

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Gardena City Council
Tuesday, September 27, 2016

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Gardena, California, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, in the Council Chamber of City Hall at 1700 West 162nd Street, Gardena, California; Mayor Pro Tem Mark E. Henderson presiding.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Terrence Terauchi; Council Member Dan Medina; and Council Member Tasha Cerda. Other City officials and employees present: City Manager Mitchell G. Lansdell; City Attorney Peter L. Wallin; City Treasurer Ingrid Tsukiyama; City Clerk Mina Semenza; and Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero.

At 7:02 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 Pro Tem Mark E. Henderson; Council Member Terrence Terauchi; Council Member Dan Medina; Council Member Tasha Cerda; City Manager Mitchell G. Lansdell; and City Attorney Peter L. Wallin.

2. CLOSED SESSION

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL
EXISTING LITIGATION

Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)

- (1) City of Gardena v. Regional Water Quality Control Board, etc., et al
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BSI564572

B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Government Code Section 54957.6

- (1) Agency Designated Representative:
Mitchell G. Lansdell, City Manager
Employee Organizations:
Unrepresented Employees
Gardena Police Officers Association (GPOA)
David Brock, Association President
Gardena Management Employees Organization (GMEO)
Vicky L. Barker, Attorney
Gardena Municipal Employees Association (GMEA)
Fred G. Quiel, Attorney

C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Government Code, Section 54957(b)(1)

Title: City Manager

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson reconvened the meeting to the Regular Open Session at 7:35 p.m. and the City Clerk noted the return of all Council Members who were present at the meeting.

When Mayor Pro Tem Henderson asked for a Closed Session Report, City Attorney Wallin reported that no reportable action had been taken.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Destiny Urrutia and Rudy Boteo, (both 5th Grade Students) and Scarlett Avina and John Rodriguez (both 4th Grade Students) at 135th Street Elementary School led the Pledge of Allegiance. These students were selected by their Principal because they are excellent school citizens and exemplary role models for their classmates. All of the students introduced their parents who had accompanied them to the meeting.

B. INVOCATION

The Reverend John E. Ward, Senior Pastor / Minister of Music, First Southern Baptist Church of Gardena, gave the Invocation.

4. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, & APPOINTMENTS

A. PRESENTATIONS

(1) Certificate of Appreciation to Jeanette F. Brown, in Recognition of 26 years of Dedicated Service to this Community as the owner of J’Nette’s Quality Cleaners – *was accepted by Ms. Jeanette Brown*

B. PROCLAMATIONS

(1) “City Employee Recognition Day,” September 29, 2016
– *was proclaimed by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson*

(2) “Gardena Heritage Day,” October 1, 2016
- *was proclaimed by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson*

C. APPOINTMENTS

(1) Council Appointments to Commissions, Committees, Board, and Council

(d) **ADD ON:** Senior Citizens Commission

(1) Mr. Luis A. Carrillo – Appointment recommendation by Council Member Medina
Council unanimously agreed to appoint Mr. Carrillo to the Senior Citizens Commission and Mr. Carrillo was sworn into office.

(f) Gardena Beautification Committee

(1) Mr. Paul Hall – was not present – Appointment recommendation by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson – Council unanimously agreed to appoint Mr. Hall to the Gardena Beautification Committee.

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) **Approved:** Minutes of

(a) Planning & Environmental Quality Commission, September 6, 2016

(2) **Approved:** Affidavit of Posting Agenda on September 23, 2016

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR (Continued)**

C. **CITY TREASURER**

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

(a) September 27, 2016: Wire Transfer No. 11523-11528; Prepay Nos. 140407-140415 and Check Nos. 140416-140636 for a total amount of \$2,369,377.94; Total Payroll Issued September 16, 2016: \$1,950,265.19; and

(2) **Approved:** Monthly Investment Portfolio Report

(a) July 2016 (Revised)

(b) August 2016

D. **CITY MANAGER**

(1) **Approved:** Personnel Report No. P-2016-16

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson asked if there was any discussion in the Finance Committee Meeting regarding how we are going to work with the Utility Users Tax, Delta and the Card Club losses; was there any discussion around that moving forward?

City Manager Lansdell replied that there was no direct discussion at the Finance Committee Meeting. However, Council may recall that they did pass a provision relative to new prepaid cell phone cards; it is thought, in time, that income will kick in and make our UUT whole. Regarding the Card Clubs side, Card Clubs proceeds were down last year; the Lucky Lady Casino was in its first full month of operation, and is about where the Normandie Casino had been prior to them reducing the table count. It is believed that for the current year and going forward we will meet the expectations of the budget and that, two years from now, we will be exceeding those numbers.

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson then asked when is the next Finance Committee Meeting?

City Manager Lansdell replied it has not been set yet. All the Council Members will be notified. He expects they will meet sometime at the end of February or early March.

It was moved by Council Member Medina, seconded by Council Member Cerda, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve all the Items on the Consent Calendar:

Ayes: Council Members Medina, Cerda, and Terauchi, and Mayor Pro Tem Henderson

Noes: None

Absent: None

6. **EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR**

7. **PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ACTION SHEET**

A. **SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 MEETING**

(1) **Conditional Use Permit #2-16**

A request to allow the on-site sale and consumption of beer and wine as part of a wide variety of beverage offered ancillary to the existing 775 square foot instructional art studio establishment in the General Commercial (C-3) zone.

Project location: 14800 South Western Avenue Unit 104 (APN: 6103-022-090)

Applicant: Frances McIver

Commission Action: Commission **Adopted** Resolution No. PC 12-16 approving Conditional Use Permit #2-16 and directed Staff to file a notice of exemption

Received and Filed

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- (1) Peter Montoya, Contractor – shared his problem regarding obtaining an encroachment permit in Gardena.
- (2) Cheral Sherman, VP of Friends of Gardena Willows Wetland Preserve – invited everyone to their Restoration Workday scheduled on Saturday, October 15, 2016, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Many volunteers will be needed. She also announced that the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the formation of the Friends of Gardena Willows Wetland Preserve will be held on Sunday, November 13, 2016, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- (3) Neal C. Holmes, representative for Crossroad Church South Bay – announced and invited everyone to come to their “South Bay Night Market,” to be held on Thursdays beginning Thursday, October 6, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at Crossroad Church South Bay, 2818 Manhattan Beach Boulevard.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS

A. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

- (1) Approving Notice of Public Hearing for Sewer Rate Increase and set a Public Hearing date of December 13, 2016.

City Manager Lansdell presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson stated that he did not hear mention of the Sewer Lifeline Rate for those who are over 60 years old. Does that rate also apply to those who are on low income?

City Manager Lansdell replied he did not mention the Sewer Lifeline Rate for those who are over 60 years old to apply for the rate, which would be at a reduced rate of 50%, but it is indicated in the agenda materials. A notice and fact sheet will be mailed out for study and consideration, and the public hearing will be set on December 13, 2016.

Council Member Cerda asked if the notice will be mailed out to about 12,000 households? She also asked that, if some type of action is not taken this year, will we will run out of sewer funds? She noted that the City of South Pasadena had a major blowout and asked if our sewer system is as old as theirs?

City Manager Lansdell replied that the Enterprise Fund will run a deficit and we will have to draw down on the General Fund. The City Council did authorize a complete camera sewer study; Pasadena is a little older than our City, but sewer-wise, most of the infrastructure throughout Los Angeles County is 50 to 100 years old.

Council Member Medina asked the about the itemization of fees; he stated it's from \$.25 to \$.50 for residential and a little higher for non-residential and small business rate from \$.20 to \$.45. He asked if small businesses should also be concerned as opposed to being non-resident, which is \$.50, or was he getting his numbers wrong?

City Manager Lansdell responded that the \$.50 rate is for residential households, single family residence with these small services; that apartment buildings with the larger services would fall to the commercial side.

Council Member Medina then stated that it shows on page 12 that the small business would be .45 instead of .50?

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

A. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES (Continued)

- (1) Approving Notice of Public Hearing for Sewer Rate Increase and set a Public Hearing date of December 13, 2016 (Continued)

City Manager Lansdell replied that the rate is based on estimated usage, not the actual fee.

It was moved by Council Member Cerda, seconded by Council Member Terauchi, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve the Hearing Notice and the Public Hearing was set for December 13, 2016:

**Ayes: Council Members Cerda, Terauchi, and Medina, and Mayor Pro Tem Henderson
Noes: None
Absent: None**

- (2) ORDINANCE NO. 1770, Amending Section 2.04.170 of the Gardena Municipal Code Setting the Compensation of the Mayor and Members of the City Council

ORDINANCE NO. 1770

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 2.04.170 OF THE GARDENA MUNICIPAL CODE SETTING THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

City Manager Lansdell presented the Staff Report.

Mr. Terry Kennedy spoke in opposition of this item.

Council Member Medina shared that he has not received a raise since 2008, he stated that he spends about an average of 120 hours a week going to downtown Los Angeles, Santa Fe Springs. He then said that the time the people on this dais spend at various City functions is not necessarily something one can rate within a timeframe; none of the Council took on this responsibility for the money; the Council Members are doing this because we want to serve.

Council Member Cerda shared that Members of Council attend a lot of events throughout the month; even though they are reported very briefly during our Council Remarks; these events usually last from one to three hours. She then said, "Please don't get me wrong, we enjoy what we do, but a lot of times we are going into our own pocket, with gas, cell phone, etc." She went on indicating that an increase is something that is fair, and that Gardena employees are getting increases, as well. She doesn't think that it's asking too much to get a little bit more so that Gardena Council pay is not at the low end, as compared to some of our neighboring cities.

Council Member Terauchi stated that he rarely agrees with Mr. Kennedy, but had to admit that he agrees with him on this one. He said that the Council doesn't serve here for money and shouldn't be concerned about the compensation received for sitting on the City Council. He then said that increasing our salary at the 5% per year maximum is a lot; that 5% is more than the cost of living, that gas prices have actually gone down, and that the cost of living is 1% to 2%, not 5%. He said he would have some serious questions if this were going to go forward.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

A. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES (Continued)

- (2) ORDINANCE NO. 1770, Amending Section 2.04.170 of the Gardena Municipal Code Setting the Compensation of the Mayor and Members of the City Council (Continued)

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson shared that he agrees with all my colleagues, there is a lot we do beyond the two meetings per month; that Council Members are part of other groups, associations, etc. where we represent the City of Gardena. He then said that he does agree with Council Member Terauchi; that the increase is kind of high and that maybe we need to do some further studying.

Ordinance No. 1770 was Introduced by Council Member Cerda.

B. POLICE, STREETS & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- (1) Authorization to Execute a Three-Year Professional Services Agreement with Alarm Program Systems, LLC

City Manager Lansdell presented the Staff Report.

Council Member Cerda asked about if a person wanting to speak with someone directly, can they go into a facility in Gardena? She also commented that she read that it reduces the number of false calls and asked if that is because of the education side of it?

City Manager Lansdell replied that, for those are cities that they are currently servicing; if someone wanted to speak directly to a person, one would go to Community Development and a meeting would be set up. He stated that we do attempt to educate business owners to train their staff; a third party vendor providing that education may provide a little more force and, and will be enforcing the improvement of the alarm system so we don't have false alarms.

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson asked if this analysis is okay to share with some of his other colleagues? He also congratulated City staff on doing great work with this analysis.

City Manager Lansdell replied that the analysis is a public document.

It was moved by Council Member Cerda, seconded by Council Member Medina, and carried by the following roll call vote to Award the Contract to Alarm Program Systems, LLC

Ayes: Council Members Cerda, Medina, and Terauchi, and Mayor Pro Tem Henderson

Noes: None

Absent: None

- (2) Ratification of Purchase for 2014 Thor Outlaw 37LS Recreational Vehicle in the Amount of \$102,865.

City Manager Lansdell presented the Staff Report.

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson asked how long will it take us to get the branding on it?

Chjef Medrano came up to the podium and replied that bids are currently being taken to either paint or possibly put a wrap on it. The wrap option was suggested by our Transportation Department. That option could be substantially cheaper.

8. **DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)**

B. **POLICE, STREETS & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (Continued)**

- (3) Ratification of Purchase for 2014 Thor Outlaw 37LS Recreational Vehicle in the Amount of \$102,865.
(Continued)

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson then asked when it is planned to get it out on rotation; possibly at the first of the year?

Chief Medrano replied that it is hoped to get that done a lot sooner; that, as Council knows, Gardena hosts Neighborhood Watch meetings out of people homes and, eventually, we would like to roll down the street, close it off, and have a meeting right there in the neighborhood. If we know of residents who are willing to host, we would come to you and do the full set up, the host would just have to get the word out.

It was moved by Council Member Cerda, seconded by Council Member Medina, and carried by the following roll call vote to Ratify the Purchase of the Recreational Vehicle:

Ayes: Council Members Cerda, Medina and Terauchi, and Mayor Pro Tem Henderson
Noes: None
Absent: None

C. **RECREATION, HUMAN SERVICES, PARKS & FACILITIES – No Items**

D. **TRANSPORTATION – No Items**

9. **COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS**

A. **COUNCIL ITEMS – No Items**

B. **COUNCIL DIRECTIVES – None**

C. **COUNCIL REMARKS**

- (1) **COUNCIL MEMBER CERDA** – reported that, since the last Council Meeting, she attended the following events: Gardena’s 17th Annual Keep Gardena Beautiful Day followed by a reception was held at Mas Fukai Park where she thanked all the volunteers who participated in the event; the quarterly Finance Committee Meeting; the ground breaking ceremony for Gardena’s Recycling Water Pipeline project held at Author Johnson Park and is very excited to see this project move forward. She congratulated Gardena’s Council Member Medina for his participation in the project. She also attended the 7th Annual Gardena Food, Wine, and Cigar Festival and gave a special “thank you” to all who were involved in that event. She spoke about some highlights of the event, acknowledging Stuart Gorsky, a volunteer, who took many photos of the event; she mentioned that the photos that were taken could be viewed at the Gardena Neighborhood Watch website.
- (2) **COUNCIL MEMBER TERAUCHI** – thanked Kelly Fujio, Director of Recreation, Human Services, Parks & Facilities Department for fixing the restrooms at Mas Fukai park. He had no events to report.

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS (Continued)

C. COUNCIL REMARKS (Continued)

- (3) COUNCIL MEMBER MEDINA – began his remarks by congratulating Director Kelly Fujio for the extraordinary way in which the Civic Center and parking lot was set up for all of the guests in attendance at the 7th Annual Gardena Food, Wine, and Cigar Festival – that it was an overall fun day. He also reported that he was a guest speaker for “Government Day” at the New Millennium High School, a secondary high school on Gardena High School property. The students had lot of interesting questions pertaining to government and, if those students choose to proceed in that direction, they will be successful; their average GPA is 3.8. He attended the Sanitation District meeting; the Vector Control meeting in Santa Fe Springs and gave a brief description of how to identify the Zika mosquitos. Regarding the Sanitation District, he reported that the City of Gardena has over 110 miles of sewer pipes in need of replacement, because they are over a hundred years old; He also attended the South Bay Cities Council of Governments and South Bay Workforce Investment Board meetings. He encouraged employers, as well as job seekers, to visit the SBWIB and the Gardena One Stop, and explore the many benefits and services they offer. He attended the ceremony at Author Johnson Park for the ground breaking of the Recycling Water Pipeline project which has years in the making. Lastly, he attended the Keep Gardena Beautiful Day activities.
- (4) MAYOR PRO TEM HENDERSON – reported that he participated in a health survey at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation at Drexel University. He spoke about his experience and that the City of Gardena’s percentage of obesity is at an alarming rate of fifty percent. He attended the Gardena Food, Wine, & Cigar Festival. He ended his report by encouraging Council Members to start using their electronic devices, the Microsoft services to move forward in an effort for cost savings.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) “Pancake Breakfast” hosted by Gardena Police Department, Saturday, October 1, 2016, 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., at Nakaoka Community Center. All proceeds will go to the Police K-9 units.
- (2) “Heritage Festival & Street Fair,” Saturday, October 1, 2016, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., on the Civic Center grounds.
- (3) “National Coffee with a Cop Day Celebration,” Friday, October 7, 2016, at Sam’s Club in Gardena, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

11. REMEMBRANCES

Mr. David J. Theobald, 86 years of age, beloved Grandfather of Recreation Coordinator Christina Theobald with the Recreation Division of the Recreation, Human Services, Parks and Facilities Department; and Mrs. Annabelle Kim, 87 years old, beloved mother of long-time Gardena businessman Leonard Kim, owner of Cherrystones Grill and Grotto. Mrs. Kim is the wife of George Kim, DDS and mother of six children: Leonard, Allyson, Karen, Paul, Donna, and Joel. The Kims have fourteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:15 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Henderson adjourned the Gardena City Council Meeting to the next Regular City Council Meeting, at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, October 11, 2016.

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

By: _____
Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED:

Mark E. Henderson, Mayor Pro Tem