

**MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Gardena City Council
Tuesday, November 26, 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, November 26, 2019, in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 1700 West 162nd Street, Gardena, California; Mayor Tasha Cerda presiding.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Tasha Cerda; Mayor Pro Tem 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 7:01 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; and Deputy City Attorney Carmen Vasquez.

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 7:46 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 Council unanimously agreed to approve the Employment Agreement with Michael Saffell to serve as Chief of Police.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Stephanie Tellez and Austin Tanaka led the Pledge of Allegiance. Both Stephanie and Austin are Youth Members of the Gardena Sister City Association. They introduced their family members and thanked the Council for inviting them to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION (Continued)

B. INVOCATION

The Reverend Juan C. Higuera, Pastor of Iglesia Bautista Biblica in Gardena, led the Invocation.

4. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, & APPOINTMENTS

A. PRESENTATIONS

- (1) Gardena Military Veteran Recognition to Honor Veteran Mr. Clarence D. Devereaux, who served in the U.S. Navy. *Mayor Tasha Cerda commended Mr. Devereaux for his military service and presented him with a City of Gardena Veterans Commemorative Coin. Mayor Pro Tem Art Kaskanian read a brief Biography. Mr. Devereaux was given an opportunity to speak, and appropriate photos were taken.*

B. PROCLAMATIONS – *None*

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) Special Meeting, November 12, 2019
- (b) Gardena City Council Regular Meeting, November 12, 2019

- (2) **Approved:** Affidavit of Posting Agenda on November 22, 2019

5. CONSENT CALENDAR (Continued)

C. CITY TREASURER

(1) Approved: Warrants / Payroll Register

(a) November 26, 2019: Prepay: 156639-156642; Check Nos. 156643-156855; for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$2,883,489.65; Total Payroll Issued for November 22, 2019: \$2,084,556.90

D. CITY MANAGER

(1) Approved: Personnel Report No. P-2019-20

(a) Approved: Request City Council's Approval of Employment Agreement promoting Deputy Police Chief Michael Saffell, currently serving as Interim Police Chief, to Police Chief, effective November 26, 2019, through November 25, 2003.

(2) Approved: SECOND READING: ORDINANCE NO. 1813, Amending Chapter 5.36 of the Gardena Municipal Code regarding Film Production Permitting Procedures (Introduced by Council Member Dan Medina, November 12, 2019)

ORDINANCE NO. 1813

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, AMENDING CHAPTER 5.36 OF THE GARDENA MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING FILM PRODUCTION PERMITTING PROCEDURES

It was moved by Council Member Medina, seconded by Council Member Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve all 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. NOVEMBER 19, 2019, MEETING – *Meeting Cancelled*

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

(1) Dr. Wilma Franco, representative of Community Worship Center – invited the City Council to their 2nd Annual Winter Wonderland;

(2) Ben Butler, resident – reported about the sidewalks in his neighborhood that need to be repaired; he feels that it is very hazardous to people because you have to walk in the street when taking walks;

(3) Franco Morales, 9-year-old student – informed the Council that he is doing a fundraiser to help the homeless; he is doing a coin drive; he asked the Council if they would like to donate coins.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS

A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – No Items

B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – No Items

C. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

(1) TAX MEASURE – PLACEMENT OF TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX (LOCAL SALES TAX) MEASURE ON MARCH 3, 2020 BALLOT

(a) RESOLUTION NO. 6417, Ordering the City of Gardena Neighborhood Safety and Community Services Measure to Adopt a Three-Quarter Cent (3/4¢) Local Transactions (Sales) and Use Tax to be Submitted to the Voters of the City at the March 3, 2020 General Municipal Election; Directing the City Attorney to Prepare and File an Impartial Analysis of the Measure; and Authorizing and Setting Deadlines for the Filing of Arguments in the Office of the City Clerk For and Against the Measure

RESOLUTION NO. 6417

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, ORDERING THE CITY OF GARDENA NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES MEASURE TO ADOPT A THREE-QUARTER CENT (3/4¢) LOCAL TRANSACTIONS (SALES) AND USE TAX TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY AT THE MARCH 3, 2020 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION; DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE AND FILE AN IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF THE MEASURE; AND AUTHORIZING AND SETTING DEADLINES FOR THE FILING OF ARGUMENTS IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK FOR AND AGAINST THE MEASURE

Interim City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report relative to Resolution No. 6417 and gave a PowerPoint presentation related to both Resolution No. 6417 and Ordinance No. 1811.

SPEAKERS: in support of the Tax Measure:

Mike Sargent, President of Gardena Police Officers Association

Brenda Jackson, Resident

Roy Kim, Resident and Business Owner

Sean Evans, General Manager of DCH Honda

There was a discussion which included Mayor and Council regarding Measure H and the amount of money the City is paying the Los Angeles County to help the homeless. Since we do not have a large homeless population, we have not been able to benefit from Measure H. They continued to discuss that there is a process to apply for some of that money to come back to us. To-date, we have not had any response from Los Angeles County regarding applications we have submitted. It was also asked if the Air Quality Management District would raise their tax in 2022. Interim City Manager Osorio replied that we would not be affected; and that this Measure does not have a sunset clause; it is a forever tax. If this measure were passed, we would possibly start receiving the money in September 2020, and for everyone to look at the whole tax measure clause. It was also discussed that the City surveyed our residents through *Get Involved Gardena* and asked what their priorities were and what they would like to see to improve our City.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

C. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES (Continued)

(1) TAX MEASURE – PLACEMENT OF TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX (LOCAL SALES TAX) MEASURE ON MARCH 3, 2020 BALLOT (Continued)

(a) RESOLUTION NO. 6417 (Continued)

It was moved by Mayor Cerda, seconded by Council Member Medina, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt Resolution No. 6417, to approve placing the Tax Measure on the March 3, 2020, Ballot:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

(b) ORDINANCE NO. 1811, Enacting a Transactions and Use Tax (Sales Tax) to be Administered by the Department of Tax and Fee Administration, Subject to Adoption by the Electorate

ORDINANCE NO. 1811

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, ENACTING A TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX (SALES TAX) TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TAX AND FEE ADMINISTRATION, SUBJECT TO ADOPTION BY THE ELECTORATE

Interim City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Ordinance No. 1811 was introduced by Council Member Tanaka.

(2) RESOLUTION NO. 6423, Recognizing the Importance of and Declaring Support for the 2020 Census

RESOLUTION NO. 6423

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF AND DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE 2020 CENSUS

Interim City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian, seconded by Council Member Medina, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt Resolution No. 6423:

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

Noes: None

Absent:

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

- D. GENERAL SERVICES – *No Items*
- 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 Henderson asked if we could get the developers in our City to provide reports to the City that could be shared with the City Council about their outreach to make local hires and purchase supplies from local companies for work relating to all the new developments in our community; Request was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian.
- (2) Mayor Cerda asked if a Sustainability Division could be created within our Economic Development Department; Council Member Kaskanian seconded it.
- (3) Mayor Pro Tem Kaskanian asked if we could have an Ordinance that clarifies which color choices on buildings in Gardena would be approved and/or prohibited; Mayor Cerda seconded the request.

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 and flyers had already been provided to the Council via copies in their regular mail packets. Those items were, as follows:

- (1) Hometown Heroes Project – A report is being worked on – information is forthcoming;
- (2) Two (2) Election Process Demo Centers will be coming to Gardena; one at the Mayme Dear Library, from Tuesday, 12/03/19 to Saturday, 12/07/19, and one at the Nakaoka Center from Monday, 12/09/19, to Friday, 12/20/19;
- (3) Our Annual Winter Wonderland and Tree Lighting on Tuesday, 12/03/19, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the City Hall Grounds;
- (4) 50th Annual Craft Fair on Saturday, 12/07/19, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Nakaoka Community Center;
- (5) Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, 12/14/19, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the Nakaoka Community Center;
- (6) Chat with Chief Saffell on Saturday, 12/14/19, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Police Department;
- (7) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Commemoration Parade will be taking place on Saturday, 01/18/20;
- (8) A video regarding the Nakaoka Center renovation was presented; and
- (9) Joe Cruz, Director of General Services, last day is Friday, 12/06/2019; he will be leaving the City of Gardena for a new position as the Facilities, Maintenance and Operations Manager for Los Angeles County.

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

- (1) MAYOR PRO TEM KASKANIAN – said he had nothing to report as he has been out of town.
- (2) COUNCIL MEMBER TANAKA – reported that he attended the GTrans celebration for passing the CHP inspection. He attended the Gardena Honda Giveaway and said it was quite an event and thanked Gardena Honda for all that they do for us. He attended Officer Toshio Hirai's one-year Memorial. He thanked Chief Saffell for a great event and thanked all the members in his department and the City for putting the memorial together; he will always miss Toshio – that Toshio was a great young man who gave his life too soon. He congratulated Director of General Services Joseph Cruz, on his new job and said he will miss him. He congratulated Chief Mike Saffell and said he was proud of him and what he has done. He said he wanted to challenge his colleagues by writing a check for \$100 to help support the fundraising to buy toys for those who are less fortunate; he appreciates what Franco Morales, 9 years old, is doing and said not many young people will step up to look after others.
- (3) COUNCIL MEMBER HENDERSON – He said he accepts the challenge that Council Member Tanaka put up regarding making a special donation to Franco Morales' cause, but his challenge will be trying to find his checkbook. He was impressed by young Morales who came with such poise and shared his passion. Since the last Council meeting, he attended Officer Toshio Hirai's one-year Memorial. He keeps Toshio's family and his young son in his prayers. He reported he did many community visits and said he received positive feedback from the community. He attended the Centinela Youth Services meeting. He attended the DCH Honda event, Comfort for Kids. He said Comfort for Kids provides beds for kids who do not have them. He said he had the opportunity to speak to the Pomona Chapter of Jack and Jill on importance of Community Service. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and said it's a great time to be with family.
- (4) MAYOR CERDA – She attended the first California Cities Gaming Authority (CCGA) meeting the day after the last City Council Meeting. She attended two sanitation meetings where she is serving as the Delegate/Director for the City of Gardena. She attended the Celebration of the Life of Officer Toshio Hirai. She commended the Police Department for doing a great job and having a memorable service. Since the last Council meeting, she attended the CERT graduation where they had the largest graduation class with 45 graduates. She shared that we have less than 20 police officers and firefighters on duty in a case of a catastrophe, to take care of 61,000 residents and it is a great idea to get educated to be able to take care of ourselves. She encouraged everyone to take the free CERT course. She attended a function of the Gardena Evening Optimists Club and was a keynote speaker where the subject was Community Service. She shared that three young people, one being a Gardena Police Explorer, were recognized for being part of many services clubs, for donating their time, with helping the homeless, and tutoring, as well. The last event she attended was the Comfort for Kids event held at Gardena Honda. She commended Gardena Honda, the collaborative expansion, Human Services Department and the Police Department who helped make this event happen. She shared that they were giving out care packages to the kids and the veterans. She said the families entered into an essay contest with the prize being a car. A mother-daughter team won the contest. She congratulated Chief Saffell on his new position and said she was looking forward to his pinning ceremony. She also congratulated Joseph Cruz for moving up in his career.

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

D. COUNCIL REMARKS (Continued)

- (5) COUNCIL MEMBER MEDINA – since the last Council Meeting, he attended Toshio Hirai's Memorial. He said it made him appreciate our Police Department. He said Toshio was a great example for serving his community and doing it for a cause, which is to provide safety for our community. He attended the Honda Comfort for Kids event. He attended the Rotary Club's Operation Gobble where they gave away 300 turkey dinners. He "DJ'd" for the New Challenge Ministries event where they gave away 350 turkeys, clothes, and other food. He made a shout-out to his granddaughter Angelina and he wished everyone a safe and blessed Thanksgiving.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mayor Cerda referred everyone to the City Manager Remarks for Announcements.

11. REMEMBRANCES

Mr. John W. Scheuplein III, 79 years old, a long-time Gardena resident and military veteran who served in the Korean War. He was also a barber, a businessman, a community service activist and who ran for the office of Gardena City Council Member in March 1978; and Miss Gracie Ann Muehlberger, 15 years of age; and Mr. Dominic Blackwell, 14 years old. Both were students of Saugus High School in Santa Clarita, CA who were tragically and innocently killed by a fellow student while at school on Thursday morning, November 14, 2019.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:08 p.m., Mayor Cerda adjourned the Gardena City Council Meeting to the next regular City Council Meeting, at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, December 10, 2019.

APPROVED:

Tasha Cerda
Tasha Cerda, Mayor

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

By: Becky Romero
Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk