

**MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Gardena City Council
Tuesday, June 9, 2020**

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 of the City Council of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 1700 West 162nd Street, Gardena, California: Mayor Tasha Cerda presiding.

1. ROLL CALL

Present via teleconference: Mayor Tasha Cerda; Mayor Pro Tem Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka; Council Member Art Kaskanian; and Council Member Paulette C. Francis. Other City officials and employees present via teleconference: City Manager Clint Osorio; City Attorney Carmen Vasquez; City Clerk Mina Semenza; and Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero. City Treasurer Ingrid Tsukiyama was not present.

At 7:06 p.m., the City Council recessed into Closed Session with the following present via teleconference: Mayor Tasha Cerda; Mayor Pro Tem Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka; Council Member Art Kaskanian; and Council Member Paulette C. Francis. Other City officials and employees present via teleconference: City Manager Clint Osorio; City Attorney Carmen Vasquez; and Chief of Police Mike Saffell.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION

2. CLOSED SESSION

A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Government Code Section 54957.6

Agency Designated Representative:

Clint Osorio, City Manager

Employee Organizations:

Gardena Police Officers Association (GPOA)

Matt Hassholdt, Association President

Gardena Management Employees Organization (GMEO)

Vicky L. Barker, Attorney

Gardena Municipal Employees Association (GMEA)

Fred G. Quiel, Attorney

Confidential / Unrepresented Employees

B. THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICE OR FACILITIES

Government Code Section 54957

Consultation with Gardena Director of Emergency Services and City Manager Clint Osorio, Chief of Police Michael Saffell, and City Attorney Carmen Vasquez

2. CLOSED SESSION (Continued)

**C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL EXISTING LITIGATION
Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)**

- (1) Jones, Cecile v. City of Gardena, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC601609
- (2) Prendergast, Steven v. City of Gardena, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV17648

Mayor Cerda reconvened the meeting to the Regular Open Session at 7:50 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 & INVOCATION

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. INVOCATION

Council Member Rodney G. Tanaka led the Invocation.

4. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, & APPOINTMENTS

A. PRESENTATIONS - *None*

B. PROCLAMATIONS - *None*

C. APPOINTMENTS

- (1) Council Appointments to Commissions, Committees, Councils, and Boards
(Appointees to be Ratified and Sworn In)
 - (a) Human Services Commission
 - (b) Planning and Environmental Quality Commission
 - (c) Recreation and Parks Commission
 - (d) Senior Citizens Commission
 - (e) Gardena Youth Commission
 - (f) Gardena Beautification Committee
 - (g) Gardena Economic Business Advisory Council
 - (h) Gardena Rent Mediation Board, Owner Representative
 - (i) Gardena Rent Mediation Board, Tenant Representative
 - (j) Gardena Rent Mediation Board, At-Large Representative

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. WAIVER OF READING IN FULL OF ALL ORDINANCES LISTED ON THIS AGENDA AND THAT THEY BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

B. CITY CLERK

(1) Minutes of

(a) **Approved:** Planning & Environmental Quality Commission Meeting, May 19, 2020

(2) **Approved:** Affidavit of Posting Agenda on June 5, 2020

C. CITY TREASURER

(1) **Approved:** Warrants / Payroll Register

June 9, 2020: Wire Transfer: 11885-11887; Check Nos. 159344-159447 - for a total Warrants issued in the amount of \$1,889,215.24; Total Payroll Issued for June 5, 2020: \$1,515,657.46

D. CITY MANAGER

(1) **Approved:** Personnel Report No. P-2020-10

It was moved by Council Member Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Kaskanian, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve the Consent Calendar:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

6. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

7. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET

A. June 2, 2020, MEETING

(1) **Site Plan Review #3-19; Tentative Parcel Map #2-19; Modification of Memorandum #10-05 approving Site Plan Review #6-05 for Target and Variance #1-05 for a reduction in parking on the Target Site**

The Planning Commission reviewed a request for a Tentative Parcel Map to divide a 9.47 acre parcel into two parcels for a fast-food, drive-thru restaurant. Revisions to the previous Site Plan approval and Parking Variance for the Target site were needed to reduce the Target parcel size and allow a reduction in parking. A Site Plan approval was also reviewed for the creation of the standalone drive-thru restaurant. The project qualified for a categorical exemption from CEQA.

Project Location: 2169 West Redondo Beach Boulevard (APN: 4063-014-017)

Applicant: Kristen Roberts, Raising Cane's/Target Corporation

Commission Action: Commission approved Resolution No. PC 3-20, approving Site Plan Review #3-19, Tentative Parcel Map #2-19 and the Modification to Memorandum #10-05.

Received and Filed

7. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET (Continued)

B. June 2, 2020, MEETING

(2) **General Plan Amendment #3-20/Adoption of Revised CEQA Policies and Procedures which Incorporate New Thresholds for Transportation Impacts**

The Planning Commission considered a recommendation to the City Council amending the Circulation Plan of the City's General Plan to reflect changes based on new requirements for Vehicle Miles Traveled instead of Level of Service and other updates, adopted revised CEQA policies and procedures which incorporate new thresholds for transportation impacts related to vehicle miles traveled, and directed staff to prepare a notice of exemption.

Commission Action: Commission approved Resolution No. PC 5-20, recommending that the City Council amend the Circulation Plan, adopt the revised CEQA Guidelines, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption.

Received and Filed

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were three (3) people who requested to speak. They all forwarded emails that were read into the record by our City Clerk Mina Semenza.

- (1) Wanda Love, Chief Executive Officer of the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce: Ms. Love expressed her concerns regarding the termination of the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce MOU with the City of Gardena.
- (2) Anna Naguchi and Jose Hernandez, residents: Ms. Naguchi and Mr. Hernandez expressed their concerns regarding the growing national trend to defund Local Police Departments.
- (3) Duane Cofield, no address on file: Mr. Cofield expressed his concern regarding why the Mayor and Police Department had no comment on the murder of George Floyd but rather chose to promote enforcement and curfew.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS

A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – *No Items*

B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - *No Items*

C. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

- (1) RESOLUTION NO. 6457, Adopt Resolution Ratifying the Proclamation Declaring Existence of Local Emergency

RESOLUTION NO. 6457

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, RATIFYING THE ACTION OF THE CITY MANAGER ACTING AS THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IN PROCLAIMING THE EXISTENCE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF GARDENA

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

C. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES (Continued)

- (1) RESOLUTION NO. 6457, Adopt Resolution Ratifying the Proclamation Declaring Existence of Local Emergency (Continued)

There was a discussion regarding the amount of money that has already been incurred on PPE, and how long it would take for us to get reimbursed by FEMA. It was then discussed that we have no knowledge of when we would get reimbursed, we are pro-actively keeping track so when FEMA starts to reimburse, we would qualify. Mayor Cerda asked about how much has been spent since the pandemic started. Chief Saffell justified that we have spent \$165,000, a portion of that was spent on overtime for our police officers. He also gave a report on thefts and burglaries around the City. He explained that we did assist other cities, who are in Area G, a mutual aid conglomerate that we, along with other cities belong to and help out when resources are needed; he continued to say that a lot of this information is given out at our community district policing meetings. There were 5 speakers who requested to speak and voiced their concerns regarding the subject matter. They were as follows: 1) Mr. Rudy Martinez, resident; 2) Ms. Wanda Love, Chief Executive Officer of the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce; 3) Ms. Alexis Moore, no address on record; 4) An Anonymous Person, whose statement was read into the record; and 5) Ms. Felicia Benjamin, no address on record.

It was moved by Council Member Tanaka, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt Resolution No. 6457:

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

D. GENERAL SERVICES

- (1) PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION NO. 6450, Confirming the Diagram and Assessment Contained in the Engineer’s Report Dated May 12, 2020, for the Gardena Artesia Boulevard Landscaping Assessment District and Ordering the Levy of Assessments on the same for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

RESOLUTION NO. 6450

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CONFIRMING THE DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENT CONTAINED IN THE ENGINEER’S REPORT DATED MAY 12, 2020, FOR THE GARDENA ARTESIA BOULEVARD LANDSCAPING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT AND ORDERING THE LEVY OF ASSESSMENTS ON THE SAME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Cerda asked if there were any comments from Council. There was a discussion between Mayor Pro Tem Henderson and City Manager Osorio regarding the drop in revenues we anticipate from property taxes. City Manager Osorio confirmed it is an average amount with an assessment on property taxes.

She then opened the Public Hearing at 8:30p.m. and asked if there were any comments from the Public; hearing that there were none, she closed the Public Hearing at 8:31p.m.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

D. GENERAL SERVICES (Continued)

- (1) PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION NO. 6450, Confirming the Diagram and Assessment Contained in the Engineer's Report Dated May 12, 2020, for the Gardena Artesia Boulevard Landscaping Assessment District and Ordering the Levy of Assessments on the same for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (Continued)

It was moved by Mayor Cerda, seconded by Council Member Tanaka, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt Resolution No. 6450:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

- (2) PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION NO. 6451, Confirming the Diagram and Assessment Contained in the Engineer's Report Dated May 12, 2020 for the Gardena Consolidated Street Lighting Assessment District and Ordering the Levy of Assessments on the Same for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

RESOLUTION NO. 6451

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CONFIRMING THE DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENT CONTAINED IN THE ENGINEER'S REPORT DATED MAY 12, 2020, FOR THE GARDENA CONSOLIDATED STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT AND ORDERING THE LEVY OF ASSESSMENTS ON THE SAME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Cerda asked if there were any comments from Council, hearing that there were none, she opened the Public Hearing at 8:33p.m. and asked if there were any comments from Public. There were two speakers who requested to speak and voice their concerns regarding if projects such as this one, would take time away from staff and cause significant delays in getting a permit processed through our Community Development Department and if the layoffs were going to affect that department. They were: 1) Mr. Rudy Martinez, resident; and 2) Ms. Wanda Love, Chief Executive Officer of the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Cerda then closed the Public Hearing at 8:42p.m.

It was moved by Council Member Kaskanian, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt Resolution No. 6451:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

E. POLICE

- (1) Acceptance of the Award and Authorization to Spend \$77,884.00 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Under the FY 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program

City Manager Osorio presented the Staff Report.

There was a discussion regarding a contingency plan in case all the money being awarded is spent; it was further discussed that our Task Force team would apply again, and we would eventually get reimbursed by FEMA. Chief Saffell then added that we would make sure people are following guidelines, we would support Code Enforcement to provide assistance and give guidance to our businesses to work in collaboration with our Police Department. There were three speakers who requested to speak and voice their concerns regarding the subject matter. They were: 1) Ms. Wanda Love, Chief Executive Officer of the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce; 2) Mr. Rudy Martinez, resident; and 3) Ms. Annie Naguchi, resident.

Mayor Cerda then stated that she wants businesses to open up as soon as possible and wanted to let our residents know that public safety is always first.

It was moved by Council Member Tanaka, seconded by Council Member Francis, and carried by the following roll call vote to Accept Grant Award and Authorize Expenditures:

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

F. RECREATION & HUMAN SERVICES – No Items

G. TRANSPORTATION – No Items

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS

A. COUNCIL ITEMS – No Items

B. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES

- (1) Mayor Pro Tem Henderson asked if we could develop an advisory panel which includes the Chief of Police and Council Members and City Manager, to issue a collaborative statement to our African American residents that we do not condone to what the officers in Minneapolis did to Mr. Floyd. Mayor Cerda clarified that she would like to do a listening campaign that would then develop into an advisory committee and seconded the items.
- (2) Council Member Kaskanian requested to have our Closed Session meetings in person at City Hall. Mayor Cerda asked if we could hold off on the directive and bring back at a later time. Council Member Tanaka seconded it.
- (3) Council Member Tanaka asked if our Police Chief could look into the excessive fireworks that have been going off all hours of the day. Mayor Pro Tem Henderson seconded it.

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS (Continued)

B. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES (Continued)

- (4) Council Member Francis asked if she could get a report about Vote Centers for our November Election – Deputy City Clerk Romero replied that she would get her an update Council Member Francis then asked if she could get a report regarding state and federal legislation, if any bills have been introduced, with regard to getting annual psychological evaluations for our officers. Mayor Pro Tem Henderson seconded it.

C. CITY MANAGER REMARKS RE: DIRECTIVES / COUNCIL ITEMS

- (1) A memorandum which has been included in your packet that was prepared regarding Council Member Kaskanian's directive regarding if Developers are required to hire local suppliers;
- (2) A report, included in your packet, that Chief Saffell prepared regarding Detention and Arrest Oversight;
- (3) A memorandum, included in your packet, regarding community inquiry re: burglaries at Purche Elementary School;
- (4) City Manager provided a list of problematic addresses that were put into Gardena Direct by our residents and gave a report on how staff has taken steps to get these issues taken care of; and
- (5) A video by our Recreation Department who worked with Waste Resources, sponsor, to host a Graduation Station Event set up on the lawn at the Nakaoka Community Center where 2020 graduates came to take pictures.

D. COUNCIL REMARKS

- (1) COUNCIL MEMBER TANAKA – He attended SBCCOG Board Meeting and the SBCCOG Steering Committee Meeting. He stopped by the Graduation Event at City Hall Lawn and is really proud of our City during this pandemic. He mentioned to buy your Gardena Strong mask, it helps with donations to the Pantry. He stated that he does not support what happened in Minneapolis with George Floyd. We stand behind George Floyd. He is very proud of our City, Citizens, and Police Department. Our Police Department has gone through many positive changes since he has been there. He is proud of the peaceful protests and how we handle ourselves.
- (2) MAYOR PRO TEM HENDERSON – Thank you to our Parks and Rec staff for the 2020 graduation event. Through my anger and pain, thank you to Chief Saffell for letting me rant about Black Lives Matter issues. He attended Centinela Youth Services meeting and had a discussion on restorative justice for the youth. We have our own program so when funding comes back, we can look into the restorative justice program for the youth. He attended the Los Angeles Business Federation Responsible Governance Committee and pushed for an initiative to make sure we have financial support for municipalities and cities with less than 500,000 as law & order Cares Act & refunds are starting to go out. They believe that municipalities or cities with 500,000 people or less should receive help as well. He attended the SCAG meeting representing Region 28 that includes Gardena. We had a General Assembly Meeting; he is now on the legislative committee. We had a nice peaceful community dialogue on Bell side, and he thanked Commissioner Lawanda Stanton. He participated in a few Black Lives Matter discussions online. He thanked the president of the GPOA. We had a couple discussions on how we can change some things. Looking forward to great things coming out of this pandemic as well as racial inequality. Our community needs to be on the forefront.

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS (Continued)

D, COUNCIL REMARKS (Continued)

- (3) COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS – She said thank you to staff for all they do to keep our city running. Also thanked Public Works for cleaning up the Rosecrans median. She stated it has been a difficult week but All Lives Matter when Black Lives Matter.
- (4) MAYOR CERDA – She said congratulations to all the graduates this year. This will be one of those unique things the graduates will remember from 2020 regarding COVID. Special thank you to Recreation and Human Services along with WRG for the graduation stations. Always great to know we are on the forefront with these types of things. She stated 400 people came out to enjoy and take pictures and that it is important to keep the moral good during COVID. She attended a Flag ceremony for one of our firemen, Ernie Marquez. The Fire Department held it at Station 159 on 135th. They had multiple firetrucks out there. She was happy to be there and be part of it. It was great to see all the current and retired firemen. She mentioned fireworks and how bad it has gotten. She wanted to tell the residents if they see a firework up in the air or that makes noise it is illegal. She has been calling the police as she sees the people doing illegal fireworks. Reminded everybody to call the police on illegal fireworks. She then mentioned she is outraged by what happened to George Floyd and added him to our Remembrances. She said when the time is right the City of Gardena will make a statement. This is not a situation we take lightly and as an African American woman she does not stand for what happened. With COVID going on and protests, tensions are high, we are evaluating when to make a statement. I am proud of our City and how we have figured out how to work cohesively and as a team with Council, City Manager, and all the departments.
- (5) COUNCIL MEMBER KASKANIAN – He delivered over 1,000 bottles of water to the Japanese Cultural Institute in Gardena. Within the next couple of weeks, we will have a food delivery to the JCI. He has been working hard with big corporations to deliver food, water, and supplies. He stated George Floyd's death was a wrongful death and was unacceptable. He attended peaceful protests in downtown LA. He also attended an Armenian for Black Lives Matter peaceful protest in Glendale. He stated we are all one human and under one nation and condolences to the Floyd's family.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS - *None*

11. REMEMBRANCES

Ms. Mattie Williams, a longtime resident of Gardena who was involved in many organizations over the years; and Mrs. Rosa M. Ramos, 63 years of age, beloved mother of Customer Service Clerk, Jennifer Ramos' and Mr. George Floyd, 46 years of age, who died while in the custody of Minneapolis Police Officers.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:44 p.m., Mayor Cerda adjourned to a Special City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2020.

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