

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
Gardena City Council
Tuesday, October 12, 2021

In order to minimize the spread of the COVID 19 virus, Governor Newsom has signed Assembly Bill 361. 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 7:32 PM on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, in the Council Chamber at City Hall 1700 West 162nd Street, Gardena, California.

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.

2. CLOSED SESSION – No Items

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Brandon Castillo led the Pledge of Allegiance. Brandon was selected to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance because of his good grades and because he is always safe, respectful, and responsible.

4. INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Rodney G. Tanaka led the Invocation.

5. PRESENTATIONS – No Items

6. PROCLAMATIONS

6.A "Gardena Red Ribbon Week," October 23 through October 31, 2021
- was accepted by Traci Saruwatari, Community Organizer for AADAP (Asian American Drug & Alcohol Abuse Program) and Advisor to G-DAAP (Gardena Drug & Alcohol Prevention) Gardena High School Task Force.

7. APPOINTMENTS – No Appointments were made

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8.A Approve Minutes:
Regular Meeting of the City Council, September 28, 2021
CONTACT: CITY CLERK

8.B Approval of Warrants/Payroll Register, October 12, 2021
CONTACT: CITY TREASURER

October 12, 2021: Wire Transfer: 12066-12068; Prepay: 164809-164812; Check Nos. 164813 -164964 – for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$2,163,064.52 Total Payroll Issued for October 8, 2021: \$1,547,751.37.

8.C Personnel Report No. P-2021-18
CONTACT: HUMAN RESOURCES

8.D RESOLUTION NO. 6525. Addendum to Reso No. 6332 and repealing Reso No. 6488, Lifting freezes for unrepresented/confidential positions
CONTACT: HUMAN RESOURCES

RESOLUTION NO. 6525

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, ADDENDUM TO RESOLUTION NO. 6332, AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 6488, LIFTING FREEZES FOR UNREPRESENTED/CONFIDENTIAL POSITIONS

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:

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

**Noes: None
Absent: None**

9. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

10. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET

10.A OCTOBER 5, 2021 MEETING - *Meeting Cancelled*

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – No Speakers

11. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – No Items

12. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

12.A CONTRACT BUILDING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BPR CONSULTING GROUP, INC. TO PROVIDE BUILDING OFFICIAL AND OTHER PLAN AND PERMIT PROCESSING SERVICES

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Ron Beehler of BPR Consulting Group, Inc., gave a presentation.

There was a discussion which included Mayor, Council, City Manager Osorio, City Attorney Vasquez, and Community Development Director Greg Tsujiuchi. CDD Director Tsujiuchi explained that this consultant is not here to replace our current city staff, we've have gone through some unprecedented times, we are falling behind because of that. It was also stated City Manager Osorio then further explained that we did not go to an RFP because it was an emergency situation; we needed a good solid fix for this problem. City Attorney Vasquez then informed Council that there is a 3-day written termination clause in the contract. Mr. Beehler addressed all of Council's concerns and stated that they will be looking at the current operation of the department, will be in frequent communication, you will have one consultant, who will provide monthly updates. He then further stated that because of our experience, we could adequately be responsible for the building department, we want to manage the staff effectively.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Contract with BPR Consulting Group, Inc:

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

Noes: Council Member Francis

Absent: None

13. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

13.A APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2025 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE CITY OF GARDENA AND THE GARDENA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (GMEA)

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Cerda thanked all the parties involved.

Council Member Kaskanian thanked everyone especially the employees for waiting all this time and coming into an agreement. Council Member Francis stated, as a union member herself, she appreciates everyone coming into an agreement, and thanked everyone for all their hard work. Council Member Henderson commented on the vacation cap, and if you are required to work at a particular event, vary rarely do we deny vacation requests, wants to make sure there is some flexibility. Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka stated, at one point he was president of GMEO, and wants to applaud and thank City Manager, city staff, the employees of GMEA; our city is in a good position right now for all the sacrifices that were made.

It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve the MOU and authorize the City Manager to execute the MOU with a term of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

13.B DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION REGARDING RESUMING IN-PERSON MEETINGS OF THE GARDENA CITY COUNCIL AND ITS LEGISLATIVE BODIES AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 6534 TO AUTHORIZE REMOTE TELECONFERENCING MEETINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEWLY ADOPTED GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e) (AB 361)

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion which included Mayor, Council, City Manager Osorio, and City Attorney Vasquez. Council expressed their concerns about meeting in person and the restrictions that would need to be met. City Manager Osorio and City Attorney Vasquez explained the ramifications of each of the options being presented. Council agreed that revisiting reauthorization every 30 days would be the most beneficial.

It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Option 2: Commencing October 26, 2021, conduct public meetings virtually for meetings of all public bodies subject to the Brown Act in accordance with the requirements of AB 361; and adopt Resolution No. 6534, which will require reauthorization every 30 days:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

13.C COVID-19 UPDATE

City Manager Osorio presented an update.

Council Member Kaskanian asked if the PCR Test being offered at the testing site in our city was valid and acceptable at the airport. City Manager Osorio confirmed that yes, it is a valid test.

14. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS – POLICE – *No Items*

15. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - PUBLIC WORKS

15.A AWARD ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE LOCAL STREET IMPROVEMENTS FISCAL YEARS 2020-2022 PROJECT.

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Council Member Kaskanian commented on the great reviews DMS Consultants, Inc. has received.

It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Award Engineering Design Services Contract to DMS Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$149,650 for the Local Street Improvements Project Fiscal Years 2020-2022, JN 987 & 994:

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 ROWLEY PARK BASEBALL DIAMOND RESTROOM REHABILITATION PROJECT - SITE PREPARATION, JN 968.

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion which included Mayor, Council, City Manager Osorio, and Public Works Director Allan Rigg. Council expressed their concerns regarding the signage, the hours they would be open, and if the auditorium bathrooms would be included. City Manager Osorio and PW Director Rigg answered all their questions and explained that the auditorium restrooms would be part of the Park Master Plan.

It was moved by Council Member Kaskanian, seconded by Council Member Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Award Construction Contract for the Rowley Park Baseball Diamond Restroom Rehabilitation Project (Site Preparation), JN 968, to Deark E&C, Inc., Gardena California, in the amount of \$105,550.00; Approve the project plans and specifications; Approve a budget transfer of \$119,000 Park in-lieu funds from JN 961 Bell Park Rehabilitation Project to JN 968 Rowley Park Baseball Diamond Restroom Rehabilitation Project; Declare this project to be categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act, Section 15302, Class II, as replacement of existing facilities:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

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

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Public Works Director Allan Rigg shared the presentation; David Volz of David Volz Design gave the presentation and was available for any questions.

There was a discussion which included Mayor, Council, City Manager Osorio, Public Work's Director Allan Rigg, and Mr. David Volz. PW Director Rigg and Mr. Volz answered all of Council's questions and concerns. Mr. Volz then explained that the work is a 3-step process which includes 1) Concept Development (identify routes and landmarks, go over general parameter, size, color, layout, and placement); 2) Getting community input and preparing map locations and installation specifications; and 3) Bringing it back to Council and finalize the Concept Plan.

Public Speaker: Zahid Ahmed suggested putting digital signs throughout our major thoroughfares, ones that displays the time and advertisements for the City; he also asked if the funds could be replenished to incorporate trees on our medians.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Francis, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve a Budget Appropriation in the amount of \$100,000.00, Gas Tax funds, to begin the design phase of the Citywide Wayfinding / Entry Sign Program Project, JN 507:

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

16. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - RECREATION & HUMAN SERVICES – *No Items*

17. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS - TRANSPORTATION

17.A APPROVE AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH ITERIS, INC. FOR ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC SIGNAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR \$233,237 AND A PROJECT TOTAL OF \$268,223

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

It was moved by Council Member Kaskanian, seconded by Council Member Francis, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Amendment:

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

17.B APPROVE GTRANS PARTICIPATION IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY METRO'S PILOT FARELESS SYSTEM INITIATIVE (GOPASS) PROVIDING FREE FARES FOR K-12 AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion which included Mayor, Council, City Manager Osorio, and Transportation Director Ernie Crespo. Council expressed all their concerns which City Manager Osorio and Transportation Director Crespo responded.

It was moved by Council Member Francis, seconded by Council Member Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve Participation:

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

Noes: Mayor Cerda

Absent: None

18. **COUNCIL ITEMS** – *No Items*

19. **COUNCIL DIRECTIVES**

Council Member Francis

1. While attending the District 1 Neighborhood Watch Meeting, it was mentioned that the neighbors are having problems with parking; signs are too far apart. One of the officers said there is an Ordinance about sign placement. Lieutenant Cuff would look into it. Can we look into getting more frequent signs? Council Member Henderson seconded it.
2. Asked if staff could look into the traffic lights in our city; she noticed that the City of Hawthorne's traffic signals make a chirping sound which would help the sight impaired. Mayor Cerda seconded it.

Mayor Cerda

1. Asked if staff could look into replacing the trees that are at Fire station 158, the needles from the pines are causing problems. Council Member Kaskanian seconded it.
2. Asked if we can get a report as it relates to flavored tobacco and the number of shops in our city that are selling flavored tobacco. Mayor Pro Tem 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. Memo - Analysis report from City Attorney Vasquez, regarding the possibility of annexing properties south of the city's southern boundary.
2. Gardena Police Pink Patch Project, selling a limited supply of pink patches for \$10.00 each. Purchases can be made at Gardena Police Department front counter from Monday-Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Please contact Stephanie Escalante at 310-217-9689 or email sescalante@gardenapd.org with any questions.
3. DEA National Rx TakeBack. Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal. Drop off location (in front of Gardena PD) 1718 W. 162nd St., Saturday, October 23rd, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. For more information contact, Traci Saruwatari: 323-293-6284 or email: tsaruwatari@aadapinc.org.
4. Video - Recreation and Human Services Department: 11th Annual Food, Wine & Brew Festival; GTrans Tailgate Event; FurBaby LoveFest and Upcoming Events. City Manager Osorio thanked Stephany Santin and Recreation and Human Services staff for making our events very successful.
5. Video - Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrating Hispanic Community Leaders making an impact in the 2nd District. Community Engagement Award goes to Stephany Santin.

21. COUNCIL REMARKS

1. COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS – Since the last meeting Council Member Francis attended LAUSD Redistricting Commission Meeting, the Town Hall Meeting at LAUSD to plan an increase achievement for Black Students; Dr. George McKenna is the organizer, she also attended the Holly Park Neighborhood Watch meeting for District 1, and the Fur Baby Lovefest Event. Council Member Francis congratulated Stephany Santin for her award from Supervisor Holly Mitchell. Also added more names to celebrate Hispanic Heritage and mentioned City Attorney Vasquez, Attorney General Xavier Becerra, and remembered Senator Dolores Huerta who worked along with Cesar Chavez. Council Member Francis shared that President Obama coined a phrase “Si Se Puede” (Yes, We Can) from Cesar Chavez. She then mentioned Alberto Gonzalez as he was the first United States Attorney General appointed by George Bush and Dan Medina was the first Mexican American to serve on the Gardena City Council. Lastly, encouraged everyone to keep wearing a mask, wash hands, and continue to social distance to fight COVID-19.
2. MAYOR PRO TEM TANAKA – Since the last meeting Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka attended the South Bay COG Steering Committee Meeting, Wine Food & Brew Festival, G-Trans Tailgate Party, and Fur Baby Love Fest Event. Mayor Pro Tem Tanaka thanked Stephany and her staff for the great work and thanked G-Trans for sponsoring the Tailgate Party. Then, he shared the Fur Baby Lovefest Event will have to be yearly since there was a great turnout. Lastly, mentioned the Gardena sign in front of City Hall is purple and thanked staff as that’s his favorite color.
3. COUNCIL MEMBER KASKANIAN – Council Member Kaskanian thanked staff for the Food Wine and Cigar Festival as it was a great event and congratulated Stephany on her award from Supervisor Holly Mitchell.

4. MAYOR CERDA – Mayor Cerda attended the Employee Recognition Event, thanked all employees for their hard work and thanked her fellow colleagues for their leadership and hard work. Since the previous meeting Mayor Cerda attended the Fall Games at Freeman Park, was a Grand Marshall for the Gardena High School Homecoming Game, Food Wine and Brew Festival, and Tailgate Party. Mayor Cerda thanked staff for the Food Wine and Brew Festival and the Tailgate Party. She also apologized for not attending the Fur Baby Lovefest event. Mayor Cerda mentioned Gardena residents were concerned as it was mentioned Governor Newsom was in Gardena signing SB 2 and residents not being notified. Mayor Cerda then shared Council did not find out until the very last minute and unfortunately both the Mayor and Council were not invited to the event. She also spoke with the Governor’s staff and when she inquired about the event and not being invited, she was told it was a result of State Senator Steven Bradford. Mayor Cerda still attended the event that day and found out other members such as Mayor of Compton and Mayor of Lawndale were invited. Lastly, she stated it was a real disservice from the Governor’s office to come to the City of Gardena after council supported him on the recall election and residents would have appreciated being able to see the Governor.
5. COUNCIL MEMBER HENDERSON – Since the last meeting Council Member Henderson attended the Mobility21 Conference, BizFed Broadband Conference, and Food Wine and Brew Festival. Council Member Henderson thanked Stephany Santin and staff for their work. He also commented on the new layout and shared everyone liked it. He also wanted to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month and shared he has had the pleasure of meeting City Attorney Vasquez family. He met her sister who is also an attorney, her brother Fernando and shared the city is lucky to have Attorney Vasquez. Council Member Henderson wanted to acknowledge President Joe Biden for recognizing the first Indigenous People’s Day this year. Lastly, he mentioned that he will be attending a meeting with Bizfed Responsible Governance Committee.

22. ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

Mayor Cerda announced:

1. Helping Hands 2021 Holiday Toy Drive. City Employees please support our Helping Hands Program by donating new unwrapped toys for all ages. Beginning Monday, October 11, 2021, through Friday, December 3, 2021. Items needed: All age toys, books, art supplies, board games, sport equipment & gift cards. Donations can be dropped off at the following locations: City Hall; Human Services Department; G-Trans; Nakaoka Community Center and Gardena Police Department. For more information contact the Human Services Department at (310)217-9574 or helpinghands@cityofgardena.org.
2. Flyer - City of Gardena First Environmental Justice Survey - We want to hear from you! Survey will be made available until Friday, November 5th, link to the public survey can be found on the City's website at cityofgardena.org/environmental-justice-element or scan the QR code shown on the screen. If you have any questions, please contact the Planning Division at (310) 217-9527 or email CDDPlanningandZoning@cityofgardena.org.

23. REMEMBRANCES

Herbert Leo Wildfeuer; 84 years of age, longtime Gardena resident who had a successful career developing rental properties in Gardena.

24. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:15 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 26, 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