

**MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
City of Gardena City Council
Tuesday, October 11, 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, October 11, 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 Clerk Mina Semenza; and Deputy City Clerk Becky Romero. City Treasurer Ingrid Tsukiyama was not present at the meeting.

At 7:01 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) Natalia Montalvo and Bryan Epps v. City of Gardena
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. YC068118
- (2) City of Gardena v. Regional Water Quality Control Board, etc., et al
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS1563472

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

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson reconvened the meeting to the Regular Open Session at 7:30 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**

Yazmin Garcia (12th Grade) and Mary Ramirez, (10th Grade), both of Gardena High School, led the Pledge of Allegiance. These students are both members / representatives of the Gardena High School G -DAAP (Gardena Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program) Task Force.

B. **INVOCATION**

The Reverend Mando Luna, a Pastor at CrossRoad South Bay, gave the Invocation.

4. **PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, & APPOINTMENTS**

A. **PRESENTATIONS** – *None*

B. **PROCLAMATIONS**

(1) “Gardena Red Ribbon Week,” October 23 through 31, 2016 – *was accepted by G-DAAP Chairman Richard Gomez; members of the Gardena High School Task Force; and Jorge Guandique, AADAP Community Organizer*

C. **APPOINTMENTS**

(1) Council Appointments to Commissions, Committees, Board, and Council – *None*

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) City Council Regular Meeting, September 13, 2016

(b) City Council Regular Meeting, September 27, 2016

(2) **Approved:** Affidavit of Posting Agenda on October 7, 2016

C. **CITY TREASURER**

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

(a) October 11, 2016: Wire Transfer No. 11529-11531; Prepay Nos. 140637-140645 and Check Nos. 140646-140809 for a total amount of \$1,260,051.33; Total Payroll Issued September 30, 2016: \$1,577,689.95; and

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR (Continued)**

D. **CITY MANAGER**

- (1) **Approved:** Personnel Report No. P-2016-17

It was moved by Council Member Terauchi, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt the Consent Calendar:

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

6. **EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

A. **OCTOBER 4, 2016 MEETING – Meeting Cancelled**

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- (1) Karl Henry, resident – spoke about the sewer system rate increase proposal to be paid by citizens and suggested that the City’s Reserve Fund monies be used for that cost instead of putting the funds toward a new Police Facility.
- (2) Benjamin Butler, resident – reported to the Council, again, about cars speeding on 147th Street between Crenshaw Blvd. and Van Ness Ave. He requests that crosswalk signs and/or lanes be placed on this street to make it safe.
- (3) Cheral Sherman, VP of Friends of Gardena Willows Wetland Preserve – invited everyone to the following Willows events: 1) “Monthly Restoration Workday,” Saturday, October 15, 2016, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; 2) “Special Workday,” an all-day event, on Saturday, November 5, 2016, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch, water, and gloves will be furnished; and 3) The 10th Anniversary of the Preserve Celebration, on Sunday, November 13, 2016, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

8. **DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS**

A. **ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

- (1) **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
(Introduced by Council Member Tasha Cerda, September 27, 2016)

ORDINANCE NO. 1770

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA,
CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 20.04.170 OF THE GARDENA
MUNICIPAL CODE SETTING THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR
AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

City Manager Lansdell presented the Staff Report.

Terry Kennedy spoke in opposition to this item.

8. **DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS** (Continued)

A. **ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES** (Continued)

- (1) **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
(Introduced by Council Member Tasha Cerda, September 27, 2016) (Continued)

Council Member Terauchi distributed copies of the salary survey that had been presented by the City Manager (now containing handwritten changes to it) to the members of Council, City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk and announced that he was the one who had prepared it, and indicated that it also included some points that had been raised by Mr. Kennedy. Terauchi stated that the amounts on the survey that he had changed are accurate, and pointed out that the Gardena Council Members are earning more than some of the Council Members in our neighboring cities. The City Manager's survey included only the top cities in the South Bay; that it did not include Lawndale, Lomita, or any of the hill cities. If one were to look among the 13 cities on the chart, Gardena is the fourth highest paid. One thing unique to our City is Council Members are allowed to cash out on the medical benefits if we don't use them. The City of Redondo Beach is the only other city that allows that and, because of that and along with our car allowance, it puts Gardena as the second highest-paid City Council in the entire South Bay. He continued by saying that he is not sure how that justifies an increase in Council salaries. He urged his Council colleagues to vote against this Ordinance; stating that we should be serving our City because we want to and it shouldn't be based upon money that we put into our pockets.

Council Member Cerda stated that she believes that whatever the City Manager presents to the Council is true and the most accurate information, and that the handwritten comments on the survey that she has received tonight from Council Member Terauchi have not been verified. So, she cannot base her decision on it. The stipend that Council Members receive is not only for attending Council Meetings, but for events that are attended during work hours; the stipend is something to offset it. When the decision was made to run for public office, it wasn't about the money. The stipend increase won't go into effect until March 2017, so this is only preparing for the next Council coming in. She believes that the Council is doing a good job to stay proactive here, so it would only be fair.

Council Member Medina than spoke and mentioned that he attends other meetings 4 to 5 days every week for which he doesn't receive stipends. He indicated that he catches the bus to attend some of those meetings. He stated that Council Members do spend a lot of time attending meetings and functions and time is money. He said he is as a servant and that he will do what it takes to get the job done.

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson stated that Members of City Council do attend a lot of meetings around the region; it is the role for which Council asked and it is what we are doing. He said that he is okay with the current stipend and thinks that it's in poor taste right now, with everything going on with the sewer tax increase, to ask for a raise; all the City's other fiduciary responsibilities should be settled first.

It was moved by Council Member Cerda to adopt Ordinance No. 1770. The motion failed due to the lack of receiving a second to the motion.

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

A. ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES (Continued)

- (2) CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION allowing then Retired City Manager Mitchell G. Lansdell to serve as Interim City Manager for the City pursuant to Government Code Section 21221(h), Certifying an Urgent Need for an Exception to the 180-Day Wait Period, and Authorizing the Mayor Pro Tem to sign an Employment Agreement

RESOLUTION NO. 6245, Appointing Mitchell G. Lansdell as Interim Appointment Retire Annuitant to the Vacant Position of City Manager for the City of Gardena under Government Code Section 21221(h), Certifying an Urgent Need for an Exception to the 180-Day Wait Period, and Authorizing the Mayor Pro Tem to Sign and Employment Agreement

RESOLUTION NO. 6245

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, APPOINTING MITCHELL G. LANSDELL AS AN INTERIM APPOINTMENT RETIRED ANNUITANT TO THE VACANT POSITION OF CITY MANAGER FOR THE CITY OF GARDENA UNDER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 21221(H), EFFECTIVE JANUARY 3, 2017, CERTIFYING AN URGENT NEED FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE 180-DAY WAIT PERIOD AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR PRO TEM TO EXECUTE AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

City Manager Lansdell presented the Staff Report.

Wanda Love, Karl Henry and Clifton Woods all spoke in opposition to this item.

Council Member Medina asked City Manager Lansdell to confirm that he is to effectively retire on December 31, 2016. Also, as far as the qualifications of Chief Medrano to serve as City Manager, he has always been involved in most of the decision making for the City. The reason the City did not have department heads for all of our offices was because we had a \$28 million deficit. Therefore, our City Manager, along with Chief Medrano and Kelly Fujio took over running multiple departments and did the job without taking any extra income. Medina continued by saying that, as time and money gets better, he's sure the City will find the department heads that are needed.

City Manager Lansdell replied that the effective date of his retirement is December 31, 2016. If the Council were to pass the Resolution and the Employment Agreement and, if CalPERS were to approve it, that he would work on a part-time basis, 20-30 hours a week, until June 30, 2017. He said that the City Council voted in 3 to 2 in May 2016 to appoint Ed Medrano as the Acting Interim City Manager. While we could start a recruitment for City Manager in the market place, he doesn't know very many competent managers who would want to come into an environment knowing their bosses was going to change. Lansdell continued saying that he put this Resolution and Agreement forward for some continuity for the time of transition, yet, he is fine with the Council running with Chief Medrano; he believes that Chief Medrano is more than capable.

Council Member Cerda then stated that it was the community who came forward saying that we need to have a recruitment process; that we now have one. There is more than enough time, in the event we don't have a recruited City Manager, to have our Acting Interim City Manager serve. That process can be fulfilled; so that's what we're doing and she thinks it's only fair.

8. **DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)**

A. **ELECTED & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES (Continued)**

(2) **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION; and RESOLUTION NO. 6245 (Continued)**

Council Member Terauchi commented, indicating that it states in the Resolution that our current City Manager is going to do a search for a new City Manager prior to December 31, 2016. Our City Manager is very prudent and he supports Chief Medrano. There's a lot of uncertainty based on the upcoming Election, and he would be a stabilizing force from January to June depending upon the make up of the new City Council; that is how the issue will be decided by the March 7, 2017 Election. Our City Manager is trying to be very protective of the City. I think what he is saying is, if CalPERS approves, he can serve as the City Manager on a contractual basis, until we will be able to appoint an Interim City Manager.

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson stated that CalPERS is the body that is going to decide what happens here; that he agrees with the continuity of what happens because we did agree with a 3-2 vote that the Acting Interim City Manager would be Chief Medrano. He definitely understands consideration of this Resolution. We all know that the search is going to be ongoing; that it will take some time. With the authorization of this Resolution, if it does not get approved, then Chief Medrano will step up as the Acting Interim City Manager. Our community wants to know how are we going to get through this and wants make sure the search is underway.

City Manager Lansdell replied that his retirement papers have been submitted, with an effective date of December 31, 2016.

Police Chief Medrano then asked to speak. He was invited to do so by the Council. He stated that since he is involved in this process, he thinks that it's important that Council and the community hear from him on this matter. He said that, although he does have an agreement to take on the acting role when our current City Manager retires, he doesn't have a desire to do that under the current situation with all the things that are in transition; He believes that this Resolution is a perfect solution to our City's transitional problems, and totally supports our City Manager staying on and leading us through this transition phase to ensure that, whatever body is elected that they have an opportunity to select whoever they want to be their City Manager. Medrano continued, sharing that he has served this community for almost 30 years, that his desire to be a City Manager is not because it's a better job than what he has now. His desire to be a City Manager is to ensure that all the wonderful things we have done in this community continue to be led professionally. He encouraged the Members of City Council to keep this in mind for the best interest of the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Henderson then stated that the final decision will ultimately be made by CalPERS.

It was moved by Council Member Medina, seconded by Council Member Terauchi, and carried by the following roll call vote to Adopt Resolution No. 6245, and Approve the Employment Agreement:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

B. **POLICE, STREETS & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES – No Items**

8. DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS (Continued)

C. RECREATION, HUMAN SERVICES, PARKS & FACILITIES

- (1) Approval of Carnival Contract with Signature Events & Catering for Carnival at Mas Fukai Park, October 28, 29, 30, and 31, 2016

City Manager Lansdell presented the Staff Report.

It was moved by Council Member Terauchi, seconded by Council Member Medina, and carried by the following roll call vote to Approve the Carnival Contract:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

D. TRANSPORTATION – No Items

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS

A. COUNCIL ITEMS

- (1) Councilman Terauchi gave a report regarding his attendance at the Annual League of California Cities Conference and Expo, October 5-7, 2016, at the Long Beach Convention Center.

B. COUNCIL DIRECTIVES

- (1) Council Member Terauchi requested that the City's zoning ordinances be updated regarding parking requirements; Mayor Pro Tem Henderson seconded the request with the stipulation that the members of the Planning Commission be involved in the updating process. Terauchi agreed with the stipulation.
- (2) Mayor Pro Tem Henderson requested that City facilities be reviewed and made available to parents so that they may drop off their children for a two-hour period while they vote during the November 8, 2016, election. Council Member Terauchi seconded the request.

C. COUNCIL REMARKS

- (1) COUNCIL MEMBER TERAUCHI – reported that he attended a three-day annual conference sponsored by the League of California Cities, and Council Member Dan Medina was also there at the main luncheon. He spoke briefly about the “black water” issue that is affecting the residents of Gardena. He said that vendors also attend the conference in hopes to gain potential clients, and that one vendor in particular with whom he spoke shared information with him about Gardena's black water issue. The vendor told him that he had approached Golden State Water Company to offer his company's services to clean all the existing water pipes throughout the city at no charge; that the vendor's project would not include having to dig up the streets to replace the pipes. Golden State Water Company refused the company's services. Also, there were many seminars and discussions at the Conference about different topics. However, the most informative discussion was the topic of unfunded pension liabilities for CalPERS. He closed his report by saying that he learned a lot and made some contacts at the conference.

9. COUNCIL ITEMS, DIRECTIVES & REMARKS (Continued)

C. COUNCIL REMARKS (Continued)

- (2) COUNCIL MEMBER MEDINA – opened his remarks by saying that he is very happy to report that the City of Gardena is now utilizing recycled water. He hopes that, moving forward, the project can extend out to the surrounding larger parks and parkettes. The cost of water to the city will be greatly reduced. He attended a Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) meeting where he is a member of the Transportation Committee. He spoke about a three-year study that was conducted regarding the *millenniums* generation and their economic impact that could and will affect the local economy now and in the future. He asked that everyone do their research regarding Measure “M;” that this will definitely affect the South Bay area. He also participated in his monthly birthday cake delivery to local convalescent homes in conjunction with the Gardena-Carson Rotary Club. He had the pleasure of attending the annual Gardena Masonic Lodge Police & Fire recognition event and he congratulated Gardena Police Officer Yvette Evans. He also attended a Luncheon at the League of California Cities. He reminded the community to get out and vote, because every vote counts.
- (3) COUNCIL MEMBER CERDA – attended the following events: the City of Gardena Employee Recognition luncheon; the Annual Masonic Lodge Police and Fire Recognition Ceremony at which Gardena Police Officer Yvette Evans and Los Angeles County Fire Fighter Paramedic Brian Noss were recognized. She thanked the safety personnel for all they do; and she attended the Annual Gardena Heritage Day Festival. She then made a public service announcement, that on this coming Saturday, October 15, a fair will be held at the Japanese Cultural Institute (JCI) to help the community to prepare for an earthquake. She encouraged residents to get involved in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), who continues to have disaster preparation classes throughout the year. The next class will take place at GTrans; that it a great opportunity to learn the basics emergency preparedness and first aid. To sign up, please call phone (310) 528-8730. Information can always be found on the City of Gardena’s web page. She has received positive feedback from all who have attended CERT classes. She added that she attended a South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB)-sponsored meeting, and mentioned some of the different programs they have. She also announced that SBWIB will be recognizing City Manager Mitch Lansdell at an upcoming event.
- (4) MAYOR PRO TEM HENDERSON – he attended the City of Gardena Employee Recognition luncheon; the ribbon cutting at the Greenbuild Legacy project, a project-based facility for teaching and learning. Students build science and other projects, and he actually had an opportunity to work with the students. As a reminder, he announced he will be hosting his next “Open City Hall” on Saturday, October 15, 2016, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. He encouraged the community to attend; that this is their opportunity to voice their concerns. As reported in other Council Members remarks, he also attended the League of California Cities Conference luncheon. In closing, he reported that he attended several events throughout the City, such as the Annual Masonic Lodge Police and Fire Recognition Ceremony; the Gardena Police Department Pancake Breakfast fundraiser, and the Annual City Heritage Festival. Lastly, he encouraged everyone to vote on November 8, 2016.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (JCI), partnering with Tri-City CERT, are sponsoring a “Community Shake Out and Emergency Preparedness Fair” on Saturday, October 15, 2016, 11:00 a.m. to 2: 00 p.m., at the JCI, 1964 West 162nd Street;
- (2) New series of Emergency Preparedness classes will be held at the Gardena Transit Facility on October 22, 23, and 29, 2016. These are 8-hour classes. For more information, call (310) 528-8730;
- (3) A Public Hearing for the Sewer Rate Increase has been scheduled at the December 13, 2016, City Council Meeting;

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

- (4) The South Bay Workforce Investment Board will be honoring City Manager Lansdell for his outstanding service during their 21st Annual Awards Ceremony on Thursday, October 13, 2016, 6:00 p.m., at the Torrance Marriott; and
- (5) An "Open City Hall" will be hosted by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson this coming Saturday, October 15, 2016, in the City Hall Council Office, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

11. REMEMBRANCES

Mrs. Jackie Moore, 70 years of age, beloved grandmother-in-law of Senior Human Resources Analyst Kitha Torregano, with the City of Gardena Elected and Administrative Offices. Mrs. Moore is the mother of three children and four grandchildren, plus many great-grandchildren.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:18 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 25, 2016.

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

By: Becky Romero
Becky Romero, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED:

Mark E. Henderson
Mark E. Henderson, Mayor Pro Tem

