

MINUTES
Regular Meeting Notice of the
Gardena City Council
Tuesday, May 28, 2024

The Regular Meeting Notice of the Gardena City Council of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, in the Council Chamber at City Hall 1700 West 162nd Street, Gardena, California; Mayor Tasha Cerda presiding.

1. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Tasha Cerda; Mayor Pro Tem Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka; Council Member Paulette C. Francis; and Council Member Wanda Love. Other City Officials present: City Manager Clint Osorio; City Attorney Carmen Vasquez; City Clerk Mina Semenza; Treasurer Guy H. Mato; and Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION

2. **CLOSED SESSION**

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge was led by Abraham Chavez (7th grade) and Thomas Njimbong (6th grade), both of KIPP Generations Academy. Abraham is a leader both in and out of the classroom and excels academically. He is part of a select group of seventh grade students enrolled in accelerated Algebra. Abraham enjoys robotics, engineering, building with legos and his favorite subject at school is science. Thomas shows both academic and artistic promise. Last year his T-shirt design was chosen as the winner of the school-wide Black History Month T-Shirt design contest. Thomas' favorite subject is ethic studies, and he likes to play basketball. Their teacher, Rina Minato, accompanied them to the meeting.

4. **INVOCATION**

Reverend Edward G. Hawthorne of Hollypark United Methodist Church led the Invocation.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

- 5.A Certificates of Commendation presented to the participants of the City of Gardena's Third Leadership Development Academy – ***The certificates were presented by City Manager Osorio and were accepted by the City of Gardena Participants***
- 5.B Boards & Commissions Presentation - Senior Citizens Commission – ***was given by Commissioner Linda Barentine***
- 5.C Investment Presentation –***was given by Chris McCarry of Chandler Asset Management Inc.***
- 5.D Gardena Events Video Presentation

6. **PROCLAMATIONS** - *None*

7. **APPOINTMENTS** - *None*

8. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 8.A Waiver of Reading in Full of All Ordinances Listed on this Agenda and that they be Read by Title Only

CONTACT: CITY CLERK

- 8.B Approve Minutes:
Regular Meeting of the City Council, May 14, 2024

CONTACT: CITY CLERK

- 8.C Receive and File of Minutes:
Planning and Environmental Quality Commission, May 7, 2024

CONTACT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 8.D Approval of Warrants/Payroll Register, May 28, 2024

CONTACT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

May 28, 2024: Wire Transfer 12697-12701, 12703-12705; Prepay: 176096; Check Numbers: 176097-176255 for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$2,901,507.85; Total Payroll Issued for May 17, 2024: \$2,300,531.09

- 8.E Monthly Investment Portfolio, April 2024

CONTACT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- 8.F Personnel Report P-2024-9 5-28-24

CONTACT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- 8.G RESOLUTION NO. 6671: Denying the appeal of Soul Housing relating to the Community Development Director's decision to deny a business license for a hotel at 15906 S Western Avenue

CONTACT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 6671

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, DENYING THE APPEAL OF SOUL HOUSING RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO DENY A BUSINESS LICENSE FOR A HOTEL AT 15906 S WESTERN AVENUE

- 8.H SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE. 1872, Adopting a Military Equipment use Policy of the City of Gardena, California Governing the use of Military Equipment Pursuant to Assembly Bill 481

CONTACT: POLICE DEPARTMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 1872

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING A MILITARY EQUIPMENT USE POLICY OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA GOVERNING THE USE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 481

- 8.I RESOLUTION NO. 6669: Adopting a list of projects for Fiscal Year 2024- 2025 funded by SB1: The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017
CONTACT: PUBLIC WORKS

RESOLUTION NO. 6669

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING A LIST OF PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024- 2025 FUNDED BY SB1: THE ROAD REPAIR AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2017

- 8.J Approve Agreement with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority under the ExpressLanes Net Toll Revenue Reinvestment Grant Program to Deploy Weekend Service on Line 5
CONTACT: TRANSPORTATION

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

Ayes: Council Members Tanaka and Love, Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, Council Member Francis, and Mayor Cerda

Noes: None

Absent: None

9. **EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

10.A MAY 21, 2024 MEETING:

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT #16-23, CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT #9-23, SITE PLAN REVIEW #5-23, AND VARIANCE #1-23.

The Planning Commission considered the request for a Conditional Use Permit, Site Plan Review, and Variance request to allow construction of a new public utility facility by the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, which includes the construction of a new 4,000 square foot building with a height of 35-feet located in the General Commercial (C-3) zone within the City. Project Location: 1919, 1923, 1931 W. Artesia Boulevard.

Project Applicant: Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 5

Commission Action:

The Planning Commission approved Resolution No. PC 13 -24, by a vote of 5-0, approving Conditional Use Permit #9-24, Site Plan Review #5-23, and Variance #1-23.

City Council Action:

Received and file or Call for Review (By way of two votes from the City Council).

This Item was Received and Filed

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- 1) Carlos Marquez, resident: came out to speak about his incident; asking for our Police Department's assistance;
- 2) Paul Randall, Director of Mama Rosa's Food Pantry: came out to speak regarding the food distribution;
- 3) Andrea Simental, Community Library Manager of the Mayme Dear Library, came out to give updates at the Mayme Dear and Masao W. Satow Libraries;
- 4) Sherelle Diggs, came out to speak on beautifying our city; gave an update about the community garden and farmer's market; and military equipment.

11.A PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1) City Clerk Semenza noted for the record that a public comment came in after the Agenda had been posted. It was noted that copies were distributed, filed and made part of the record.

12. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- 12.A Presentation of the City of Gardena's Proposed Two-Year Budget for Fiscal Years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 – ***Presentation was made by City Manager Osorio and Director of Administrative Services Ray Beeman***

Questions and comments were made by Mayor Cerda, Council Member Francis, Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, and Council Member Love.

City Manager Osorio and Director Beeman answered all questions.

This Item was Received and Filed

- 12.B Approval of Police Managers' Resolution No. 6670 and the First Amendment to the Employment Agreement between The City of Gardena and Michael Saffell

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Cerda asked if anyone had asked to speak on this item and if the Council had any comments or questions. There were no public speakers.

Questions and comments were made by Council Member Francis.

City Manager Osorio and Director Beeman answered all questions.

It was moved by Council Member Tanaka seconded by Council Member Love, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Police Managers' Resolution No. 6670 and First Amendment to the Employment Agreement between The City of Gardena and Michael Saffell:

Ayes: Council Members Tanaka and Love, Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, Council Member Francis, and Mayor Cerda

Noes: None

Absent: None

13. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 13.A PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION NO. 6668, Approving a Sustainable Communities Environmental Assessment and adopting a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the 1610 West Artesia Boulevard Project; and

RESOLUTION NO. 6668

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND ADOPTING A MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE 1610 WEST ARTESIA BOULEVARD PROJECT;

PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION NO. 6672, Approving Site Plan Review #7-23, and Density Bonus request for the development of 300 apartment units, including 17 affordable units, in a six-story, podium apartment building at 1610 W Artesia Boulevard.

PROJECT LOCATION: 1610 W Artesia Boulevard
APPLICANT: The Picerne Group, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 6672

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING SITE PLAN REVIEW #7-23, AND DENSITY BONUS REQUEST FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF 300 APARTMENT UNITS, INCLUDING 17 AFFORDABLE UNITS, IN A SIX-STORY, PODIUM APARTMENT BUILDING AT 1610 W ARTESIA BOULEVARD.

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There were three (3) presentations made by the following people:

- 1) Staff Presentation by Amanda Acuna, Economic Development Manager;
- 2) Consultant Presentation by Rita Garcia of Kimley Horn; and
- 3) Applicant Presentation by Greg Nakahira of the Picerne Group and Irwin Yau of TCA Architects.

Mayor Cerda asked if anyone had asked to speak on this item and if the Council had any comments or questions.

Mayor Cerda opened the public hearing at 10:10p.m.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS: Ray Lawson, Steven Donahue, and Evelyn Alvarado, all of Western States Carpenters Union, spoke in opposition of the project; Michael Bedernik, resident also spoke in opposition.

Questions and comments were made by all members of the Council.

Community Development Manager Acuna, Assistant City Attorney Lisa Kranitz, Kiana Graham of Kimley Horn and representatives from the Picerne Group answered all questions.

Mayor Cerda closed the public hearing at 11:04p.m.

It was moved by Council Member Tanaka seconded by Council Member Love, and carried by the following roll call vote to Open the public hearing, receive testimony from the public, allow three (3) minutes for each speaker, and close the public hearing Adopt Resolution No. 6668, approving a Sustainable Communities Environmental Assessment and adopting a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the 1610 West Artesia Boulevard Project; and Adopt Resolution No. 6672 , approving Site Plan Review #7-23, and Density Bonus request for the development of 300 apartment units, including 17 affordable units, in a six-story, podium apartment building at 1610 W Artesia Boulevard:

Ayes: Council Members Tanaka and Love, Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, Council Member Francis, and Mayor Cerda

Noes: None

Absent: None

13.B PUBLIC HEARING: Consideration of the Proposed 50th Year CDBG Annual Action Plan for FY 2024-2025

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Cerda asked if anyone had asked to speak on this item and if the Council had any comments or questions. There were no public speakers.

Mayor Cerda opened the public hearing at 11:07p.m.

Questions and comments were made by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson and Council Member Francis.

Community Development Director Greg Tsujiuchi brought up the Consultant, Esther Luis of MDG & Associates, who answered all of the Council's questions.

Mayor Cerda closed the public hearing at 11:18p.m.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, seconded by Council Member Francis, and carried by the following roll call vote to Open the public hearing, receive testimony from the public, allow three (3) minutes for each speaker, and close the public hearing and Approve the Annual Action Plan for FY 2024-2025, as presented or as may be amended by Council action:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, Council Members Francis, Tanaka and Love, and Mayor Cerda

Noes: None

Absent: None

13.C Consideration of a contract with spcaLA for Animal Sheltering and Services

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Cerda asked if anyone had asked to speak on this item and if the Council had any comments or questions. There were no public speakers.

Questions and comments were made by Council Members Francis, Mayor Cerda and Council Member Love.

Community Development Director Tsujiuchi answered all questions.

It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Council Member Love, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve the contract between the City and spcaLA for a 14-month term beginning June 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025:

Ayes: Council Members Francis and Love, Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, Council Members Tanaka, and Mayor Cerda

Noes: None

Absent: None

13.D Consideration of a 5-year agreement with Los Angeles County Animal Control for Animal Control Related Services

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Cerda asked if anyone had asked to speak on this item and if the Council had any comments or questions. There were no public speakers.

It was moved by Council Member Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Francis and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve 5-year agreement with Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control for animal control related services:

Ayes: Council Member Tanaka, Council Members Francis, Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, Council Member Love, and Mayor Cerda

Noes: None

Absent: None

14. **DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - ELECTED & CITY MANAGER'S OFFICES**

- 14.A Approve City Related Towing Services Contract Extension with RSD Tow, Inc., DBA U.S. Tow-Gardena for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Cerda asked if anyone had asked to speak on this item and if the Council had any comments or questions. There were no public speakers.

Questions and comments were made by Council Members Francis and Mayor Cerda.

City Manager Osorio and City Attorney Vasquez replied to her questions.

It was moved by Council Member Love seconded by Council Member Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Contract:

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

15. **DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS – POLICE – No Items**

16. **DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - PUBLIC WORKS**

- 16.A Award Construction Contract for the Rosecrans Community Center Project, Chase Building Demolition Phase, JN 505, to Integrated Demolition and Remediation, inc., in the amount of \$338,000, Approve the Project Plans & Specifications, 30% Demolition Contingency and Declare California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Exemption.

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Cerda asked if anyone had asked to speak on this item and if the Council had any comments or questions. There were no public speakers.

Questions and comments were made by Council Members Francis and Mayor Cerda.

Public Works Assistant Director and Principal Engineer Kevin Kwak answered all questions.

Director Tsujiuchi stated in addition to the CEQA exemption because this is federal, we also received NEPA exemptions; we had to go through a different environmental process; just wanted to state that for the record.

It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson and carried by the following roll call vote to Award Construction Contract; Approve Project Plans and Specifications; Approve Construction Contingency; Declare California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and NEPA Exemption:

Ayes: Council Members Francis, Mayor Pro Tem Henderson; Council Members Tanaka and Love, and Mayor Cerda
Noes: None
Absent: None

17. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - RECREATION & HUMAN SERVICES

17.A Approval of the Agreement between the City of Gardena and TRIO Community Meals for the provision of the Senior Community Action Meals Program (SCAMP) for July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2028. Not to exceed \$400,000 for year 1.

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Cerda asked if anyone had asked to speak on this item and if the Council had any comments or questions. There were no public speakers.

Questions and comments were made by Council Member Love, Mayor Cerda, and Council Member Francis.

City Manager Osorio and Recreation & Human Services Nikki Sweeney replied to all questions.

It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Council Member Love, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Agreement:

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

18. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS – TRANSPORTATION – *No Items*

19. COUNCIL ITEMS – *No Items*

20. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson

Subject: Have staff draft a Labor Standards Ordinance; was then amended by Council Member Francis to change the title to “Transparency” Ordinance; to make the same as the City of Carson.

Purpose – The City strives to protect human rights and workers’ rights;
Reason – To attempt to eradicate labor exploitation in our community;

Benefit – By eliminating wage theft; it provides greater community income and promotes economic engine.

Council Member Love seconded it.

21. CITY MANAGER REMARKS RE: DIRECTIVES / COUNCIL ITEMS

- 1) A Memo regarding City of Carson Labor Standards; and
- 2) A Memo regarding the Annual Lobbyist Report for 2024

22. COUNCIL REMARKS

- 1) COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS – Firstly, she wanted to congratulate all the high school and college graduates that are graduating, and she wanted to wish them continued success as they travel on their journey. She also wanted to congratulate the Gardena Police officer awardees that attended the South Bay Medal of Valor awards ceremony, she said they make us shine and she appreciates that. She thanked Linda Barentine for her presentation of the Senior Citizens Commission. Since they were last together she attended the Art Walk, Asian-American Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration, the Kids to Park day pop-up and made it to the end of the Willows Wetland Mother's Day brunch. With summertime coming up she wanted to encourage everyone to take their kids, or if you're an adult to get involved, in our Mayme Dear Library and Satow Library summer activities and participate, as well as encouraging everyone to read more. As she always says, there's a lot of craziness going on in the world and bad news, but we have to keep the faith and just know better days are coming, it's been promised.
- 2) COUNCIL MEMBER TANAKA– Since their last gathering, he did the COG Board Meeting, had a meeting with Dr. Kahmal at Cal State University Dominguez Hills regarding their new mobility project, attended the city's Finance Committee meeting and thanked the committee for doing a great job. He presided over the retired officer James Martin's funeral services at Green Hills Cemetery. He attended the city's Art Walk program to commemorate our older Americans and Mental Health Awareness promoting meaningful relationships and social connections for mental health and well-being. He attended two soccer recognition award ceremonies at Nakaoka, the Medal of Valor awards luncheon at Torrance Marriott and he gave congratulations to all of our department recipients for doing such a great job and saving a lot of lives during their tour, the pet event at Nakaoka Center and lastly the Nisei Veterans 19 post 1961 Memorial Day program and shared that post is where his father belonged to and he also mentioned there was a great presentation by Corey Shiozaki on the Japanese Americans that served and died in the Vietnam War.
- 3) COUNCIL MEMBER LOVE – Since the last meeting she attended the City's Art Walk festival at City Hall, the South Bay Medal of Valor and congratulated the officers that brought home the awards, she commented that they took the house that day with ten officers receiving the medal of valor lifesaving award. She also attended the Public Works Week celebration, and she had the honor of being presented with an award, in which she wanted to also say congratulations to Lieutenant Cuff, as they were both presented with the awards from the Phi Theta Zeta Chapter sorority for being hometown heroes. She thanked Chief Saffell for sending an officer to accept the award on Lt. Cuff's behalf because he was out of town on training and Sergeant Dolores Searle represented very well.

- 4) MAYOR CERDA – Since the last Council Meeting she attended her monthly CCGA meeting, her monthly sanitation meeting, the funeral for our retired Gardena PD officer James Martin, our Finance Committee meeting and once again thanked our committee members for doing such a fine job and keeping our city looking good financially. She continued saying that every meeting they constantly amaze her with how well they're doing and just wanted to give them a special thanks because it's not easy handling the finances of a city and all of the documentation and the audits and so on. Every time she hears that we're getting an award for making sure we handle all sorts of best practices she's just always really proud of them. She attended contract cities in Palm Desert, the Police Department's Employee Recognition Day and she thanked all of our officers for what they do year round, the Soccer and Futsal Banquet immediately afterwards, the LA County Sanitation Personnel committee meeting, and our Public Works Week celebration. She wanted to thank them for the great job that they do and said she doesn't think they get a chance to thank them enough, we always mention about what a great job they do keeping our streets together, but there's so many other things, the graffiti, parks, all of our different buildings so hats off to them and she just really appreciates all that they do and the extra work that continues to make our city look good. She attended the medal of valor and once again, she wanted to thank the officers for going over and beyond. She also attended some prom parties for those who are graduating here in the City of Gardena, she's glad everybody had a great prom and is looking forward to all the graduations that are going to happen. She had the opportunity to address students from Kipp Generation here in Gardena and they had a lot of questions pertaining to city government.
- 5) MAYOR PRO TEM HENDERSON – Since the last meeting he attended his AQMD meeting, the Gardena Art Walk, Kids to Park pop-ups, the Gardena Police Department's employee recognition, the medal of valor awards and he congratulated all those that went above and beyond and thanked our Gardena honor guard for participating and Captain Vince Osorio for being the master of ceremony. He attended the soccer awards, the Los Angeles Southwest College black graduation and over this past Memorial Day weekend he had a chance to lead the family in honoring his maternal grandfather Elnathan Hathorn who was in the Navy as well so it was a great opportunity for him to now lead some things in his family village as now he's becoming an elder in the village so it was a high honor to be doing that.

23. ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

1. Citizens Leadership Academy begins Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 6:00p.m. at Nakaoka Community Center;
2. Bring It On the Boulevard Downtown Street Fair, and Ribbon Cutting for the Parking Lot, on Saturday, June 1, 2024 from 11:00a.m-2:30p.m.
3. Compost Giveaway on Saturday, June 1, 2024 at Rowley Park from 8:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.;
4. Community Budget Forum, Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 6:00p.m. at Nakaoka Community Center;
5. Grease Lightning Dance Party on Friday, June 7, 2024 from 6:30-9:30p.m. at the Nakaoka Community Center; and
6. Gardena Dodger Day on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 7:10p.m.; you can purchase tickets in person at the Nakaoka Community Center.

7. **REMEMBRANCES** – *None*

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 12:14 a.m. Mayor Cerda adjourned the Gardena City Council Meeting to the Closed Session portion of the City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. and the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2024.

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

APPROVED:

Tasha Cerda, Mayor

Tasha Cerda, Mayor

Becky Romero
By: _____
Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk