

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Gardena City Council
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

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 regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Gardena, California, was held via Zoom and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, 2021; Mayor Tasha Cerda presiding.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Tasha Cerda; Mayor Pro Tem Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka; Council Member Art Kaskanian; and Council Member Paulette C. Francis. Other City Officials and Employees present: City Manager Clint Osorio; City Attorney Carmen Vasquez; City Clerk Mina Semenza; and Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero. City Treasurer Ingrid Tsukiyama was not present.

2. CLOSED SESSION – No Items

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Arrian Rodriguez Salgado led the Pledge of Allegiance. Arrian is an exemplary student who works hard and engages in all zoom lessons. He is motivated and completes all his assignments and truly has demonstrated digital citizenship during distance learning. He is also break out room team lead, where he encourages his peers to meet their maximum potential. Nas'zier Smith, who was scheduled to co-lead the pledge, was not present.

4. INVOCATION

Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka led the Invocation.

5. PRESENTATIONS – No Items

6. PROCLAMATIONS

6.A Fair Housing Month – ***was proclaimed by Mayor Cerda. The Proclamation was accepted by Nicandro Nava, their Outreach Coordinator.***

6.B DMV / Donate Life California Month – ***was proclaimed by Mayor Cerda***

7. APPOINTMENTS

(1) Council Appointments to Commissions, Committees, Councils, and Boards
(Appointees to be Ratified and Sworn In)

(a) Human Services Commission

(i) Valerie Loudem – *appointed by Council Member Francis*

(d) Senior Citizens Commission

(i) Linda Barentine – *appointed by Council Member Francis*

(e) Gardena Youth Commission

(i) Luis Lizarraga – *appointed Council Member Francis*

It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Appointments:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

Waiver of Reading in Full of All Ordinances Listed on This Agenda and That They Be Read by Title Only

8.A Approve Minutes: Special Meeting of the City Council and Planning Environmental Quality Commission, February 4, 2021

CONTACT: CITY CLERK

8.B Approve Minutes: Regular Meeting of the City Council, February 9, 2021

CONTACT: CITY CLERK

8.C RESOLUTION NO. 6503, Reaffirming Proclamation and Resolution No. 6441, which declared the Existence of a Local Emergency

CONTACT: CITY MANAGER

RESOLUTION NO 6503

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, REAFFIRMING PROCLAMATION AND RESOLUTION 6441 WHICH DECLARED THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

8.D Approval of Contract with Bartel Associates for the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Actuarial Valuations

CONTACT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

8.E Single Audit Report required for Federally Funded Programs for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2020

CONTACT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- 8.F RESOLUTION NO. 6502, Authorizing the Application for the Federal Transit Administration's FY2021 Low or No Emission Grant Program
CONTACT: TRANSPORTATION

RESOLUTION NO 6502

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATION WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY 49 U.S.C. CHAPTER 53, TITLE 23 UNITED STATES CODE, AND OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

- 8.G Approval of Warrants/Payroll Register, March 23, 2021
CONTACT: CITY TREASURER

March 23, 2021: Wire Transfer: 11985-11989; Prepay: 162454-162460; Check Nos. 162461-162649 – for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$4,193,289.17; Total Payroll Issued for March 12, 2021: \$1,420,890.29.

- 8.H Personnel Report No. P-2021-06
CONTACT: HUMAN RESOURCES

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

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

9. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

10. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET

10.A March 16, 2021 - *Meeting Cancelled*

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- (1) Mary Santamaria, resident, and City of Gardena Rent Mediation Board Member: Asked what the City's general plan was to attract more businesses into the City, especially for Rosecrans.
- (2) Wanda Love, President of the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce: Asked Council if they will be receiving input from the community as far as what they would like to see be done with the stimulus money that the City is going to receive.

Mayor Cerda indicated that since we normally do not answer the questions being presented during Oral Communications, she asked City Manager Osorio to respond to both speakers due to the subject. 1) City Manager responded by letting Ms. Santa Maria know that she would need to attend a Study Session on the General Plan of the City, because it is a lot of information and could be a very lengthy discussion; and 2) He responded to Ms. Love indicating that the criteria of how we spend the stimulus (\$15.5M) hasn't been released, so we won't know how we could allocate the funds; he indicated the funds would be put into a Budget Supplemental Program until we get information on how it can be spent.

11. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – No Items

12. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

12.A Introduction of Ordinance No. 1825

ORDINANCE NO. 1825, Amending the Zoning code making change to Title 18 of the Gardena Municipal Code primarily relating to amenity hotels, but making other changes as well.

ORDINANCE NO 1825

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, MAKING CHANGES TO TITLE 18, ZONING, OF THE GARDENA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO AMENITY HOTELS AND OTHER MINOR REVISIONS

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion with Mayor, Council, Assistant City Attorney Kranitz and Interim CDD Director McClain regarding the changes that were made to the Ordinance when it was presented at the March 9, 2021 Council Meeting.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

- (1) Wanda Love voiced her concern regarding parking and how there is a push today to have people use other means of transportation.
- (2) Mary Santamaria spoke regarding multi-mobile access and using other means of transportation; she indicated she hopes it continues; she also voiced her concern regarding the parking and was happy to see that the City is generating other types of revenue other than the casinos.
- (3) Zahid Ahmed voiced his concerns regarding parking and how important it is that we make sure that a hotel does come in because it would attract more development around it; he suggested that the City possibly help the developer with underground parking and talked about door-to-door transit.

Ordinance No. 1825 was Introduced by Mayor Cerda

It was moved by Mayor Cerda, seconded by Council Member Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Ordinance No. 1825:

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

13. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS – ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

13.A COVID-19 Update

City Manager Osorio presented the update.

Mayor Cerda made an announcement and also directed staff to prepare a resolution that states that “The Gardena City Council stands in solidarity with the Asian American and Pacific Islander (“AAPI”) communities and vehemently denounces the violent and discriminatory attacks against AAPI communities; we intend to demonstrate a united front against all forms of intolerance and send a message that any violation will not be left unaddressed.” Mayor Pro Tem Henderson seconded the motion.

14. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - POLICE

14.A Execution of One-Year Agreement with JL Group, LLC for Background Investigation Services Not to Exceed \$77,000

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion which included Council and Police Chief Mike Saffell regarding the hourly rate, overages, and the premise of the contract is a package deal. Chief Saffell stated that he believes we will not exceed the 4-hour minimum (which is an estimate of time to get the package ready for an investigation) that was put in this proposal, it is usually much less. We estimated 25 sworn, 30 civilian and 15 additional screenings, and will not exceed those amounts. Council also commented that even though this company was not the cheapest, when you look at the entire package and the service they will provide, they are the cheapest; Council also thanked staff for making it a competitive opportunity for folks to participate.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

- (1) Rudy Martinez, resident: Spoke on a number of concerns; he feels staff was not acknowledging when his hand was raised so he could speak; he mentioned that it seemed like our Council was not fully aware of this item and should have more time to review the agenda packet before each meeting; gave positive feedback on the contract; spoke about getting Council more educated; would like to see a Public Health Officer come into the City; and would like to get the source of information that City Manager Osorio provided in his COVID update.
- (2) Zahid Ahmed, thought the contract was good; he recommended that adding body camera footage review would add to the quality of service and would provide the best customer service.

Mayor Cerda spoke to Mr. Martinez's comments and stated you will need to raise your hand at the beginning of an item being presented; she also stated that because we follow the Brown Act, we are not allowed to discuss the items being presented on the agenda with one another, it all has to be done in a formal meeting setting. She continued to say that they ask questions so the public can understand what is being approved and responded to the inquiry about the City getting a Public Health Office by saying it is way too expensive.

City Manager Osorio then stated that the Brown Act prohibits Council from discussing these items ahead of time, it protects you for your freedom. He then added that his source of information he is providing in his COVID update is coming from our Los Angeles County Health Officer, who our Emergency Operations Center is in constant contact with in getting the most up to date information.

It was moved by Council Member Kaskanian, seconded by Council Member Francis, and carried by the following roll call vote to Authorize and Execute Contract:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

15. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - PUBLIC WORKS

15.A Approve Award of Construction Management and Inspection Services Contract to Wallace and Associates Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$124,322.00 for the Traffic Signal Reconstruction on Vermont Avenue at Redondo Beach Boulevard and Rosecrans Avenue, JN 930.

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion which included Council Member Tanaka and Assistant Attorney Kranitz regarding a contract the City entered with ProLogis, who would put a distribution center at the northeast corner of Vermont and Redondo Beach Blvd. and pay us a certain dollar amount to come in and make various improvements to the City.

PUBLIC SPEAKER:

(1) Zahid Ahmed, spoke regarding an article he read implying that Prologis paid the City \$630,000 for various improvements at the intersection of Vermont and Redondo Beach Blvd. and its surrounding areas. He continued to say if improvements were going to be made if artificial grass can be used on the medians and gave ideas of how businesses could get involved.

Assistant City Attorney Kranitz stated that ProLogis never moved forward, they never received project entitlements, and the City never received any money from ProLogis.

It was moved by Council Member Tanaka, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Award of Construction Management and Inspection Services Contract to Wallace and Associates Consulting, Inc:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

16. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - RECREATION & HUMAN SERVICES – No Items

17. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS – TRANSPORTATION – No Items

18. COUNCIL ITEMS – No Items

19. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES

Council Member Francis

- (1) She indicated that she received permission from the Los Angeles County Democratic Party that we could use their version of the resolution we are going to adopt regarding Violence Against Asian Community. Attorney Vasquez asked Council Member Francis to forward the resolution to her and she would put together a draft so it could be adopted at our next Council Meeting.
- (2) Asked if we could get a Letter of Support of AB 557, Assembly Muratsuchi is the author, which implements a toll-free hotline for reporting hate crimes that are happening in the State of California; it would also provide documentation; the motion was seconded by Mayor Cerda.

20. CITY MANAGER REMARKS RE: DIRECTIVES / COUNCIL ITEMS

City Manager Osorio gave a verbal report of information to follow-up on matters that had been directed or requested by the Mayor and Members of Council. Those items were, as follows:

- (1) Memo – Analysis of Business License and Revenues Generated Fiscal Year 2019 and 2020 to 2021.
- (2) Memo – Services provided by the Gardena Juvenile Justice Intervention Program or GJJIP and the Centinela Youth Services or CYS.
- (3) Video - Public Service Announcement; the Recreation and Human Services Department is Hoppy to announce our Bunny Stampeded. Drive-thru event will be held on Saturday, April 3, 2021, from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Special treats will be provided at Rowley Park, Johnson Park and Freeman Park. A special guest at the Nakaoka Community Center. Special thank you to all our sponsors.

21. COUNCIL REMARKS

- (1) COUNCIL MEMBER TANAKA – Since the last meeting, he attended the South Bay Region Communications Board Meeting through Zoom, and the greatest meeting he attended was the COG General Assembly and explained it was a very good day from nine to five that he spent learning about things that are happening now and in the future. The future of mobility, parking issues bring up the aspect of mobility to him, since they are all trying to change the South Bay to slower more efficient transportation locally. He also stated that during the meeting they were also asked how the City responded to COVID. He then mentioned that they had a group talk about fiber networking, the South Bay and the COG are prime example of using fiber networking. During the meeting they also discussed housing issues and how they are dealing with that as a region. He commented that he is very glad to be a part of the South Bay COG and SCAG.

- (2) COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS – Since the last meeting she attended a presentation on the 10-year Master Plan on Aging for the State of California, it was put on by the California State Democratic Party Senior Caucus and mentioned that California is on its way on putting forth a 10-year Master Plan on Aging. She heard that within the next 20 years over 50 percent of the population in the State of California will be seniors and are making plans on what to do in terms of health care, transportation and so on. She then shared that in March 1987, President Jimmy Carter declared March as Women’s History Month and it is time to celebrate the achievements, contributions of women in our country. In our City we celebrate Madam Mayor Cerda as being the first woman Mayor. Celebrate Attorney Kranitz and Attorney Vazquez as she remembers a time when there were no women Attorneys for the City of Gardena and is very pleased. She also mentioned Glenn Duffy who was the first woman Council Member, Rachel Johnson who was the first African American to be elected in the City Council and in the Community Development Dept. Kathy Ikari the first woman Director. On March 31st we can also celebrate the birthday of Cesar Chavez, who is Mexican American and is responsible for improving the lives of farm workers and further explained that our fruits and vegetables are on our tables we should thank farm workers and improved the life of many. Lastly, she reminded everyone of Spring Break and to celebrate safely and responsibly and wanted to encourage everyone to wash their hands, wear a face mask, social distance, get tested, and get vaccinated.

- (3) MAYOR PRO TEM HENDERSON - He first wanted to give thanks and recognition to the City Clerk Staff for the new Agenda layout also would like to thank Chief Saffell for being responsive to him when he asks for specific data. He is excited for new ideas and discussions to come. Since our last meeting, he attended the SCAG meeting, and they were talking about the broadband initiative. He realized that theirs is still some gaps in society that they need to cover, and broadband accessibility is one of them so the SCAG that covers Ventura County to almost San Diego County will be looking to work with special districts to make sure there is connectivity for all. He also attended the Centinela Youth Services Meeting with the data that the Chief provided him with. He will be comparing what the City Services offer and what the Centinela Youth Services offers. They wanted communities to pay a proportional share and he wanted to make sure we would receive some return in the city’s investment, and it looks like it can be a

compliment to what the city is already offering with GJIP. He shared that he attended a disadvantaged community advisory group meeting held by the California Public Utilities Commission and Energy Commission and was interesting most of the discussion during the meeting was on rural and urban areas connectivity and bringing the costs down, working with the telecom companies and making it affordable. He also shared that he was able to have a couple of safe Community Meetings and was interesting and was nice to get out and see everyone. He reminded everyone to get vaccinated, wash hands, and wear a mask.

- (4) MAYOR CERDA - Since the last Council Meeting, she attended the monthly CCGA meeting and how cities that have card rooms and can work with the State to make sure cities can get all the funding can come back to our city. She also attended the monthly Sanitation meeting and explained it is interesting to learn that they would test COVID on the water and during the rise of cases there were high levels of COVID. Now that cases are low COVID levels were low on the wastewater. She also had the opportunity to attend a meeting the Congresswoman Maxine Waters had invited her to attend. She learned that there is money through the Appropriations Committee that cities could possibly be eligible for to help fund some of their projects and shared to them projects the City has on the wish list and is hoping something can be funded through that. She was very happy to have been invited to that meeting. Lastly, she wanted to share a special recognition to one of our Gardena residents a Happy Birthday her name is Esther Barbrick, she is the mother of Commissioner Annie Roddy as she turned 101 years old. She has lived in the city for 54 years and active in the community. Esther Barbrick is a churchwoman, wife, she is a mother of 3 children, a life member with the Elks Lodge would like to wish her a virtual Zoom Happy Birthday. She also presented a Certificate of Acknowledgement for Mrs. Barbrick's birthday dated March 23, 2021 and it signed by Council.
- (5) COUNCIL MEMBER KASKANIAN - Since the last meeting, he met with two investors to ask about their requirements and parking issues in hotels. He explained that the investors are very interested in putting a hotel in Gardena one of them being interested in Artesia Blvd, the other investor is interested in Rosecrans and Van Ness. Both investors were given contact information for Spencer Dela Cruz and City Manager Osorio. He also volunteered to take seniors to get their COVID vaccinations at Pierce College, he also received his 2nd vaccine dose today. He shared he does not have any symptoms. Lastly, he wished everyone a happy Palm Sunday and Happy Easter to everyone.

22. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Cerda announced:

- (1) Reminder, Easter Stampede Drive-thru Event will be held on Saturday, April 3, 2021, from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at four different locations: Rowley Park, Johnson Park and Freeman Park, and the Nakaoka Community Center. Please contact the Recreation Department for additional information.
- (2) The City of Gardena will hold its second virtual workshop on the 6th Cycle 2021 – 2029 Housing Element. The public workshop will be held via Zoom for those interested please visit the City's website.

23. REMEMBRANCES

Mr. Tom H. Parks, 88 years of age. Mr. Parks was dubbed "Mr. Gardena" for his numerous contributions to its history and culture. Mr. Parks was a Navy veteran and served aboard the USS Pittsburgh during the Korean War. Mr. Parks was a reporter for the LA Examiner and editor of the Gardena Tribune, he was Director of Public Relations at Horseshoe & Gardena Clubs, and General Partner of Horseshoe Club from 1975 to 1983. Mr. Parks was also the Executive VP of the Gardena Chamber of Commerce for 13 years into retirement and was on the Board of Trustees of Gardena Memoria Hospital. In 1997, his name was placed on the Gardena Wall of Fame. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Gardena-Carson YMCA for fifteen years and was co-founder of the South Bay Lions Club. He also penned the column "Ramblings" for the Gardena Valley News for 21 years. He is survived by his longtime partner Jacquie Ponder, his six children and seven grandchildren.

24. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:55 p.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, April 13, 2021.

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