

MINUTES
Special Meeting
City of Gardena City Council
Thursday, March 26, 2020

In order to minimize the spread of the COVID 19 virus, Governor Newsom has issued Executive Orders that temporarily suspend requirements of the Brown Act. Please be advised that the Council Chambers are closed to the public and that some, or all, of the Gardena City Council Members may attend this meeting telephonically.

The Special meeting of the City Council of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, 2020, in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 1700 West 162nd Street, Gardena, California; Mayor Tasha Cerda presiding.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Tasha Cerda. Present via teleconference: 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 Clint Osorio; Chief Mike Saffell; and Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero. Other City officials and employees present via teleconference: Chief Financial Officer Ray Beeman; Transportation Director Ernie Crespo; and City Attorney Carmen Vasquez. City Clerk Mina Semenza and City Treasurer Ingrid Tsukiyama were not present.

At 2:07 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: Present: Mayor Tasha Cerda. Present via teleconference: 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 Clint Osorio; and Chief Mike Saffell. Other City officials and employees present via teleconference: Chief Financial Officer Ray Beeman; Transportation Director Ernie Crespo; and City Attorney Carmen Vasquez.

2. CLOSED SESSION

A. THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES

Government Code Section 54957

Consultation with Gardena Director of Emergency Services and City Manager, Clint Osorio, Chief of Police, Michael Saffell and City Attorney, Carmen Vasquez

B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Government Code Section 54957.6

(1) Agency Designated Representative:

Clint Osorio, City Manager

Employee Organizations:

Gardena Police Officers Association (GPOA)

Matt Hassholdt, 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 Special Meeting at 3:05 p.m., and Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero noted the return of all Council Members who were present via teleconference at the meeting.

2. CLOSED SESSION (Continued)

When City Attorney Vasquez was asked if there were any reportable actions from the Closed Session, she stated that no reportable action had been taken.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

When Mayor Tasha Cerda asked if there were any public comments, Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero stated that there were none.

4. SPECIAL MEETING ITEMS

A. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

- (1) URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 1819, An Urgency Ordinance of the City Council of Gardena Relating to Temporary Moratorium on the Eviction of Residential or Commercial Tenants Unable to Pay Rent Because of COVID-19, Declaring the Ordinance to be an Emergency Measure to Take Effect Immediately Upon Adoption

URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 1819

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, RELATING TO A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON EVICTING TENANTS DUE TO CAUSES RELATED TO THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY AND DECLARING THE ORDINANCE TO BE AN EMERGENCY MEASURE TO TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY UPON ADOPTION

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion and the following questions were asked by Council: If the Ordinance does pass could we put this on our website and on all our social media platforms with all the parameters of what's required; if it does not pass, what would the consequences be, could we go after the state to collect our losses; what type of documentation is required for the landlord; what other cities in Area G have adopted this Ordinance; will it affect our property taxes; and how many days after the expiration date of the Governor's Orders will we have to repay outstanding rent. City Manager Osorio replied that we would get this information up on our website and on all of our social media platforms. City Attorney Vasquez explained that there is a possibility at the federal level that a 'takings claim' argument can be made by the landlords affected; she continued to say that the Governor has made the recommendation; the moment the State proposes the same moratorium, ours would no longer be in effect. City Manager Osorio explained that the type of documentation a landlord would require is a lay-off notice from an employer or a letter that states there has been a reduction in hours. City Attorney Vasquez continued to say that an email or any communication with landlord would be sufficient; she then mentioned a number of cities in Area G that have already passed a similar moratorium, they are: Inglewood, Hermosa Beach, Lomita, Redondo Beach, Torrance, City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles. She then stated if we chose to do nothing, the law would stay as is; since the courts are closed, no evictions would take place; she also noted that neither the County nor State have stated any changes with regards to property taxes; she also confirmed that once the Governor's Orders have expired, tenants or business owners would have 120 after the term to catch up on paying the additional rent. City Manager Osorio then stated that when the Ordinance was drafted, we wanted to make sure we were fair to the landlords, as well as the tenants. When asked if he heard of anyone being evicted, he said he has not; we have had numerous phone calls and emails asking what the City's position would be and if they would be passing such an Ordinance.

4. SPECIAL MEETING ITEMS (Continued)

A. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES (Continued)

(1) URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 1819 (Continued)

It was moved by Council Member Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Medina, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Urgency Ordinance No. 1819:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

5. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:27 p.m., Mayor Cerda adjourned the Gardena City Council Meeting to the next regular City Council Meeting, at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

MINA SEMENZA

City Clerk of the City of Gardena and

Ex-officio Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

Tasha Cerda

Tasha Cerda, Mayor

By:

Becky Romero

Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk