

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
Gardena City Council
Tuesday, July 13, 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 Notice and Agenda of the Gardena City Council of the City of Gardena, California, was held via Zoom and was called to order at 7:00p.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 2021; Mayor Tasha Cerda presiding.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Tasha Cerda; Mayor Pro Tem Rodney G. Tanaka, Council Member Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Art Kaskanian; Council Member Paulette C. Francis; City Manager Clint Osorio; City Attorney Carmen Vasquez; and City Clerk Mina Semenza.

At 7:05 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 Rodney G. Tanaka; Council Member Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Art Kaskanian; Council Member Paulette C. Francis; City Manager Clint Osorio; and City Attorney Carmen Vasquez.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION - None

2. CLOSED SESSION

2.A 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.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
Confidential / Unrepresented Employees

2.C CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d) (2) and (e)(3):

Claim of Happiness Garden – Kofukuen (copy available for public inspection in the City Clerk's office)

2.D 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

Mayor Cerda reconvened the meeting to the Regular Open Session at 8:53 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

Emily Garcia and Tina Duong led the Pledge of Allegiance. Emily attends UC San Diego and Tina attends UC Riverside. Both are also Recreation Leaders at City of Gardena.

4. INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Rodney G. Tanaka led the Invocation.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.A Certificate of Commendation in Special Recognition of Retirement and Long-Time Service to the City of Gardena:

Damaso Bautista, Police Sergeant - 27 years 8 months

Police Sergeant Damaso Bautista accepted recognition

5.B Certificate of Recognition to Brenda Jackson in Appreciation of Her Service to the Community as a Member of the Planning & Environmental Quality Commission –

Mayor Cerda recognized Brenda Jackson for her exemplary service - Certificate to be mailed to Ms. Jackson

5.C "Update on Fireworks" by Chief of Police Mike Saffell

Chief Mike Saffell presented an update on Fireworks. Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka thanked Chief Saffell, Captain Osorio and the Fireworks task force.

6. PROCLAMATIONS

6.A Parks and Recreation Month - July 2021 – ***A video was presented - Proclaimed by Mayor Cerda***

7. APPOINTMENTS - ***No Appointments were made***

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 25, 2021
CONTACT: CITY CLERK
- 8.C Ratify Administrative Approval of the Supportive Services Program Contract SSP192003 Amendment Three.
CONTACT: RECREATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
- 8.D RESOLUTION NO. 6524, Authorizing the Filing of a Claim with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for Local Transportation Funds
CONTACT: TRANSPORTATION

RESOLUTION NO. 6524

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A CLAIM WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY FOR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

- 8.E Approve Update to GTrans Major Service Change Policy
CONTACT: TRANSPORTATION
- 8.F RESOLUTION NO. 6522, Denying Conditional Use Permit #3-20 to Allow a Church in the High Density Multiple-Family Residential Zone (R-4)
CONTACT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 6522

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, DENYING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT #3-20 TO ALLOW A CHURCH IN THE HIGH DENSITY MULTIPLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONE (R-4)

- 8.G Approval of Final Tract Map No. 83037
CONTACT: PUBLIC WORKS
- 8.H Authorize City Manager to Sign a Letter of Intent in a Form Approved by the City Attorney and Execute All Future Documents with EV Connect, Inc. to Apply for Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund's Light-Duty Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program
CONTACT: PUBLIC WORKS

This item was pulled by Mayor Cerda and discussed under Excluded Consent Calendar.

8.I Approval of Warrants/Payroll Register, July 13, 2021

CONTACT: CITY TREASURER

July 13, 2021: Wire Transfer: 12022-12028; Prepay: 163679-163683; Check Nos. 163684 -163867 – for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$2,569,203.19; Total Payroll Issued for July 2, 2021: \$1,486,732.32.

8.J Personnel Report No. P-2021-13

CONTACT: HUMAN RESOURCES

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve all Items on the Consent Calendar with the exception of 8.H:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

9. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

8.H Authorize City Manager to Sign a Letter of Intent in a Form Approved by the City Attorney and Execute All Future Documents with EV Connect, Inc. to Apply for Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund's Light-Duty Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program

CONTACT: PUBLIC WORKS

This item was pulled for discussion by Mayor Cerda.

Public Speaker: Zahid Ahmed spoke on this item and voiced his concerns. City Manager Osorio responded to Mr. Ahmed's questions and recommendations.

It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Item 8.H:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

10. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET

10.A JULY 6, 2021, MEETING

Environmental Assessment #4-21, Site Plan Review #2-21, and Vesting Tentative Map #1-21

APPLICANT: Mitch Gardner, G3 Urban Inc.

LOCATION: 15717 and 15725 S. Normandie Avenue

Commission Action: The Commission opened the public hearing and continued the item to the July 20, 2021, Planning Commission meeting.

City Council Action: No Action Required

No action taken; this item was continued to the 7/20/2021 PEQC Meeting

10.B JULY 6, 2021, MEETING

Conditional Use Permit #4-21

The Commission considered a request for a conditional use permit to allow a towing company and associated outdoor storage in the industrial (M-1) zone and directed staff to file a Notice of Exemption.

APPLICANT: Rajpal Dhillon, U.S. Tow Inc.

LOCATION: 1638 W. 130th Street

Commission Action: The Commission approved Resolution No. PC 8-21, approving Conditional Use Permit #4-21.

Council Action: Call for Council Review or Receive and File

Council Member Francis called for review; the Public Hearing date was set for 8/10/2021 Council Meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Anonymous - read into record by City Clerk Semenza.
2. Wanda Love - gave credit to city departments and Economic Development Manager Spencer Dela Cruz for an amazing PPE Unite giveaway event on June 10, 2021. She acknowledged the owners of Jersey Mike and Three Spice Thai Kitchen for providing lunch. Serviced over 440,000 face masks, hand sanitizers and face shields for over 800 businesses. She thanked City Manager Osorio, Chief Saffell, Spencer Dela Cruz, Allan Rigg, Kevin Kwak, Parks and Rec and everyone who was involved.

11. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – *No Items*

12. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – *No Items*

13. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

13.A COVID-19 Update

City Manager Osorio presented the update.

Council Members Kaskanian and Francis both had questions regarding City Manager Osorio's report.

13.B ORDINANCE NO. 1831, Adding Chapter 2.66 to the Gardena Municipal Code Codifying the Gardena Economic Business Advisory Commission

ORDINANCE NO 1831

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA ADDING CHAPTER 2.66 TO THE GARDENA MUNICIPAL CODE CODIFYING THE GARDENA ECONOMIC BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Council Member Francis asked what the difference is between commission and committee; and why does it need to be codified. City Attorney Vasquez responded and answered Council Member Francis' questions.

Public Speaker: Wanda Love asked for clarification of City Attorney Vasquez's response, which she provided.

Council Member Henderson introduced Ordinance No. 1831.

It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to approve the Introduction of Ordinance No. 1831:

Ayes: Council Members Henderson and Kaskanian, Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, Council Member Francis, and 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 Transit Service to the Inglewood Sports and Entertainment District

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Director Crespo presented a PowerPoint.

There was a discussion regarding the following: marketing and the pickup / drop off from Harbor Gateway; if we need permission from City of Inglewood or SoFi if our buses ride their streets; if there is somewhere in Gardena where the people could park and the buses could shuttle them; if we would have a shared responsibility for public safety with LAPD or Metro PD; if we are anticipating a full bus run, and are we going to lose money because of overtime; and if we could add Crenshaw at 120th as a line. Director Crespo answered all of Council's questions.

Public Speaker: Zahid Ahmed voiced his concerns regarding parking at Harbor Gateway, suggested using CSUDH, Hustler Casino and El Camino College; he also mentioned getting the help of college students to create a marketing plan.

It was moved by Council Member Kaskanian, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to approve Transit Service to the Inglewood Sports and Entertainment District:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

17.B Approve Contract with Pulsar Advertising, Inc. in the Amount of \$74,567, and a Project Total of \$84,567

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Public Speaker: Zahid Ahmed voiced his concern and suggested using LA County Metro's plan; he also mentioned getting the help of college students to create a marketing plan.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Francis, and carried by the following roll call vote to approve Contract with Pulsar Advertising, Inc.:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

18. COUNCIL ITEMS – No Items

19. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES

Council Member Henderson

- (1) Asked if Staff could look into tightening up using local hires for jobs – Council Member Francis seconded it.

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) A memo regarding our Franchise Agreement with Waste Resources regarding their automatic rate increase;
- (2) A memo regarding Council Member Kaskanian's directive regarding placing a sign board at 162nd and Western;
- (3) A memo regarding Mayor Cerda's directive regarding a crossing guard at Gardena Blvd and Brighton Ave;
- (4) Blood Drive on 7/17/2021 from 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. at Rush Gym;
- (5) City Manager Osorio shared his screen showing a flyer for our National Night Out & Back to School giveaway taking place on Tuesday, 8/3/2021 from 7:00-9:00p.m.;
- (6) Dodger Night on 7/23/2021; Mayor Cerda will be throwing out the first pitch;
- (7) 21st annual Keep Gardena Beautiful Day on 9/18/2021; and
- (8) He mentioned it was our Chief Financial Officer Ray Beeman and our City Attorney Carmen Vasquez's birthdays.

21. COUNCIL REMARKS

- (1) MAYOR PRO TEM TANAKA - He attended the SBCCOG-Board Meeting where they said good-bye to Olivia Valentine and congratulated Drew Boyles for taking over as President. Attended the South Bay COG Legislative Briefing where multiple bills were announced and mainly discussed: The American Rescue Plan; A Family Plan; Fire Fighters getting a raise from the government and Redistricting. Also attended Arnold Ramirez's funeral; Coffee with a Cop at Dunkin' Donuts and was glad that the event was brought back; attended Mother's Touch Chicken Grand Opening; attended the South Bay COG Steering Committee Meeting regarding Op-Ed Opposing SB 9 and thanked Mayor Boyle's for his help. He reminded everyone about the funeral services for one of our employees and expressed his condolences for the passing of Mayor Cerda grandmother. Also stated that he will be going to the SoFi Stadium for a tour.
- (2) COUNCIL MEMBER KASKANIAN - He reported that he was out of the country and does not have anything to report. He wished Chief Fiscal Officer Beeman and City Attorney Vasquez a Happy Birthday and thanked City Manager Osorio for doing a great job for the City.

- (3) COUNCIL MEMBER HENDERSON - He thanked City Manager and City staff for being responsive to a lot of their inquiries, requests, and reports. He encourages the community to get vaccinated. Since the last meeting he attended the South Bay COG Fiber Network discussion. He had a preliminary meeting with LAUSD regarding "How we can collaborate, partner and widen our footprint" regarding providing broadband connectivity in our community. He attended the District 1 and 2 Meetings including the ICA Meeting where the focus is public safety and SB 9 was discussed. Also, all 88 cities in LA County talked about how they can maintain local control. He thanked and acknowledged his lovely wife for celebrating their wedding anniversary.
- (4) MAYOR CERDA - Since the last meeting, she attended the private swearing-in ceremony for her new Planning Commissioner Jules LaRoss Kanhan and thanked her former commissioner for doing a great job for eight years. She attended a birthday party for a three-year-old in the city who is fascinated with trash trucks. She thanked Waste Resources for stopping by the birthday party and doing a great job in making it a special day. She attended the Gardena High School Virtual Class Reunion of 1981. She also attended the funeral services for Arnold Ramirez and expressed that he will be missed and that it was a pleasure to have met him and traveled with him. She attended the Second Time Around Club meeting via phone conference and thanked Parks and Recreation for helping facilitate the meeting. Lastly, she stated that she is still seeing a lot of graffiti around Gardena and encourages everyone to use the Gardena Direct App to report anything that does not look right, to keep our community looking great.
- (5) COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS - Since the last meeting she attended the Grand Opening for Mom's Touch restaurant; Coffee with a Cop; the final farewell for Sergeant Bautista, stated that it was a wonderful experience; also attended, the South Bay Cities Council of Governments Homeless Task Force Meeting; the Second Time Around Meeting via phone conference. She congratulated the Parks and Recreation Staff in celebration of Parks and Recreation Month commended them for being the best. She reminded everyone to volunteer for the "Keep Gardena Beautiful Day" on Saturday, September 18, 2021, stating that it's a great opportunity to help clean our neighborhoods and for more information on how to participate, contact (310)217-9503. Also stated that due to the new variant news she encourages everyone to continue washing their hands, wearing their mask and practice social distance. She wished City Attorney Vasquez and Chief Fiscal Officer Beeman a Happy Birthday. Lastly, she sends her condolences to the families who have lost loved ones.

22. ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

Mayor Cerda announced:

- (1) Blood Drive taking place on 8/17/2021 from 9:00a.m to 3:00p.m. at Rush Gym; it is being sponsored by Connect to Lead, and hosted by the City;
- (2) Gardena Dodger Day on 7/23/2021;
- (3) District 1 Workout Day on 7/31/2021 from 8:00 to 10:00a.m. at Rowley Park and is open everyone to attend; and
- (4) National Night Out & Back to School Giveaway happening on Tuesday, 8/3/2021 from 7:00 to 9:00p.m.

23. REMEMBRANCES

Mabel J. Bailey; long-time Gardena resident and mother of Herman Bailey, was laid to rest on June 29, 2021. **Mr. Marcelino Almaraz**; 93 years of age. Long-time Gardena resident, former City of Gardena Public Works employee, and beloved father of Esther Trujillo, Gardena Sister City Association member and Gardena Beautification Committee Member.

24. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:50p.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, July 27, 2021.

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

APPROVED:

Tasha Cerda
Tasha Cerda, Mayor

By: Becky Romero
Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk