

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
Gardena City Council
Tuesday, April 13, 2021

The Regular Meeting Notice and Agenda of the Gardena City Council of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 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 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.

At 7:04 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 Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka; Council Member Art Kaskanian; and Council Member Paulette C. Francis; City Manager Clint Osorio; and City Attorney Carmen Vasquez. Attorney Rick Fort attended Closed Session Item 2.A. of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION

The City Council will hear from the public only on the items that have been described on this agenda (GC §54954.3)

2. CLOSED SESSION

2.A CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL EXISTING LITIGATION

Government Code Section 54945.9(d)(1)
Thomas Kang vs City of Gardena
WCAB NO.: ADJ12902956; ADJ12594939

2.B CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Government Code Section 54957.6
Agency Designated Representative:
Clint Osorio, City Manager
Employee Organizations:
1. Gardena Police Officers Association (GPOA), Matt Hassholdt, Association President
2. Gardena Management Employees Organization (GMEO), Vicky L. Barker, Attorney
3. Gardena Municipal Employees Association (GMEA), Fred G. Quiel, Attorney
4. Confidential / Unrepresented Employees

Mayor Cerda reconvened the meeting to the Regular Open Session at 7:40 p.m., and the City Clerk noted the return of all Council Members who were present at the meeting.

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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sandy and Julian Fouse led the Pledge of Allegiance. Sandy and Julian are sister and brother. Both students are always safe, respectful, responsible, and are proud members of Chapman Elementary Student Council.

4. INVOCATION

Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka led the Invocation.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.A AADAP (Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Inc.) Presentation - Park Banners
- *Traci Sarawatari presented a PowerPoint presentation and video.*

6. PROCLAMATIONS – No Items

7. APPOINTMENTS

7.A Council Appointments to Commissions, Committees, Councils and Boards
(Appointees to be Ratified and Sworn in)
Planning and Environmental Quality Commission - Steve Sherman
(Appointed by Council Member Francis)

It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Appoint Mr. Steve Sherman to the Planning and Environmental Quality Commission:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

7.B Reorganization of the City Council - Selection of Mayor Pro Tem

Select Mayor Pro Tem to serve from April 2021 to April 2022

City Manager Osorio presented Staff Report.

Mayor Cerda thanked Mayor Pro Tem Henderson for his support and then explained the roll and responsibilities of Mayor Pro Tem.

It was moved by Mayor Cerda, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Appoint Council Member Tanaka to serve as Mayor Pro Tem from April 2021 to April 2022:

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

Noes: None

Absent: 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, February 23, 2021
CONTACT: CITY CLERK
- 8.C Personnel Report No. P-2021-07
CONTACT: HUMAN RESOURCES
- 8.D ORDINANCE NO. 1825, Adoption of an Ordinance making changes to Title 18, Zoning, of the Gardena Municipal Code relating to amenity hotels and other minor revisions.
LOCATION: Citywide
APPLICANT: City of Gardena
CONTACT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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

- 8.E Approval of Measure M Funding Agreement with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and City of Gardena for the Redondo Beach Boulevard Arterial Improvements, JN 945 in the awarded amount of \$5,567,000 and Budget Appropriation of the same amount for the project.
CONTACT: PUBLIC WORKS
- 8.F Acceptance and Notice of Completion of Mas Fukai Park Improvement (Phase I) - Reconstruct Shade Structure Project, JN 820, USA Shade & Fabric Structures and Deark E&C, Inc.
CONTACT: PUBLIC WORKS
- 8.G Ratify Administrative Approval of the Elderly Nutrition Program Contract ENP202105 Amendment Four- Additional Funding
CONTACT: RECREATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
- 8.H Approval of Warrants/Payroll Register, April 13, 2021
CONTACT: CITY TREASURER

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

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

9. **EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

10.A **APRIL 6, 2021 MEETING**

Environmental Assessment #14 - 20, Conditional Use Permit #4 - 20

The Planning Commission considered a request for a conditional use permit to allow the on-site sale and consumption of beer, wine, and distilled spirits at an existing restaurant located in the General Commercial and Mixed-Use Overlay (C - 3/ MUO) zones.

LOCATION: 2222 Rosecrans Avenue

APPLICANT: Krave Dine & Lounge Inc.

Commission Action: The Commission approved Resolution No. PC 5-21, approving Conditional Use Permit #4-20.

Received and Filed

10.B **APRIL 6, 2021 MEETING**

Environmental Assessment #1-20; General Plan Amendment #1-20; Specific Plan #1-20; Zone Change #1-20; Zoning Code Amendment #3-20; Development Agreement #1-20; Lot Line Adjustment #1-20; Site Plan Review #1-20

The Planning Commission considered a request for a General Plan Amendment, Specific Plan, Zone Change, Zone Code Amendment, Development Agreement, Site Plan Review, and a Lot Line Adjustment all related to the development of a 265-dwelling unit apartment building on a 1.33-acre site, with a 2,500-square-foot dynamic, digital display on the north side of the building. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP), CEQA Findings, and a Statement of Overriding Consideration were prepared to address the environmental impacts and were considered by the Commission.

Project Location: 12850-12900 Crenshaw Boulevard

Applicant: Din/Cal 4, Inc.

Commission Action: The Commission approved Resolution No. PC 4-21, recommending the City Council certify the EIR, adopt the MMRP, Finding Related to Alternatives and Mitigation Measures, and Statement of Overriding Considerations for purposes of the Project. At the same time the Commission recommended the City Council approve General Plan Amendment #1-20, Specific Plan #1-20, Zone Change #1-20, Zone Code Amendment #3-20, Development Agreement #1-20, and Site Plan Review #1-20.

City Council Public Hearing on this item will be held on April 27, 2021

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Anonymous email correspondence read by City Clerk Mina Semenza, "Good Evening respected Mayor and City Council. I want to write about two council directives, I would like the city council to issue department directives. Suggestion was made to enter a \$49 a month flat fee pay-as-you-go up front money for continuous audio and video police body camera for free unlimited storage through Motorola whom parent company is Google. Main features of the Motorola v300 camera were listed and highlights of how the city will benefit from the camera were also mentioned. Recommended that real trees be chosen for the green center median on Redondo Beach Blvd and a list of trees provided. Also, stated "please say no" to the 5 million Natural Gas Station at Gardena Municipal Bus Lines, instead use the 5 million dollars for Tesla Solar Panels to charge the electric buses and invest in electric buses like the LA County Metro is planning on going all electric by 2035".
2. Edward, resident of the Gardena Place Community, requested support from the Gardena City Officials in ensuring their safety by allowing the installation of a security gate for their community. Due to City and Fire Department "unknown reasons" the gate has not been installed. Mr. Edward explain that he is familiar with the firefighters' line of work and believes his community has enough space for the fire engines and trucks to maneuver. Secondly, he expressed his concerns about a huge empty lot that has trash, debris, and dump off Wilkie and Rosecrans, behind the car wash. Mr. Edward has reached out to the city in efforts to have the property clean up, but no progress has been made. Again, he is asking for the City Officials support to clean that area. Lastly, Mr. Edward is a healthcare worker and has offered to donate his time to educate the community and the youth about infection prevention and is open to anything else to help end this pandemic.
3. Darell and Sandra, residents of the Gardena Place Community also requested for the City Officials support in allowing the installation of the security gate due to safety concerns, multiple individuals entering the property and attempts of opening doors, and stolen packages.

Mayor Cerda replied and asked Ms. Sandra to send her contact information to the bromero@cityofgardena.org in order to provide further assistance.

4. Ken Miller, another resident of Gardena Place Community, reiterated the same concerns as previous speakers in the same community.

11. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- *No Items*

12. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- *No Items*

13. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS – ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

13.A COVID-19 Update

City Manager Osorio presented the update.

13.B ORDINANCE No. 1827, Amending Section 8.08.035 (Amendment of Section 7802.3) of Chapter 8.08 (Fire Code) and Amending Sections 8.16.010 (Definitions), 8.16.020 (Permit-Required), Section 8.16.130 (Dates and Hours of Sale and Use), Section 8.16.150 (Prohibitions on Discharge), 8.16.170 (Violation-Penalty) and Adding Section 8.16.155 (Social Host Liability) of Chapter 8.16 (Fireworks) of Title 8 (Health and Safety) of the Gardena Municipal Code

ORDINANCE NO 1827

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 8.08.035 (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 7802.3) OF CHAPTER 8.08 (FIRE CODE) AND AMENDING SECTIONS 8.16.010 (DEFINITIONS), 8.16.020 (PERMIT_-REQUIRED), SECTION 8.16.130 (DATES AND HOURS OF SALE AND USE), 8.16.150 (PROHIBITIONS ON DISCHARGE), 8.16.170 (VIOLATION- PENALTY) AND ADDING SECTION 8.16.155 (SOCIAL HOST LIABILITY) OF CHAPTER 8.16 (FIREWORKS) OF TITLE 8 (HEALTH AND SAFETY) OF THE GARDENA MUNICIPAL CODE

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Public Speakers:

Mary Koch, Member of Fireworks Task Force; Jesslyn Hendriz, Member of Fireworks Task Force; Anthony Dixon, LACFD Rep; and Mina Semenza, Member of Fireworks Task Force; All spoke in favor of the Ordinance.

Zahid Ahmed, spoke against the Ordinance.

There was a discussion regarding how this Ordinance only relates to igniting fireworks on private property, not on City property, and how involved the community wants to get by offering evidence. There was also a discussion regarding administrative citations and the fees involved, and mandatory training on fire danger. It was also stated that if this Ordinance gets adopted, mailers will go out to all business owners and residents notifying them of this change. Overall, most of the speakers felt that it was a starting point in combatting illegal fireworks.

It was moved by Council Member Tanaka, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to approve Introduce Ordinance No. 1827:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

13.C RESOLUTION NO. 6506, Condemning and Combating Acts of Racism, Xenophobic Rhetoric and Harassment Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

RESOLUTION NO 6506

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, CONDEMNING ACTS OF RACISM, XENOPHOBIC RHETORIC, AND HARASSMENT AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt Resolution No. 6506:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

14. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - POLICE

- *No Items*

15. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - PUBLIC WORKS

- *No Items*

16. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - RECREATION & HUMAN SERVICES

- *No Items*

17. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - TRANSPORTATION

17.A Approve Agreement with Clean Energy for the Design and Construction of GTrans' CNG Fueling Station and Maintenance Bay Upgrades for a Total Contract Value of \$4,839,018 and Authorize a Project Total of \$5,419,700.

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Transportation Director Crespo presented a PowerPoint presentation and thanked his staff for all their hard work.

Mark Barton, V.P. of Clean Energy, thanked staff for their professionalism and stated he is looking forward to working with them.

Public Speaker: Zahid Ahmed, spoke against the project.

There was discussion regarding the differences between CNG vs. electric buses, how we are still investing in CNG because overall they are proven better, but battery

technology is advancing and getting better but is not quite there yet. It was stated that in the near future when electric buses are the gold standard, we will go in that direction. It was also discussed how our transportation department is partnering up with the UCLA School of Public Policy who is doing a study (which will be shared with all of you) regarding putting a solarization plan in place in all appropriate places which will include our canopies at our charging stations.

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

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

- 17.B Ratify Administrative Approval of Purchase of Protective Driver Barriers from Power Manufacturing Inc. in the amount of \$62,869.88

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Transportation Director Crespo showed a picture of what the Protective Driver Barriers looks like.

There was a discussion that the funding was coming from local allocation (capital funds); and how installation would be a 2–3-day process. It was stated and that it would be more economical to purchase these temporary barriers to protect our drivers now on the outgoing fleet during the next 3 years; and seek more permanent barrier for our future buses.

It was moved by Council Member Kaskanian, seconded by Council Member Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Ratify Administrative Approval of the Purchase:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

18. COUNCIL ITEMS

- No Items

19. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson

1. Asked City Manager Osorio if the barriers by the Bank of America on Redondo Beach Blvd can be remove due to heavy traffic. (Council Member Kaskanian gave a second).

Council Member Kaskanian

1. Asked City Manager Osorio what the cost and process would be to have a permanent splash fountain at Rowley Park and if possible, at Johnson Park. (Mayor Cerda gave a second).

Mayor Cerda

1. Asked if some type of signage can be added on the intersection of Gardena Blvd and Brighton Ave near Peary Middle School, because residents have expressed that it is really dangerous when their kids are coming out of school. (Council Member Tanaka gave a second).
2. Asked if the City Council would consider supporting the Hero Pay for everyone that worked during the COVID pandemic. (Mayor Pro Tem Henderson gave a second).
3. Asked, as a City would we consider speaking to G3 and possibly help those residents with some type of security weather it be a gate or not. (Council Member Tanaka gave a second).

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 regarding a Notice of Violation for 1304 W. 159th Street and dismissal of citation.
2. Public Service Announcement - City of Gardena Free Shredding Event for Gardena residents. Held on Saturday, April 17, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. located at City Hall complex 1700 W. 162nd Street.
3. A hybrid video of the Bunny Stampede and Food Give-away – City of Gardena held its Bunny Stampede on April 3, 2021 at Rowley Park, Freeman Park, Johnson Park, and the City Hall. On April 13, 2021 in partnership with LACO Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell's Office, LACO Parks and Recreation and LA Regional Food Bank provided 1550 households with free groceries and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment).

21. COUNCIL REMARKS

(1) COUNCIL MEMBER TANAKA- listed events he attended: District 3 meeting, housing workshop, Elks Lodge Installation of officers, Police Foundation Scholarship, Easter Bunny hop, District 2 Zoom meeting, South Bay COGS Legislative Briefing, South Bay COG Steering Committee meeting, ADAP Banner on Smoke Free Parks, LA Food Bank and Supervisor's Holly Mitchell's food giveaway. He shared that during the South Bay COGS Legislative Briefing meeting there was a lot of discussion especially with Maxine Waters she discussed the money that is available to the South Bay cities, also shared there's money that were to create community centers and money being transferred to South Bay Cities, many senators and assembly member Gibson attended the meeting too.

(2) COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS – listed events she attended: Bunny Stamped, she enjoyed the event and thanked everyone for stopping by, ADAP truth about marijuana presentation, District 2 Neighborhood Watch Meeting, and the Police Foundation Scholarship Program. Council member Francis shared information from Captain Osorio as he was training officers on autism and was happy to hear that since April is Autism Awareness month. She also thanked ADAP for the banners and mentioned her experience as a Commissioner for the Recreation and Parks Commission a no smoking Ordinance was passed and supports the city parks to be smoke free. Lastly, reminded everyone about COVID testing at Rowley Park, staying safe, wearing a mask, washing hands, and keeping social distance.

(3) MAYOR PRO TEM HENDERSON – listed events he attended: Southern California area Government's Racial Equity, Peary Middle School career day, supervisory District 2 Meeting, Holly Mitchell's Regional meeting with all cities that are in District 2, Housing Element. Mayor Pro Tem Henderson shared SKAG has an ideology of what all six counties can do regarding creating policies that are more equitable having an equity lens and the way it will impact disadvantaged communities in areas like transportation, housing and an intense focus was placed on those issues and thanked his colleagues for always being there for one another.

(4) MAYOR CERDA – Since the last meeting she attended: CCGA Meeting, Monthly Sanitation Meeting, was a guest speaker South Bay Association of Realtors and was able to share a presentation on how the city is dealing with the pandemic and the outlook as the city moves forward, Mayor Cerda gave a shoutout to City Clerk Mina Semenza as she is part of the South Bay Association of Realtors and commented City Clerk Semenza and other realtors do a great job selling in Gardena. Also attended the Housing Element Workshop, Police Foundation Scholarship Awards an event called Phenomenal Women, and a Zoom Workshop on the Truth about Marijuana. Mayor Cerda thanked staff for putting together the Housing Element workshop and thanked the Police Foundation for all the money they get every year which helps young students after graduating High School and throughout college. Also recognized Jennifer Harris, all the panelist and her entire organization for putting on the event and recognizing women. During the Marijuana workshop, she learned about the effects of marijuana when consuming it at a young age, she explained it inhibits their learning, memory, mood, loss of motivation, anxiety, depression and are finding kids aged 11 and 12 years old trying marijuana, learned property values decrease in communities that have dispensaries, she thanked everyone who participated and a special thank you to officer Sterling Kim. Attended a drive-by for a resident of Gardena and local Elk's member Arnold Ramirez who turned 94, lastly mentioned Council Member Tanaka attended as well and Gardena Police. Thanked Tracy for everything she is doing and sharing to everyone about No Smoking or Vaping in our parks. Shared she also attended the food giveaway and thanked Supervisor Holly Mitchell and the Cert Volunteers for attending so many events. Lastly, mentioned the newspaper article about Council member Tanaka and her getting married was an April fools' joke.

(5) COUNCIL MEMBER KASKANIAN – listed the events he attended: Bunny Hop Stampede at different parks, apologized for not attending the Police Foundation Scholarship meeting. Also attended the food giveaway sponsored by supervisor Holly Mitchell, ADAP No Smoking in the park's presentation, Housing Element Workshop thanked staff for a great job, Etch & Catch Event was a successful event about 60 vehicles

were etched, and Gardena Police staff will be planning another event soon. Council member Kaskanian shared he suggested to Tracy about adding no hookah and no cigar smoking to the banner and hopes it will be added by the next presentation.

22. ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

Mayor Cerda announced:

1. In recognition of Earth Month - Recycle an Old Oil Filter, Get A New Filter Free. Held on Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. at AutoZone on 14742 Crenshaw Blvd., Gardena.
2. Reminder, City of Gardena Free Shredding Event for Gardena residents. Held on Saturday, April 17, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. located at City Hall complex 1700 W. 162nd Street.
3. Interested in a COVID-19 Vaccination please make an appointment through the City by contacting the Senior Bureau at (310) 217-9552.

23. REMEMBRANCES

Mrs. Marilyn Sunahara, 86 years of age. Mrs. Sunahara was originally from Hawaii but has been a resident of Gardena for the past 50+ years. She was a long-time member of the Gardena Valley Baptist Church. She is survived by her three adult children and four grandchildren; Mr. Amiel Martin Rudolf, 93 years of age, beloved father of Jennifer Abro, Financial Services Manager at GTrans. At the age of 18, Mr. Rudolf was drafted into the Cavalry division of the Army during WWII and was trained to ride a horse in Germany. After the war, he went to college on the GI Bill and majored in Chemistry; Mr. Edward Reginald Lewis, 68 years of age, beloved husband of LaWanda Staten, City of Gardena Human Services Commissioner; Mr. Brian Levasseur, 52 years of age and a Fire Fighter with the Los Angeles County Fire Department. He was with the department for over 30 years and served at the Gardena Station for over eight years.

24. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:39 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 27, 2021.

APPROVED:



Tasha Cerda, Mayor

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

By: 

Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk

