

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
Gardena City Council
Tuesday, September 28, 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 at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 28, 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; and Council Member Paulette C. Francis. Other City Officials and Employees 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 via Microsoft Teams, 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. Other City Officials and Employees present: City Manager Clint Osorio; City Attorney Carmen Vasquez; Director of Community Development Greg Tsujiuchi; and Outside Counsel Amanda Pope.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION - None

2. CLOSED SESSION

2.A CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION

Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)

City of Gardena vs. Alfons Kaplonek, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.21TRCP00238

2.B CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9

(One [1] Matter)

2.C 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 7:36 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

Anthony Aaron and Erik Acosta led the Pledge of Allegiance. Anthony is currently a Gardena Resident and a volunteer who would like to be more involved in the community. He is a role model and a leader and interested in joining the Gardena Youth Commission. He brought along his classmate, Erik, to join him today. Both of them attend Middle College High School.

4. INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Rodney G. Tanaka led the Invocation.

5. PRESENTATIONS - No Items

6. PROCLAMATIONS

6.A "Hispanic Heritage Month" - ***was proclaimed by Mayor Cerda***

7. APPOINTMENTS – No Appointments were made

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8.A Approve Minutes:

Special Closed Session Meeting, September 9, 2021

Regular Meeting of the City Council, September 14, 2021

CONTACT: CITY CLERK

8.B Receive and File of Minutes: Planning & Environmental Quality Commission, August 17, 2021

CONTACT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

8.C Approval of Warrants/Payroll Register, September 28, 2021

CONTACT: CITY TREASURER

September 28, 2021: Wire Transfer: 12054-12065; Prepay: 164594-164599; Check Nos. 164600-164808 – for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$3,931,274.86; Total Payroll Issued for September 24, 2021: \$2,043,760.31.

8.D Monthly Portfolio, August 2021

CONTACT: CITY TREASURER

8.E Personnel Report No. P-2021-17

CONTACT: HUMAN RESOURCES

8.F Approval of Final Tract Map No. 82945

CONTACT: PUBLIC WORKS

- 8.G Second Reading and Adoption of ORDINANCE NO. 1833, Adding Chapter 2.68 to the Gardena Municipal Code Codifying the Gardena Beautification Commission. Introduced by Council Member Francis at our September 14, 2021 Council Meeting
CONTACT: ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

ORDINANCE NO. 1833

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA ADDING CHAPTER 2.68 TO THE GARDENA MUNICIPAL CODE CODIFYING THE GARDENA BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

- 8.H Approve City of Gardena's GTrans Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan
CONTACT: TRANSPORTATION

- 8.I ORDINANCE NO. 1832, Adopting an Ordinance amending the 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. The project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3). Introduced by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka at our September 14, 2021 Council Meeting
CONTACT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 1832

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA AMENDING CHAPTER 18.40 OF THE GARDENA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO REQUIRED PARKING AND LOADING TO PERMIT OFF-SITE PARKING, STREET PARKING, TANDEM, AND OTHER CONFIGURATIONS WITH A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES

- 8.J ORDINANCE NO. 1834: Adopting an Ordinance regarding City Council review of Planning Commission actions. The project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3). Introduced by Council Member Henderson at our September 14, 2021 Council Meeting
CONTACT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 1834

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA AMENDING SECTION 18.72.050 OF THE GARDENA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE CALL FOR REVIEW PROCEDURES

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

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

9. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

- 8.I COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT - ORDINANCE NO. 1832 - Adopting an Ordinance amending the 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. The project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3). Introduced by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka at our September 14, 2021 Council Meeting.

This item was pulled by Council Member Francis.

There was a discussion which included Council Member Francis, Mayor Cerda, Council Member Kaskanian, Assistant Attorney Kranitz and former Interim Community Development Director, Gregg McClain regarding excluding the lift parking from the Ordinance. Mr. McClain recommended we leave it in and take it on a case by case basis, not to exclude it completely; it was also mentioned that we address noise impact on the community. Assistant City Attorney Kranitz suggested going to Culver City if anyone wanted to see an example.

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

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

Noes: Council Member Francis

Absent: None

- 8.J COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT - ORDINANCE NO. 1834: Adopting an Ordinance regarding City Council review of Planning Commission actions. The project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3). Introduced by Council Member Henderson at our September 14, 2021 Council Meeting.

This item was pulled by Council Member Francis.

There was a discussion which included Council Members Francis, Henderson and Kaskanian, Mayor Cerda, City Attorney Vasquez and Assistant City Attorney Kranitz regarding calling Planning Commission items for review; the Ordinance that was being brought up for adoption amended our Municipal Code by adding a second by another Council Member instead of just one Council Member when calling an item for review. An excel spreadsheet was provided to Council indicating the number of calls for review since 2017. Council Member Francis expressed her opinion that it is very difficult for the public to have input on an item when they are put on the Consent Calendar; she feels that we need to have a better way of putting Planning Commission items on the Agenda. Mayor Cerda stated that if there are call for reviews on the Consent Calendar, we are still giving our residents the opportunity to comment on them. City Attorney Vasquez explained that all the items that are called for review go on the Planning Action Sheet first, we then go through each of those items and at that time Council decides; a public hearing is set, and the public could comment at that time. Council Member Henderson stated that he did not think it was an issue to ask for a second; Council Member Kaskanian stated that he was in agreement with Council Member Francis, this item is not suitable for him.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Item 8.J:

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

Noes: Council Members Francis and Kaskanian

Absent: None

10. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET

10.A SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 MEETING

Staff provided a presentation on the City's recently released Draft Housing Element for 2021-2029. The Draft Plan will be posted on the City's website for several weeks before it is formally submitted to the State's Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department to allow additional time for general public review. Staff also presented on the City's new Environmental Justice Element and Safety Element Update.

Commission Action: No action was taken.

City Council: Receive and file.

Received and Filed

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - No Speakers

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 a PowerPoint.

14. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - POLICE

14.A NOTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,126.00 UNDER THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM, FISCAL YEAR 2021 LOCAL SOLICITATION

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion which included Council Member Henderson, City Manager Osorio and Chief Saffell regarding how we are going about obtaining grants and what are we doing with the recycled helmets. City Manager Osorio replied that we are using a consultant to help us apply for grants; Chief Saffell then replied that we are able to sell the recycled helmets back to the vendor and stated that we do get a credit for them.

Received and File

15. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - PUBLIC WORKS

15.A. AUTHORIZE CONSULTANT SERVICES CONTRACT WITH PROJECT PARTNERS, INC., FOR TEMPORARY ENGINEERING STAFF AUGMENTATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$115,000.00

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion which included Council Members Kaskanian, Henderson, and Francis, Director of Public Works Allan Rigg and City Manager Osorio regarding the number of employees that are being brought in and if they are going to work at City Hall or remotely; it was also suggested that if a report could be done to compare the analysis of the defined work that needs to get done after these projects are concluded, so we can go back to the normal scope of work. Director Rigg replied that we are paying \$110.00 per hour; he continued to say that if we were to hire a full time employee it would be \$170 or \$180 per hour; we have acquired a number of grant projects during this temporary surge, we don't want to hire someone long term. City Manager Osorio stated that we did not lose any engineers from the layoff, this is happening because of the surge of projects that has occurred. The cost of this project was also discussed; Director Rigg stated not one penny was coming out of the General Fund, it was coming from various CIP funds.

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

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

15.B ACTIONS RELATING TO VAN NESS AVENUE AND 139TH STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, JN 952

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion which included Mayor Cerda, Director Rigg and City Manager Osorio regarding how long the project would take, and how there's lots of illegal dumping taking place in that area. It was then asked if there is any extra money set aside to put cameras up, especially behind Nissin Foods. Director Rigg replied the project will take 3 months; City Manager Osorio replied that a camera system would be dependent upon funding.

It was moved by Council Member Kaskanian, seconded by Council Member Francis, and by the following vote to Award a construction contract for the Van Ness Avenue and 139th Street Improvements Project, JN 952, to All American Asphalt, Corona California; Approve the project plans and specifications; Award a Construction Management and Inspection (CMI) Services Contract to Cannon Company, Irvine California and approve expenditures of remaining project budget for staff administration and contingency; Declare this project to be categorically exempt under the

California Environmental Quality Act, Section 15301, Class I, as rehabilitation of existing facilities:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

15.C FIRE STATION NO. 158, ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT, JN 509

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion which included Council Members Henderson and Francis, Mayor Cerda, Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, Director Rigg and City Manager Osorio regarding if we replaced the roof would we be able to request a higher evaluation; questions about removing the trees, but how they are an important part of our environment; it was stated that the needles are a nuisance and the pigeon mites that live in the trees are coming through the vents and are biting the firefighters. City Manager replied that it does extend the life of the building, replacing the roof with another one would be the same asset; Director Rigg then stated that some of these trees would be about \$5,000 to remove, that they could be trimmed, and that they could look into the health and safety of our firefighters moving forward.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Authorize Reimbursement to the County of Los Angeles Fire Department for the Fire Station No. 158, Emergency Roof Replacement; Authorize a Budget Appropriation for the ceiling repair design phase of the Fire Station No. 158, Roof Replacement Project, JN 509:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Non

15.D ACTIONS RELATING TO GARDENA COMMUNITY AQUATIC AND SENIOR CENTER PROJECT, JN 978

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion which included Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, Council Members Henderson, Francis and Kaskanian, and Director Rigg regarding the homeless hanging out around the project, and possibly putting cameras so the project could be tracked; they also talked about asbestos and the Prop 68 grant we have applied for. It was also mentioned have we put in enough contingency for change orders and are our subs that are working under our primes working up to par; and how diverse is the work and labor force and are they reaching out to trades. Larry Ryan, founding partner of RJM Design Group came into the meeting and he and Director Rigg presented a PowerPoint showing all the different renderings of the project. Larry then spoke about his experience and how long he has been in business; he spoke about his team and how committed they would be to this project. He spoke that they are anticipating finishing in June 2024. Recreation and Human Services Director Stephany Santin and

spoke about Gardena High using the pool to hold swim competitions; she stated we have not yet reached out to them to see if they are interested. Mr. Ryan stated that we are only as good as our subs, I couldn't live up to our reputation without them; he then said they would walk on water to meet a deadline; he continued to say that the team he works with are guys he works with all the time; he then said the RJM team is very diverse.

It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Award of Contract to RJM Design Group, Inc. for Design, Architecture and Engineering Services for the Gardena Community Aquatic and Senior Center Project, JN 978; Authorization of Demolition of existing Primm Pool Facilities and Residences and Structures located at 16004 and 16010 S. Harvard Boulevard; Construction of Aquatic and Senior Center, to be confirmed upon receipt of acceptable bid for construction; Direct Staff to file a Notice of Exemption pursuant to Categorical Exemption Guidelines section 15302 (replacement) and 15332 (infill) and note that the demolition activities are not subject to CEQA under Guidelines section 15268 for ministerial activities

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

15.E CITYWIDE WAYFINDING / ENTRY SIGN PROGRAM PROJECT, JN 507

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

This item is being tabled to the next Council Meeting – October 12, 2021

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) Asked about the status of the Street Vendor Ordinance. City Attorney Vasquez answered her questions.
- (2) She expressed her concerns about the absence of City Manager Osorio when he attended a conference for two days and Chief of Police Saffell took his place. She requested for a plan to be put in place in case City Manager is not available and or in case of an emergency. Mayor Cerda and City Attorney Vasquez explain and answered Council Member Francis questions.
- (3) She then asked about the ProLogis Settlement Agreement; City Attorney Vasquez gave her an update and Assistant City Attorney Kranitz read the non-opposition language Section 5 of the Settlement Agreement.

Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka

- (1) Asked City Manager Osorio if a study can be conducted and maybe look into annexing the southern border of the city: Vermont to 190th, 190th to Crenshaw and Crenshaw to Artesia. Council Member Kaskanian gave a second.

At 10:23 p.m. Mayor Cerda excused herself from the Council Meeting and Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka proceeded with the meeting.

20. CITY MANAGER REMARKS RE: DIRECTIVES / COUNCIL ITEMS

1. Report regarding number of metrics for the Community Development Department: Plan Checks and Permits etc., a more readable report will be provided later.
2. Food, Wine and Brew Festival taking place on Saturday, October 2, 2021, from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Gardena City Hall Complex.
3. The Game Changer Tailgate Sponsored by GTrans, Sunday, October 3, 2021, at City Hall Complex from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Gates open at 9:30 a.m., General Admission is \$10 that would include (1) hamburger or hotdog provided by GTrans. For the easiest way to SoFi Stadium, ride GTrans' new Line 7x-Stadium Express \$4 round trip from Harbor Gateway Transit Center every Sunday. City Manager Osorio complimented the GTrans buses. Council Members Francis, Tanaka and Kaskanian had question for Transportation Director Crespo.
4. Harvest Festival, Saturday, October 16, 2021, at the Civic Center Complex, featuring Pumpkin Patch, Live Music, Retail Vendors, Food Vendors, Kids Activities, Chili Cook-off and so much more, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
5. Save the Date for our 21st Annual Pancake Breakfast. Our K-9 Chefs Maxo and Amir are working on perfecting their pancake recipe. Saturday, October 16, 2021, from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at the City Hall Complex. All proceeds benefit the GPD Canine Program.
6. The City of Gardena Chili Cook-off; Saturday, October 16, 2021, from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Details provided on flyer, and we'll be posted on our city website.
7. "Too Cute To Spook" Halloween Event for ages 0 – 10; Bring your Kiddos to City Hall for a safe, fun-filled night of trick-or-treating; Friday, October 29, 2021, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
8. The Halloween Scare Zone on Friday, October 29, 2021, from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., located at Freeman Park and Rowley Park.
9. Video – Tropical Oasis Employee Recognition Day, featuring other City Events.
10. City Manager Osorio greets Council Member Henderson on his upcoming birthday on Saturday, October 2, 2021.
11. City Manager Osorio recognized all the sons for National Sons Day.

21. COUNCIL REMARKS

1. MAYOR PRO TEM TANAKA - Since the last meeting Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka attended Sergeant Eric Hyde's promotion to Lieutenant, Employee Recognition, Gardena Beautification, RCC Emergency Board Meeting, Fair Housing Workshop, went to Sacramento along with City Manager Osorio and they represented the City of Gardena at the League of California Cities, Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka shared their experience at the conference, they attended the Welcome Ceremony, attended the Ethics Training, business luncheon, saw local politicians get awards, vendor expo and infrastructure aging conference. Lastly, Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka thanked City Manager Osorio for attending and taking him out to dinner for his birthday.

2. COUNCIL MEMBER KASKANIAN – Apologized to Chief Saffell since he couldn't attend the promotion of Eric Hyde. Since the last meeting he attended the Gardena Beautification, and the South Bay COG meeting in absence of Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka.
3. COUNCIL MEMBER HENDERSON – Congratulated and thanked all city employees and explained he couldn't attend Employee Recognition. Since the last meeting he attended the L.A BIZFED meeting, Gardena Beautification, Biz Fed Responsible Governance Meeting, South Bay Fiber network meeting, and the Freeman Park event. Wished everyone a Happy Expanded Hispanic Month and acknowledged his three sons Nico, Mark and Jared on National Son's Day.
4. MAYOR CERDA – Left the meeting, had a personal emergency.
5. COUCIL MEMBER FRANCIS- Since the last meeting, she attended the promotional ceremony for Lieutenant Hyde, Gardena Beautification Day, Freeman Park event. Thanked Recreation Department for a wonderful event. Wished everyone a Happy Hispanic Heritage month and lastly shared a famous quote "Si Se Puede" which means "Yes we can".

22. ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka stated that there are no more announcements to be made but hopes to see everybody on Saturday at the Food, Wine and Brew Festival.

23. REMEMBRANCES

Lem Alvin Magee, long time Gardena resident of 53 years; and Van D. Magee, long time Gardena resident of 25 years; Jesus M. De Castro, 85 years of age, beloved father of Jun De Castro, Associate Engineer in the Public Works Department.

24. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:57 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, October 12, 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