

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of the**  
**Gardena City Council**  
**Tuesday, July 27, 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 called to order via Zoom at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, July 27, 2021; Mayor Cerda presiding.

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

At 7:03 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 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.B 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.C 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

***Mayor Cerda reconvened the meeting to the Regular Open Session at 7:59p.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

Kayla Bibb and Gabby Coronado led the Pledge of Allegiance. Kayla attends Cal State San Bernadino and Gabby attends UCLA. Both are also Recreation Leader I at City of Gardena.

4. INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Rodney G. Tanaka led the Invocation.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.A City of Gardena Pavement Management Program Update (PMP)

***Presentation was given by Peter Buckham of Buckham Infrastructure Group.***

6. PROCLAMATIONS - *No Items*

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

8.B Approve Minutes:

Special Meeting - 6th Cycle 2021-2029 3rd Housing Element Workshop, June 1, 2021

Study Session - Updates on GTrans' Projects and Programs, June 3, 2021

Regular Meeting of the City Council, June 8, 2021

**CONTACT: CITY CLERK**

8.C Receive and File of Minutes: Planning & Environmental Quality Commission, June 15, 2021

**CONTACT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

8.D Receive and File of Minutes: Planning & Environmental Quality Commission, July 6, 2021  
**CONTACT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

8.E Personnel Report No. P-2021-14  
**CONTACT: HUMAN RESOURCES**

8.F Approval of Warrants/Payroll Register, July 27, 2021  
**CONTACT: CITY TREASURER**

July 27, 2021: Wire Transfer: 12029 - 12038; Check Nos. 163870 -164057 – for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$3,218,600.71; Total Payroll Issued for July 16, 2021: \$1,928,301.27.

***This item was pulled for discussion by Council Member Francis.***

8.G Second Reading and Adoption of ORDINANCE 1831, Adding Chapter 2.66 to the Gardena Municipal Code Codifying the Gardena Economic Business Advisory Commission  
**CONTACT: CITY MANAGER**

8.H Approve Project List for the FY22 State Transit Assistance State of Good Repair Program  
**CONTACT: TRANSPORTATION**

8.I Approval of Consultant Agreement for Building Official Services  
**CONTACT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

8.J Approval of Extending J Lee Engineering Inc. contract  
**CONTACT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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

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

**Noes: None**

**Absent: None**

## **9. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR**

8.F. CITY TREASURER - Approval of Warrants/Payroll Register, July 27, 2021

***This item was pulled for discussion by Council Member Francis.***

She questioned the Lucky Lady Economic Assistance Agreement dollar amount that appeared on the warrant register and was curious how it would affect other businesses. City Manager Osorio and City Attorney Vasquez explained in detail the terms of the agreement that goes back to 2016.

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

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

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** None

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

### **10.A JULY 20, 2021 MEETING**

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

The Commission considered a request for approval of a site plan review and vesting tentative map for the construction of 30 attached condominium townhomes, including three affordable units, in six buildings on a 0.9-acre lot located in the High Density Multiple-Family Residential zone (R-4) . The project included a request for density bonus, waiver, and parking reductions as provided by State Law and Chapter 18.43 of the Gardena Municipal Code.

**APPLICANT:** Mitch Gardner, G3 Urban Inc.

**LOCATION:** 15717 and 15725 S. Normandie Avenue (APNs: 6105-009-008, 009)

Commission Action: The Commission approved Resolution No. PC 9 -21, approving Site Plan Review #2-21 and Vesting Tentative Map #1-21, and directed staff to file a Notice of Exemption.

City Council Action: Receive and File or Call for Council Review.

***Council Member Francis called for Council Review and a Public Hearing was set for the September 14, 2021 Council Meeting.***

### **10.B JULY 20, 2021 MEETING**

#### **Zone Code Amendment #4-21**

The Commission considered a resolution recommending the City Council adopt Ordinance No. 1832 to amend Gardena Municipal Code Chapter 18.40 relating to parking and loading to permit off-site parking, street parking, and tandem parking with a conditional use permit in certain circumstances.

**APPLICANT:** City

**LOCATION:** Citywide

Commission Action: The Commission approved Resolution No. PC 10-21, recommending the City Council approve Ordinance No. 1832.

City Council Action: No action needed; this item will be scheduled for a future Council meeting.

## ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- (1) Dennis Tucker, concerned citizen and resident of Gardena: Spoke regarding the alarming number of RVs in the unincorporated area of Gardena;
- (2) Kathy Teal, City of Gardena's City's representative for the City of Hawthorne's Community Network Committee re: City of Hawthorne's airport noise. She gave various ways to file complaints with the Hawthorne and LAX Airports.
- (3) City Clerk noted that we have received two emails, both of which have been forwarded to Council and now are part of the record and available for viewing in the City Clerk's office;
- (4) Zahid Ahmed, concerned citizen: made recommendations regarding noise abatements.

**\*\*\*At 9:08 p.m. Mayor Cerda Recessed the City Council Meeting of the GARDENA FINANCING AGENCY\*\*\***

**\*\*\*Mayor Cerda Reconvened the REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 9:13 p.m.\*\*\***

### **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.

Council Member Francis asked about employee mandatory vaccination testing or showing proof of vaccination. City Manager Osorio stated that we have not considered going that route yet.

### **14. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS – POLICE - *No Items***

### **15. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - PUBLIC WORKS - *No Items***

### **16. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - RECREATION & HUMAN SERVICES**

#### **16.A Approval of Final Relocation Plan for Gardena Community Aquatic & Senior Center Project**

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Council Member Henderson asked City Manager Osorio to give a brief summary so everyone could understand that this is part of a larger plan and how we acquired the property. City Manager Osorio deferred to City Attorney Vasquez who then stated that because the property was sold to a public entity, we must follow the State Relocation Regulations when it comes to public entity displacement and explained the guidelines in detail. She then continued to say we were approached by the property owner, and it was approved by Council; we did not eminent domain this property.

Public Speaker: Zahid Ahmed asked if we could let the current tenant live there and not charge them rent; City Attorney responded that the law requires that we must give them a minimum of 90 days.

**It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Final Relocation Plan:**

***Due to technical difficulties, Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka was unable to vote.***

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

**Noes: None**

**Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka**

## **17. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - TRANSPORTATION**

17.A Approve Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal for Federal Fiscal Year 2022-2024

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Transit Administrator Officer and Disadvantage Business Enterprise Officer Dana Pynn gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Council Member Henderson asked what would happen if we excluded one or two counties; and asked about advertisements; he also thanked staff for using 7% as the floor and not the ceiling. Ms. Pynn responded to Council Member Henderson's comments.

Public Speaker: Wanda Love, President of the Gardena Chamber of Commerce commended Ms. Pynn's presentation and mentioned that she is starting the process of getting Gardena local businesses certified.

**It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Disadvantage Business Enterprise Goal:**

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

**Noes: None**

**Absent: None**

## **18. COUNCIL ITEMS - No Items**

## 19. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES

### Council Member Francis

- (1) Asked about the new Community Development Director; City Manager Osorio replied that he will be introducing Greg this evening;
- (2) Asked about the Street Vendor Ordinance
- (3) Asked about mandating our employees to be vaccinated

### Council Member Henderson

- (1) Public Safety Events where does the Community go to get updates. City Manager Osorio deferred the question to Chief Saffell who responded that we use Southbay Alert; he also mentioned that alerts also get posted

### Mayor Cerda

- (1) Can we get the information that Kathy Teal gave out during Oral Communications regarding how to report airport noise in a flyer and post on our City website. 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) GTrans Service Restoration Plan Virtual Public Meeting on 7/28/2021 at 6:00 p.m.
- (2) Willows at Dusk taking place on Thursdays from 6:30pm to 8:30p.m. The dates are as follows: 7/15, 7/29, 8/12 and 8/26. Reserve your spot by going to [www.gardena.org/events](http://www.gardena.org/events).
- (3) Introduction of our Community Development Director Greg Tsujiuchi
- (4) Wished Council Member Francis (7/29), Director Santin (7/28), Economic Development Manager De la Cruz (7/27) and Mayor Cerda (8/2) a very Happy Birthday.

## 21. COUNCIL REMARKS

- (1) COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS – She said she was grateful to be celebrating another year of her birth and thanked for the birthday wishes. Since the last meeting, she attended the Recreation & Parks Month celebration and a Zoom meeting with Congresswoman Maxine Waters, organized by Wanda Love. Past Saturday, Martin Luther King Jr. Culture Committee of Gardena held an Arthur L. Johnson Scholarship Award Presentation and gave two \$1000 scholarships to Gardena High School students. She shared that Senator Bradford presented his certificate and offered to match the \$1000 scholarships for the winners. She said July was her favorite month because it was her birthday month.

- (2) MAYOR PRO TEM TANAKA – He attended the Parks and Recreation’s cowboy themed event and said he had a great time. He said he donated blood to the Red Cross and encouraged everyone to donate blood. He attended the funeral of Marcelino Almaraz. He attended the South Bay Regional Communications meeting and the South Bay Council of Governments meeting. He shared that the LA County went from 5,000 to 45,000 employees who actively telework, which seems to be the new norm. He informed that he is part of South Bay Spot 8 Committee, and they are looking into taking local control over Covid, masks, etc... He said Dodger Day was just the best and told the Mayor she threw a great pitch but too bad the catcher dropped it. He thanked Stephany Santin and her staff for setting up one of the best Dodger days.
- (3) COUNCIL MEMBER KASKANIAN – Since the last Council Meeting, he attended the Parks and Recreation’s country themed event. He attended the Finance Committee Meeting along with the Mayor and her Chair members. He informed that Gardena was in good hands and not to worry. He said the Gardena’s Dodger event was great, and as he laughed; he said the catcher dropped the ball, but it was okay. He thanked Stephany and the staff for the great event. He apologized to Council Member Francis for not being able to attend her scholarship event and wished her a happy birthday. He also wished a happy birthday to Madam Mayor and Stephany Santin.
- (4) MAYOR CERDA – Since the last Council Meeting, she attended the monthly CCGA meeting, the special Sanitation meeting, and the regular Sanitation meeting. She attended the Serra High Golf Tournament and came in 1st place. Later that evening, she attended the Gardena Dodger’s Day where she was able to throw out the first pitch and thanked everyone who helped her practice. She sent a special thank you to Stephany Santin for coordinating the event and to the Finance staff for doing a great job and keeping us on track during the pandemic. She attended Marcelino Almaraz’s funeral. She thanked everyone, especially city staff and members, for the thoughtfulness during the passing of her grandmother.
- (5) COUNCIL MEMBER HENDERSON – said he enjoyed Dodger Day. He wished happy birthdays to Madam Mayor, Council member Francis, and Parks and Recreation Director Stephany Santin. He attended the LA County Redistricting Committee meeting, South Bay Council of Governments fiber network meeting. He reported he did community visits. He encouraged everyone to stay safe, get vaccinated, wear masks, wash hands, and stay physically distant where we can. He attended the League of Cities presentation. He participated in a webinar regarding ethical use of technology, specifically related drones, and public safety.

## 22. ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

### Mayor Cerda announced:

- (1) Recall Election Information presented by City Clerk Mina Semenza.
- (2) GTrans Service Restoration Plan Virtual Public Meeting on 7/28/2021 at 6:00p.m.
- (3) Open House at Masao Satow Library on Thursday, 7/29/2021 at 11:00a.m.
- (4) District 1 Policing Community Workout on Saturday, 7/31/2021 at Rowley Park from 8:00a.m to 10:00a.m.; and
- (5) National Night Out and Back to School Giveaway on 8/2/2021 from 7:00-9:00p.m.

**23. REMEMBRANCES**

**Van Darren Richardson**; 54 years of age and a long-time Gardena resident. Lived in Gardena for 47 years; **Ermelinda Rubio Lara**; 95 years of age. She was born in Zacatecas, Mexico, and in 1928, she and her family relocated to the United States to flee the impact of the Mexican Revolution. She was the fifth of seven children. Ermelinda married Ralph in 1956 and purchased their home in Gardena where she lived for 65 years. Together they had 5 children. She was a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who served in her church while working part time at Larson's department store in Gardena. She is survived by her brother, her beloved children, 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. She will be remembered for her faithful commitment to God and love for her family; **Louis Fuller**; 96 years of age, resident of Gardena for 51 years, WWII Veteran, retired from LA County LACMA as a Senior Art Preparator. Member of the Holly Park Homeowners Association, Haas Neighborhood Block Club. He was the first person on his block to Complete the CERT Training and become CERT Certified. He Receive the Veterans Recognition award at the City Council meeting; **Audrey Farr**; resident of Gardena for many years, and member of the Holly Park Homeowners Association meeting.

**24. ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:12 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka 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, August 10, 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