

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of the**  
**Gardena City Council**  
**Tuesday, May 25, 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, May 25, 2021, in the Council Chamber at City Hall 1700 West 162nd Street, Gardena, California.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION**

**1. ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Cerda; Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka; Council Member Henderson; Council Member Kaskanian; and Council Member Francis. Other Employees and City Officials present: City Manager Clint Osorio; City Attorney Carmen Vasquez; and Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero. City Clerk Mina Semenza was away on an excused absence and City Treasurer Ingrid Tsukiyama was not present.

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 Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka; Council Member Art Kaskanian; Council Member Paulette C. Francis; City Manager Clint Osorio; and City Attorney Carmen Vasquez.

**2. CLOSED SESSION**

***Mayor Cerda reconvened the meeting to the Regular Open Session at 8:17 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.***

2.A CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL EXISTING LITIGATION Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)  
City of Gardena vs. VisionQuest Ventures II, LLC Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21TRCP00088

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

## 2.C CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS

Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: 17120 Normandie Ave, Gardena, CA

Agency Negotiator: Clint Osorio, City Manager

Negotiating Parties: Bible Baptist Church represented by: Robert Fletcher and Eric Knowles

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

## 2.D CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS

Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: 2501 W. Rosecrans Ave Gardena, CA 90249

Agency Negotiator: Clint Osorio, City Manager

Negotiating Parties: Casey Metcalf, JP Morgan Chase BK NA

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

## 2.E CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS

Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: 1643 W. 130th St. Gardena, CA 90249

Agency Negotiator: Clint Osorio, City Manager

Negotiating Parties: Toltec Holdings LLC, Represented by Chris Mennes

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

## 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

KaMyah Elias and Kori Hickman led the Pledge of Allegiance. Both KaMyah and Kori will be High School Seniors in the fall. KaMyah attends Serra High School and Kori attends Lawndale High School. Both are also Gardena Youth Commissioners.

## 4. INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Rodney G. Tanaka led the Invocation.

## 5. PRESENTATIONS

5.A Gardena Police Department Recognition - Lexipol; Theresa Maza, Client Success Manager to Present – ***Police Chief Mike Saffell accepted the Recognition***

## 6. PROCLAMATIONS – *No Items*

## 7. APPOINTMENTS

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

Gardena Beautification Committee - Paula May (Appointed by Council Member Francis)

7.B Recreation and Parks Commission - Philip A. Johnson, Sr. (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 Ms. Paula May to the Gardena Beautification Committee:

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

**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, April 13, 2021

**CONTACT: CITY CLERK**

8.C Receive and File of Minutes: Planning & Environmental Quality Commission, May 4, 2021

**CONTACT: CITY CLERK**

8.D Personnel Report No. P-2021-10

**CONTACT: HUMAN RESOURCES**

8.E Approval of Warrants/Payroll Register, May 25, 2021

**CONTACT: CITY TREASURER**

May 25, 2021: Wire Transfer: 12007- 12009; Prepay: 163178; Check Nos. 163179 -163357 – for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$3,616,013.28; Total Payroll Issued for May 21, 2021: \$1,896,898.65.

8.F RESOLUTION NO. 6514, Designating the Public Works Director as the City Engineer

**CONTACT: PUBLIC WORKS**

RESOLUTION NO 6514

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, DESIGNATING THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR AS THE CITY ENGINEER

8.G Month to Month Rental Agreement for 16206 S. Western Avenue, Unit A.

**CONTACT: CITY MANAGER**

It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Francis, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve all Items on the Consent Calendar with the exception of Item 8.F and 8.G:

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

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** None

**9. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR**

8.F PUBLIC WORKS - Designating the Public Works Director as the City Engineer - This Item was pulled by Council Member Francis.

There was a discussion regarding the two positions. City Attorney Vasquez confirmed that these are not two separate positions, the Public Works Director usually acts as the City Engineer.

**It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Council Member Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Item 8.F.**

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

8.G CITY MANAGER - Month to Month Rental Agreement for 16206 S. Western Avenue, Unit A. This item was pulled for discussion by Council Member Henderson.

There was a discussion regarding the vacant offices next to the Faraday & Future's new office. City Manager Osorio confirmed that these offices were being used by our Police and Recreation Departments. He stated that nothing of high value is being stored in these offices.

**It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Francis, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Item 8.G.**

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

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

**10.A MAY 18, 2021 MEETING**

**Environmental Assessment #9-20, Site Plan Review #4-20, Zone Change #4-20, General Plan Amendment #5-20, Tentative Tract Map #3-20, Variance #2-20**

A request to allow the development of six detached condominium townhomes on a 0.34-acre lot.

**PROJECT LOCATION: 1031 Magnolia Avenue**  
**APPLICANT: Steve Stapakis**

Commission Action: The Commission continued the item to an unspecified future date. The item will be re-noticed in the Gardena Valley News and mailers will be to all properties within a 300-foot radius of the project site.

**This Item was Received and Filed.**

10.B MAY 18, 2021 MEETING

**Conditional Use Permit #3-20**

The Commission considered a request for a conditional use permit to allow a church in a residential zone (R-4) and direction to staff to file a Notice of Exemption.

PROJECT LOCATION: 15640 S. Normandie Avenue

APPLICANT: Happiness Garden, Susumu Anoda, Brent Fraser

Commission Action: the Commission approved Resolution No. PC 6-21, approving Conditional Use Permit #3-20

**This Item was Called for Review by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka. A Public Hearing was set for the June 22, 2021 Council Meeting.**

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – No Speakers**

**11. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

11.A Presentation of the City of Gardena's Proposed Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

A PowerPoint Presentation was given by City Manager Osorio and Chief Fiscal Officer Beeman.

Council commended the Finance team for a job well done. There were questions from Council which City Manager Osorio and CFO Beeman both answered.

Public Speaker: Zahid Ahmed voiced his concerns and presented some ideas regarding the budget.

**This Item was Received and Filed**

**12. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

12.A ORDINANCE NO. 1829, Adopting the most recent version of the Los Angeles County Fire Code as set forth in Title 32 of the Los Angeles County Code by Reference.

**ORDINANCE NO 1829**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE MOST RECENT VERSION OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE CODE AS SET FORTH IN TITLE 32 OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE BY REFERENCE

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.  
Mayor Cerda opened the Public Hearing at 10:02p.m. There being no speakers, the Public Hearing was closed at 10:03p.m.

It was moved by Council Member Kaskanian, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt Ordinance No. 1829:

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

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** None

### 13. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

#### 13.A COVID-19 Update

City Manager Osorio presented the update.

Council Member Francis inquired if the testing site at Rowley was still operational. Police Chief Mike Saffell confirmed that it was. Council Member Kaskanian wanted to let everyone know that the YMCA is also a COVID testing site, that is open to the public and is free.

#### 13.B ORDINANCE 1830, Amending Section 5.16.190 (Days and Hours of Operation) of Chapter 5.16 (Bingo) of Title 5 (Business Licenses and Operations) of the Gardena Municipal Code

##### ORDINANCE NO 1830

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 5.16.190 (DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION) OF CHAPTER 5.16 (BINGO) OF TITLE 5 (BUSINESS LICENSES AND OPERATIONS) OF THE GARDENA MUNICIPAL CODE

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion regarding the number of games that can be played. City Manager Osorio confirmed that the number of games is unlimited as long as they stay within the hours of operation that are stated in this Ordinance.

**It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Introduce Ordinance No. 1830:**

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

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** None

### 14. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - POLICE

#### 14.A Execution of Five-Year Contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for Police In-Car Video

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Captain Todd Fox presented a PowerPoint presentation.

There was a discussion regarding all the features of the software, and if this is the only company we have used. Captain Fox answered all of Council's questions. Chief Mike Saffell further stated that we will follow policy and that this product would not be implemented until January 2022.

Public Speaker: Zahid Ahmed, spoke and added his concerns regarding the software.

**It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Authorize and execute contract:**

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

**Noes: None**

**Absent: None**

## **15. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - PUBLIC WORKS**

- 15.A PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION NO. 6509, Confirming the diagram and assessment contained in the Engineer's Report dated March 22, 2021 for the Gardena Artesia Boulevard Landscape Assessment District and ordering the levy of assessments on the same for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

### RESOLUTION NO. 6509

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, CONFIRMING THE DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENT CONTAINED IN THE ENMGINEER'S REPORT DATED MARCH 22. 2021, FOR THE GARDENA ARTESIA BOULEVARD LANDSCAPING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT AND ORDERING THE LEVY OF ASSESSMENTS ON THE SAME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 - 2022

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Cerda opened the Public Hearing at 10:30p.m. There being no speakers, the Public Hearing was closed at 10:31p.m.

**It was moved by Council Member Kaskanian, seconded by Council Member Francis, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt Resolution No. 6509:**

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

**Noes: None**

**Absent: None**

- 15.B RESOLUTION NO. 6510, Confirming the diagram and assessment contained in the Engineer's Report dated March 22, 2021, for the Gardena Consolidated Street Lighting Assessment District and ordering the levy of assessments on the same for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 6510

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, CONFIRMING THE DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENT CONTAINED IN THE ENMGINEER'S REPORT DATED MARCH 22, 2021, FOR THE GARDENA CONSOLIDATED STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT AND ORDERING THE LEVY OF ASSESSMNETS ON THE SAME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 - 2022

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.  
Mayor Cerda opened the Public Hearing at 10:32p.m. There being no speakers, the Public Hearing was closed at 10:33p.m.

**It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt Resolution No. 6510:**

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

- 15.C RESOLUTION NO. 6511, Adopting a list of projects for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 funded by SB 1: The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

RESOLUTION NO. 6511

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING A LIST OF PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 - 2022 FUNDED BY SB 1: THE ROAD REPAIR AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT of 2017

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

**It was moved by Council Member Kaskanian, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt Resolution No. 6511:**

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

- 15.D Award construction contract for City Hall and Nakaoka Community Center Roof Rehabilitation Projects, JN 501 & 502, to Best Contracting Services, Inc., 19027 S. Hamilton Avenue, Gardena, CA 90248, in the amount of \$411,666.00. Additionally, declare CEQA Exemption, approve Project Plans & Specifications, and award CMI Services Contract.

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion about how we need to get the roofs of both facilities (Nakaoka and City Hall) in shape before we begin to look at adding solar.

Public Speaker: Zahid Ahmed, addressed Council and spoke regarding his concerns for the project.

**It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, and by the following vote to Award Construction Contract:**

**Ayes: Council Member Henderson, Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, Council Members Henderson and 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 Henderson

(1) Asked if he could get a follow-up regarding our Community Development Department's backlog.

**20. CITY MANAGER REMARKS RE: DIRECTIVES / COUNCIL ITEMS**

- (1) PPE Giveaway City & Chamber of Commerce Event on 6/10/21 from 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. at City Hall;
- (2) Senior Day "Fun in the Sun" on 5/27/2021 on City Hall lawn from 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
- (3) Hometown Hero Banners will be displayed on 5/31/2021 at the City Hall Complex between 162<sup>nd</sup> and LaSalle; and
- (4) Video of Vaccination Clinic at Arthur Johnson Park on 5/15/2021.

**21. COUNCIL REMARKS**

- (1) COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS - She thanked City Manager Osorio and Chief Fiscal Officer Beeman for a great Budget Presentation. Since the last meeting she attended the California Redistricting Commission Meeting; District 2 Neighborhood Watch Meeting; California Democratic Party of Children Caucus Meeting; League of Women Voters Beach Cities Presentation of their Homeless Task Force, and the first Beautification Meeting. She congratulated Phillip Johnson for being appointed to the Recreation and Parks Commission and Paula May to the Gardena Beautification Committee. She acknowledges May 25, 2021, as the anniversary of the death of George Floyd and Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. She would like everyone to remember that Asian hate is still prevalent in our country - Justice for everyone and better days are coming. She would like everyone to keep washing their hands, wear their mask and stated we will get through this.

- (2) COUNCIL MEMBER HENDERSON - Thanked City Clerk Mina Semenza, Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero and City Clerk staff for the new software training. Since the last meeting he attended District 2 Neighborhood Meeting and Independent Cities Association Meeting. He was working on the Centinela Youth Services Organization as they're looking to implement a new information system. He also attended the South Bay Cities Council of Governments Broad Band discussion and participated in a CAL City Event with Housing SB9 and SB10 being the main topic. He also enjoyed attending the Public Works Department luncheon and new leadership.
- (3) COUNCIL MEMBER KASKANIAN - Since the last meeting he attended the Public Works luncheon with Mayor Cerda, Council Member Henderson, and Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka. He had a great time and thanked the Public Works Department for their commitment to the City. He requested to adjourn the meeting in the memory of Arnold Ramirez, resident of Gardena.
- (4) MAYOR CERDA - Since the last meeting she was unable to attend the Vaccination Clinic but did attend the PSA the day before and is glad to know that the City of Gardena is finding ways to help the community. Also attended CCGA-California Cities Gaming Authority and Sanitation Meeting. She reported that no Sanitation rate increase will take place this year. She also attended the Public Works Luncheon and expressed her appreciation for all Public Works staff including the Police Department, Recreation and G-Trans. She participated in the ribbon cutting for the new Gardena Big Belly Receptacles and explained the benefits of the receptacles and thanked G-Trans staff. She wished everyone a Happy and Safe Memorial Day weekend.
- (5) MAYOR PRO TEM TANAKA - He attended the California Cities Zoom Meeting with Senator Bradford and Senate Bill No. 5 was discussed. He attended a Special Board Meeting with RCC. Also, attended the Vaccination Clinic at Johnson Park and expressed "what a great event it was" and pointed out that there were multiple people and volunteers in attendance. He thanked Public Works Director and staff for the great event as it brought back staff/employees together again. He stated that as Memorial Day is approaching, we all need to remember what Memorial Day stands for and make sure to thank the Veterans for their services because "Freedom is not Free".

## 22. ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

- (1) Senior Day "Fun in the Sun" on 5/27/2021 at City Hall lawn from 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
- (2) Fiesta Drawing Opportunity Fundraiser on 5/28/2021 to help benefit our Cinco de Mayo Committee
- (3) Graduation Station for Class of 2021, 6/5 and 6/6/2021 where grads could come and take custom selfies
- (4) PPE Giveaway Event on 6/10/2021 at City Hall from 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
- (5) Childcare is now accepting applications.

## 23. REMEMBRANCES

Miss Tina "Naluai" Ogan, 59 years of age, long-time resident of Gardena, she is survived by her loving partner, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 3 grandchildren and many family members and friends who loved her dearly. Arnold G. Ramirez, 94 years of age, beloved long-time resident of Gardena. Arnold graduated from Gardena High, while living at the Spanish American Institute. He joined the U.S. Army and served in the Korean conflict as a Staff Sgt. He then returned to Gardena to his awaiting Bride Anna Montes and got married in 19249.

They had four children, Josephine, Barbara Pierce, Judith Sutton, and Thomas Ramirez. Arnold worked at Taylor Mill and Stair Company in Gardena and worked there his entire career. He and his beloved wife were members of the Gardena Sister City Association and founding member of the sister city affiliations with Huatabampo, Mexico. Arnold was also a member of the Gardena Elks Lodge #1919. He and his wife were also honored by the city and Community when they were bestowed the recognition of being placed on the City of Gardena's Wall of Fame. Arnold passed away with family by his side at his residence of more than 40 years in Gardena.

**24. ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:12 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, June 8, 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

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