carl Lyons, 45 years of age, beloved brother of City of Gardena Custodian II Vincent Steib, Mr. Lyons is also a relative of former Gardena Chief of Police Rod Lyons; Mr. Alque Smith, who was in his mid-70s, the beloved grandfather of Custodian II Vincent Steib of the General Services Department; Dr. Markell La'Keith Trinh, 37 years old, born and raised in Gardena. He passed away from injuries received in a tragic car accident on Labor Day weekend. He was currently a physician in Victorville; Mr. Drew Beavers, a friend of Mayor Cerda who worked at the Mayor's radio station in Gardena, producing music for the station's shows; Mrs. Rachel Adam, a friend of Council Member Medina, who served on the Sister City Association and Cinco de Mayo Committees; Ms. Karen Tankersley, a good friend of Council Member Medina, who served with the Gardena Valley Lions Club, passed away on September 15; and Mr. Russell Temple, 58 years old, a former Police Lieutenant, who retired in April 2017, after 29½ years of service with the City of Gardena.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:07 p.m., Mayor Cerda announced the cancellation of the next Regularly-Scheduled Gardena City Council meeting of Tuesday, October 8, 2019, and adjourned to a City Council Study Session, at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, immediately followed by a Regular City Council Meeting, at 7:00 p.m., also on Tuesday, October 22, 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