



City of Commerce

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 14, 2026 - 5:00 PM

CONCURRENT JOINT MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COMMERCE

Join Meeting Via Zoom: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85160555376?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85160555376?pwd=KdjrcRusFaVfLrynsAPyPMWT8nmZw0.1)

pwd=KdjrcRusFaVfLrynsAPyPMWT8nmZw0.1

Meeting ID: 851 6055 5376 Passcode: 794633

5:00 P.M. CLOSED SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lainez called the Closed Session meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Lainez
Mayor Pro Tem Garcia
Councilmember Altamirano
Councilmember Argumedo
Councilmember Rebollo

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

There were no individuals wishing to address the City Council on any Closed Session items.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The members of the City Council and Successor Agency recessed to Closed Session at 5:13 p.m.

1. Conference with Legal Counsel Pursuant to Government Code Sections 54956.9(d)(2)& (e)(2) - Regarding Anticipated/Potential Litigation - Two (2) Cases.
2. Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, the City Council will confer with its real property negotiator, Ernie Hernandez, with respect to real estate negotiations regarding 5555 E. Washington Boulevard, Commerce, CA 90040 (APN 6335-024-909).
3. Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, the City Council will confer with its real property negotiator, Ernie Hernandez, with respect to real estate negotiations regarding 4615 E. Washington, Commerce, CA 90040

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Four members present of the City Council and Successor Agency reconvened to open session at 6:35 p.m.

ORAL CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

City Attorney Tapia reported that the City Council had convened in Closed Session. All five members of the City Council participated in Closed Session. Council Member Ivan Altamirano participated remotely pursuant to the just-cause provisions applicable to remote participation.

Regarding Closed Session Item No. 1 City staff made presentations, and the City Council provided direction. No final reportable action was taken. Closed Session Items Nos. 2 and 3 City staff made presentations, and the City Council provided direction. No final reportable action was taken.

6:00 P.M. - CITY COUNCIL MEETING**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Lainez called the regular City Council meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Mayor Lainez
Mayor Pro Tem Garcia
Councilmember Argumedo
Councilmember Rebollo

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Altamirano

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Park & Recreation Director Marquez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Council Member Rebollo offered the invocation.

APPEARANCES AND PRESENTATIONS

1. COMMENDATION - LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - SANDRA CORNEJO

Mayor Lainez introduced a Lifetime Achievement Recognition in memory of Sandra G. "Sandy" Cornejo. He described Mrs. Cornejo as a cheerful, gracious, and elegant woman who deeply loved Commerce and was loved by the community. He recognized her as a true matriarch of the City whose service and kindness touched the lives of many residents and extended condolences to the Cornejo family.

Council Member Argumedo thanked Mayor Lainez for placing the recognition on the agenda and stated that Mrs. Cornejo was deserving of the honor. He reflected on the privilege of knowing and working with her and expressed appreciation for the advice and counsel she provided regarding numerous community matters.

He noted that Mrs. Cornejo was deeply devoted to her family and her faith and recalled his relationship with her husband, former Council Member Robert J. Cornejo. Council Member Argumedo described Mr. Cornejo as intelligent, articulate, and insightful and stated that it had been an honor to serve with him and to develop a meaningful relationship with the Cornejo family.

Mayor Lainez read the Lifetime Achievement Recognition presented in loving memory of Sandra G. Cornejo. The commendation recognized her lifetime of exceptional service, dedicated leadership, and lasting commitment to the City of Commerce.

The commendation highlighted Mrs. Cornejo's decades of service as chairperson and a longtime member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, as well as her service on the Library and Senior Citizens Commissions. It further recognized her leadership and involvement with the Rosewood Park Women's Club, Pageant Steering Committee, Rosewood Park School PTA, and St. Marcelina Catholic Church.

Mrs. Cornejo was also recognized for her service as a Girl Scout leader, catechism teacher, mentor, and community volunteer and for dedicating her time to youth programs, education, arts, recreation, and other community initiatives. The commendation noted that she served as a former First Lady of Commerce alongside her husband, former Council Member Robert J. Cornejo, and contributed to the City's incorporation and civic history.

The City further recognized Mrs. Cornejo's selection as one of the 50th Assembly District's 2011 Women of Distinction and celebrated her devotion to her family as a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. The commendation stated that her generous spirit, faith, kindness, and love for Commerce would continue to inspire future generations.

Council Member Argumedo stated that the City should have recognized Mrs. Cornejo's service years earlier. He proposed naming the Senior Center dining area in honor of Sandra and Robert J. Cornejo in recognition of their service and lasting contributions to Commerce.

Mayor Lainez expressed his full support for the dedication, describing the Cornejo family as part of the City's legacy and Mrs. Cornejo as a Commerce icon.

A representative of the Cornejo family thanked the City Council for honoring Mrs. Cornejo and reflected on the family's arrival in the community in 1957, before Commerce was incorporated. He recalled early community discussions regarding incorporation, municipal bus service, City-operated parks, and card rooms and recognized the vision of those who helped establish the City.

On behalf of the family, he expressed appreciation for the Lifetime Achievement Recognition and for the dedication of a portion of the Senior Center in honor of Sandra and Robert J. Cornejo.

The Cornejo family accepted the commendation and joined the City Council for a commemorative photograph. Mayor Lainez announced the dedication of the Senior Center dining room in honor of Sandra and Robert J. Cornejo.

2. PROCLAMATION - PARKS MAKE LIFE BETTER!® MONTH

Parks and Recreation Director Adolfo Marquez introduced the Parks Make Life Better Month presentation and stated that the Department was also dedicating the presentation to Sandy Cornejo, who had served as chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission. He described Mrs. Cornejo as a valued community member who brought joy and energy to the Department's programs.

Youth Employment Service participants Jaylene Ramirez and Taven Gama assisted with the presentation.

Jaylene Ramirez shared that Parks and Recreation had played an important role throughout her life. She had participated in the Unplugged performing arts program, served on the Youth Advisory Committee, worked as a Youth Employment Service employee, and represented the community during a City cultural excursion.

She stated that these experiences helped her develop leadership skills, build lifelong friendships, discover new opportunities, and grow personally. She explained that Parks and Recreation created meaningful experiences for residents of all ages.

A video was presented highlighting how City parks, athletic facilities, pools, recreation programs, classes, events, and community spaces created opportunities for fitness, confidence, teamwork, friendship, imagination, and belonging.

Taven Gama shared that he had grown up participating in City of Commerce Parks and Recreation programs. He began in the preschool program, later participated in recreational baseball and basketball, and had returned as a Youth Employment Service employee through the City's summer youth employment program.

He introduced a video highlighting the City's Independence Day celebration. The video featured residents, families, staff, and elected officials enjoying the two-day celebration, including fireworks, a laser show, music, dancing, and community activities. Participants emphasized the importance of family, community traditions, service members, veterans, and the celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary.

Mayor Lainez thanked Director Marquez, Jaylene Ramirez, Taven Gama, and the Parks and Recreation Department for their presentations and service. He stated

that Parks and Recreation programs were among the City's greatest strengths and often served as the primary way residents interacted with the City.

He recognized the Department's role in creating positive experiences and supporting the development of children, youth, adults, and seniors. He also acknowledged the Department's extensive seasonal programming, including the Independence Day celebration, concerts and movies in the park, World Cup watch parties, and other community events.

Mayor Lainez proclaimed July 2026 as Parks Make Life Better Month in the City of Commerce.

The proclamation recognized the role of parks, recreation facilities, aquatic programs, community centers, and open spaces in promoting health, wellness, and quality of life. It highlighted the City's parks, Veterans Neighborhood Center, Senior Citizens Center, Teen Center, Camp Commerce, and Brenda Villa Aquatic Center.

The proclamation also recognized youth sports, swim lessons, competitive athletics, fitness classes, performing arts, senior services, camps, inclusive programming, and major community events, including the Independence Day celebration, concerts in the park, Spring Festival, Harvest Festival, Commerce 5K Turkey Trot, Community Tree Lighting, Earth Day activities, World Cup watch parties, Pedal Palooza, and the All-Abilities Color Fun Run.

Residents were encouraged to enjoy City parks, participate in recreation programs, attend community events, and celebrate the ways in which parks and recreation enriched the Commerce community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lori Meeks praised the City's Parks and Recreation programs and community events serving residents of all ages. She highlighted the recent senior picnic, which brought seniors and kids day-camp participants together, and commended the children for being respectful, well-mannered, and enthusiastic. She also praised the City's two-day Independence Day celebration, including the music, dancing, food, activities, and sense of community. Ms. Meeks stated that Commerce was a special place and expressed pride in having returned to live in the community after residing elsewhere. She encouraged the City to preserve and continue investing in its Parks and Recreation programs and recognized the senior picnic, youth camp activities, Independence Day festivities, crafts programming, women's getaway, and other recreational opportunities.

Leonard Mendoza addressed the City Council regarding the term-limit measure approved by Commerce voters in 2011. He stated that approximately 73 percent of participating voters supported limiting Council Members to three consecutive four-year terms. Mr. Mendoza read language supporting the original term-limit measure and argued that long-term service could reduce opportunities for other community members to serve. He expressed concern regarding Council Members remaining in office beyond 12 years and stated that elected officials should respect the intent of the voters who approved the measure. He specifically objected to the possibility of Council Member Altamirano seeking another term and asserted that doing so would be inconsistent with the will of the voters who supported term limits.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Lainez moved, seconded by Council Member Rebollo to approve Item Nos. 3 through 11. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - Mayor Lainez, Mayor Pro Tem Garcia, Councilmember Argumedo, and Councilmember Rebollo

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Altamirano

3. APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NOS. 21A, 21B, AND 21C

Action Taken: Approved the bills and claims set forth in Warrant Registers No. 21A dated June 23, 2026, 21B for the period of June 3, 2026 through June 8, 2026, and 21C for the period of June 10, 2026 through June 17, 2026.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action Taken: Approved the minutes of the Regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, held at 5:00 p.m.

5. LEGISLATIVE BODY MEETING DISRUPTION AND EQUIPMENT OUTAGE POLICY

Action Taken: Adopted the Legislative Body Meeting Disruption and Equipment Outage Policy (Attachment 1), in compliance with Senate Bill 707, to establish formal procedures for responding to technical disruptions during hybrid meetings and to preserve public access, transparency, and participation.

6. ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION RECITING THE FACTS AND RATIFYING THE RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION HELD ON JUNE 2, 2026

Action Taken: The City Council approved Resolution No. 26-47 ratifying the results of the Special Municipal Election held on June 2, 2026.

7. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TAX AND FEE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION OF MEASURE PC TRANSACTION AND USE TAX

Action Taken: The City Council:

1. Adopted Resolution No. 26-48 approving and authorizing the execution of the Preparatory Agreement & Administration Agreement with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) for the administration and collection of the City's Measure PC Transaction and Use Tax.

2. Adopted Resolution No. 26-49 authorizing the examination of sales and transactions and use tax records.

8. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PARTICIPATION IN THE LOS ANGELES URBAN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2027-2029 AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER OR DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Action Taken: The City Council:

1. **Adopted Resolution No. 26-50 to approve participation in the Los Angeles Urban County Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") Program for Fiscal Years 2027-2029; and**

2. **Authorized the City Manager, or designee to execute the Cooperation Agreement with the Los Angeles County Development Authority ("LACDA") contained in Attachment No. 2.**

9. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COMMERCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE FIFTH AMENDMENT TO TRANSTRACK SYSTEMS, INC. MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT AGREEMENT

Action Taken: Adopted Resolution No. 26-51 approving the Fifth Amendment to the TransTrack Systems, Inc. Maintenance and Support Agreement.

10. ANNUAL CPI RATE ADJUSTMENT REQUEST BY ATHENS SERVICES FOR RESIDENTIAL REFUSE AND RECYCLING SERVICES FOR FY26/27

Action Taken: Adopted Resolution No. 26-52 approving a 4.73% rate adjustment for solid waste collection services to become effective July 1, 2026, as reflected on Attachment "A".

11. DECLARATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 2143 S. ATLANTIC BOULEVARD (ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER "APN": 5244-014-905; "PROPERTY") AS EXEMPT SURPLUS LAND

Action Taken: The City Council:

Adopted Resolution No. 26-53 declaring certain real property known as 2143 S. Atlantic Boulevard, Commerce, CA 90040 (APN: 5244-014-905) as Exempt Surplus Land pursuant to Government Code Section 54221(f)(1)(B); making written findings that the Property is not necessary for the City's use, is less than one-half acre in area, and is not contiguous to land owned by a state or local agency that is used for open-space or low- and moderate-income housing purposes; and authorizing City staff to complete all applicable Surplus Land Act compliance steps, including submittal of the Resolution, written findings, and any required supporting documentation to the California Department of Housing and Community Development ("HCD") at least 30 days before any final disposition of the Property.

SCHEDULED MATTERS

12. PRESENTATION/UPDATE FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE CITY OF COMMERCE

Sergeant Cortez presented the City's June 2026 crime statistics and year-to-date comparison. He also presented information regarding the Flock Safety camera system. He explained that the artificial intelligence-powered system captured video and still images of passing vehicles and recorded identifying characteristics that could assist criminal investigations. The information would be maintained for authorized law-enforcement purposes.

Sergeant Cortez recognized the City's Public Safety Division and Sheriff's Department personnel for their work during the two-day Independence Day celebration. He reported that the event occurred without any significant public-safety incidents and thanked the families of the officers who supported their service during holidays, weekends, and community events.

13. APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR THE TEMPORARY VOLLEYBALL/ BASKETBALL STRUCTURE AT BRISTOW PARK

Public Works Director Shahid Abbas presented a request to approve funding and the proposed design for a temporary volleyball and basketball structure at Bristol Park. Director Abbas explained that the Veterans Park redevelopment required several Parks and Recreation programs, including the Commerce Crush volleyball program and preschool graduation ceremonies, to be relocated. The City Council had previously directed staff to identify a temporary location where those programs could continue during construction. Following a review of potential locations, Bristol Park was selected. The proposed covered structure would measure approximately 160 feet by 120 feet and accommodate two volleyball courts while preserving basketball and other recreational programming. The estimated project cost was \$2.91 million, proposed to be funded with Measure PC revenue.

Council Member Argumedo asked whether the structure could accommodate activities other than basketball and volleyball, including pickleball and other Parks and Recreation programs.

Staff explained that the facility would function as a covered outdoor gymnasium and could be striped and configured for multiple uses. The structure would not contain restrictions preventing other recreational activities.

Council Member Argumedo also asked whether adequate spectator seating would be provided.

Staff confirmed that the design included space for bleachers to accommodate families and spectators attending volleyball and basketball games.

Council Member Argumedo requested that the final design provide maximum flexibility for City programming and accommodate various activities during periods of rain, excessive heat, or other weather conditions.

Council Member Rebollo expressed strong support for the project and stated that the Commerce Crush program had been patient while operating at alternate locations. She emphasized that any modifications, including additional striping, should not delay the construction schedule. She supported designing the structure for multiple uses but stated that completing it as quickly as possible should remain the priority.

Mayor Lainez stated that he was pleased the design included sufficient room for bleachers and envisioned the facility as a general covered recreation space that could also accommodate preschool graduations and other events previously held at Veterans Park. He requested clarification regarding the court striping. Parks and Recreation staff confirmed that the floor would be striped for volleyball, basketball, and pickleball using different colors. Mayor Lainez asked staff to provide the City Council with a construction timeline as soon as one became available. He stated that the project was a high priority and should move forward without unnecessary delays.

Council Member Rebollo moved, seconded by Council Member Argumedo to:

- 1. Allocating \$2,300,000.00 from Measure PC funds for the construction of a temporary recreation structure at Bristow Park to accommodate volleyball programming and preserve existing basketball operations; and**
- 2. Authorizing up to 15% (\$345,000.00) of the construction cost for contingencies for unforeseen conditions; and**
- 3. Authorizing up to 10% (\$264,500) of the total construction cost and contingencies for Construction Management and Inspection Services; and**
- 4. Authorizing Construction Management and Inspection Services pursuant to City's On-Call professional consulting services agreements.**

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - Mayor Lainez, Mayor Pro Tem Garcia, Councilmember Argumedo, and Councilmember Rebollo

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Altamirano

14. ARTS IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM: ROSEWOOD PARK AND 250 YEARS RECOGNITION PLAQUE

Senior Management Analyst Delgado presented proposed mosaic artwork for Rosewood Park and design options for a plaque commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence. The proposed mosaic artwork would be installed on structures located at the top of the hill at Rosewood Park. Staff anticipated that the work would be completed internally, with material costs of less than approximately \$1,000. Funding was included in the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget.

Staff also presented bronze and color plaque options. The proposed plaque would commemorate the United States' 250th anniversary and recognize the nation's history, freedom, and enduring spirit from 1776 through 2026. The estimated plaque cost was \$2,600. Staff recommended installing the plaque on a freestanding pole or concrete pedestal near the park entrance facing the Brenda Villa Aquatic Center, where it would be more visible than if mounted directly on one of the existing pillars.

Council Member Rebollo confirmed that the City Council was approving the artwork rather than a separate construction contract. Staff explained that City employees would install the mosaic pieces and that the primary expense would be materials.

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia confirmed that the City Council was considering two components: approval of the mosaic artwork and selection of a plaque design.

Council Member Argumedo moved to approve the staff recommendations for the Rosewood Park artwork and recognition plaque. He requested that the City retain the ability to revise the plaque language so it would better connect the national anniversary with the Commerce community and the park artwork. Council Member Rebollo seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia stated that she supported the plaque but preferred artwork recognizing each branch of the United States military, particularly because the proposed location was near the flagpole. She indicated that she could not support the combined motion as presented.

Council Member Argumedo stated that the City Council had previously discussed a separate military recognition and suggested that staff revisit that proposal and return with an appropriate design and location. The City Council agreed that the military recognition could be considered separately.

The motion was clarified as approval of the staff recommendations, with the ability to make revisions to the plaque language while preserving recognition of the 250th anniversary.

Council Member Argumedo moved, seconded by Council Member Rebollo to:

1. Approve the proposal at Rosewood Park; and

2. . Approve a 250-Year Recognition Plaque for the United States at Rosewood for \$2,000.00

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - Mayor Lainez, Mayor Pro Tem Garcia, Councilmember Argumedo, and Councilmember Rebollo

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Altamirano

PUBLIC HEARINGS

15. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM TO THE COMMERCE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM

Mayor Lainez announced that this item would be continued to the next regular City Council meeting.

At the City Attorney's recommendation, Mayor Lainez opened the public hearing at 7:56 p.m. and continued to the July 28, 2026 meeting.

16. APPROVAL OF AN ENERGY SERVICES CONTRACT WITH SYSERCO ENERGY SOLUTIONS, INC. (SES) FOR CITY-WIDE FACILITY ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION AT TEEN CENTER PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 4217

Public Works Director Shahid Abbas presented a proposed energy services contract with Syserco Energy Solutions for citywide energy-efficiency improvements. The project included the installation of solar panels at the Teen Center and LED lighting upgrades at various City facilities. Staff estimated that the project would reduce electricity usage and provide long-term operational savings. The proposed contract cost was approximately \$1.8 million. With contingencies and project-management costs, the total proposed appropriation was approximately \$2.272 million from Measure PC revenue.

Staff reported that projected cumulative energy savings over the anticipated useful life of the improvements could exceed the City's initial investment. However, the estimates were dependent upon future utility rates, tax credits, rebates, incentives, field conditions, permitting requirements, utility upgrades, accessibility requirements, hazardous-material conditions, and other factors. Staff explained that a post-award field verification could result in changes to the project scope, contract price, or projected savings. Any additional costs exceeding the approved appropriation would require identification of an appropriate funding source and further City authorization.

Mayor Lainez asked whether the work would be performed under a labor agreement and whether union contractors would be used.

A representative of Syserco stated that the electrical work would be performed by International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers signatory contractors. The solar work would also be completed by a contractor with an approved workforce-development and apprenticeship program, which was necessary for the City to qualify for federal investment tax credits. The representative confirmed that the applicable agreement involved IBEW Local 11.

Mayor Lainez requested that qualified Commerce residents who were members of IBEW Local 11 be prioritized for available work on the project. He also requested that the final contract include a commitment to hold a local job fair or apprenticeship-information event at the IBEW training center in Commerce. He

suggested that Commerce residents and Teen Center participants be invited to learn about electrical apprenticeships and career opportunities.

City Manager Hernandez explained that the staff recommendation authorized the City Manager and City Attorney to finalize the agreement and that the requested local-hiring and job-fair provisions could be incorporated during that process.

Mayor Lainez asked what authority the City Manager would have to approve changes arising from the post-award field verification.

City Manager Hernandez explained that changes could be approved administratively if the total cost remained within the City Council's authorized appropriation. Any cost exceeding the approved amount would require further Council action.

Mayor Lainez also asked whether facilities would need to close during installation.

The contractor stated that standard work would generally occur between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., while lighting work in occupied buildings would be scheduled during off-hours to minimize disruption.

Mayor Lainez expressed support for the project, particularly the Teen Center solar installation. He stated that the project furthered the City's sustainability goals and noted that a public display at the Teen Center would allow visitors to see real-time energy savings.

Mayor Lainez opened the public hearing at 8:06 p.m. There being no public speakers, Mayor Lainez closed the public hearing.

Mayor Lainez moved, seconded by Council Member Rebollo to adopt Resolution No. 26-55 that does the following:

1. Finds that the cost to the City to implement the energy conservation measures described in the Energy Services Proposal attached herein will be less than the anticipated marginal cost to the City of thermal, electrical, or other energy that would have been consumed by the City in the absence of those purchases; and

2. Finds that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) and Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of

Small Structures); and

- 3. Approves the Energy Services Contract with Syserco Energy Solutions, Inc. (SES) in a firm-fixed amount of \$1,796,450 and authorizes the City Manager to execute the Contract and all associated documents on behalf of the City; and**
- 4. Authorizes up to 15% (\$269,468) of the construction cost in contingencies for unforeseen conditions; and**
- 5. Authorizing up to 10% (\$206,592) of the total construction and contingencies costs for Construction Management, and Inspection; and**
- 6. Allocates funding in the amount of \$2,272,510 to cover the total cost of the Project; and**
- 7. Authorizing to proceed with Construction Management and Inspection Service, pursuant to the existing on-call consultant services.**

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - Mayor Lainez, Mayor Pro Tem Garcia, Councilmember Argumedo, and Councilmember Rebollo

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Altamirano

CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY REPORTS

Council Member Rebollo thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for organizing two days of Independence Day activities. She shared that she had been recovering from health issues and had been uncertain whether she would be able to attend, but she was glad she participated and enjoyed seeing residents and former residents return to Commerce for the celebration. She stated that the events allowed community members to reconnect and see how families and children had grown during the previous year. She praised Parks and Recreation for continually developing new and creative programming and described the strong community turnout as especially meaningful. Council Member Rebollo shared that her mother had attended and enjoyed the Independence Day events and World Cup watch parties. She stated that the City's programs had encouraged her mother to become more socially active, including attending art classes at the Senior Center. She thanked staff for providing safe, walkable opportunities for residents to watch the United States and Mexico soccer matches in City parks. She stated that the events created meaningful cultural experiences and encouraged seniors, families, and other residents to become more engaged in the community. Council Member Rebollo also praised the Parks and Recreation staff who danced and energized the audience during the Independence Day laser-light show. She said residents had contacted her to express how much they enjoyed the event and that the interactive celebration had been well received despite the absence of fireworks on July 4.

She extended condolences to the family of Sandra "Sandy" Cornejo and reminded residents that life was short and that they should embrace their families, express their love, and pray for one another. Council Member Rebollo thanked Lori Meeks for speaking about the recent senior picnic. She addressed social-media statements suggesting that the picnic had been organized by Mayor Lainez and herself and clarified that it was a City Parks and Recreation event. She commended Senior Center Supervisor Veronica Jimenez for bringing seniors and day-camp participants together. She expressed hope that the intergenerational picnic would become an annual Commerce tradition.

Council Member Argumedo praised Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Transportation, and all employees involved in the Independence Day celebration. He stated that the event was among the City's best and that the comments he received from residents had been overwhelmingly positive. He noted that some residents initially asked why fireworks were not presented on July 4 but understood the City's approach once it was explained. He commended staff for the laser-light

show, event logistics, transportation services, and overall programming.

Council Member Argumedo also attended the Commerce Crush volleyball awards banquet. He congratulated the athletes, coaches, staff, and families and stated that the coaches' comments regarding their respective teams were meaningful and well received. He shared that his granddaughter participated in the program. He also praised the World Cup watch parties and suggested that the City consider holding an additional watch party for the championship match.

Council Member Argumedo thanked Mayor Lainez and the City Council for honoring Sandy Cornejo and supporting the dedication of the Senior Center dining room in honor of Sandra and Robert Cornejo. He stated that it was important to recognize individuals who contributed significantly to the development and history of Commerce. He again extended condolences to the Cornejo family and encouraged the City to distribute memorial-service information through the Senior Center so community members wishing to attend would receive the details.

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia spoke about the importance of the City's Social Services Division. She stated that Social Services restored dignity by providing counseling, reminding residents that they mattered, interrupting cycles of hardship, assisting children and seniors, and helping families respond to unexpected tragedies. She recalled the City's response to the 2003 train derailment, which damaged residential properties and displaced families. She stated that Social Services served as a critical liaison between affected residents and the railroad company and provided crisis management, advocacy, counseling, and translation services. Mayor Pro Tem Garcia stated that Social Services assisted residents with food, behavioral-health concerns, wellness, mental-health services, rent assistance, and homelessness. She recognized former directors Robert Chavez and Lena Gutierrez for establishing the training framework used by the division. She described Social Services as a safety net that helped residents before they reached a crisis point and stated that the division had guided young residents from involvement with the juvenile-justice system toward productive roles in the community and at City Hall. Mayor Pro Tem Garcia asked when the proposed Social Services position changes that were removed from the biennial budget would return for City Council consideration.

The City Manager explained that the changes were not approved as part of the budget and could return when the City Council considered amendments to the

salary schedule. He stated that the salary schedule item was forthcoming but had not been ready for the July 14 meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia requested that decorative or enhanced crosswalk designs be placed on the next City Council agenda before students returned to school. She stated that the safety, budget, and case-study information had already been considered in 2025 and that the remaining issue was selection of a final design. She extended condolences to the Cornejo family and requested that the meeting also be adjourned in memory of longtime resident and friend Rene Lara.

Mayor Lainez praised the Independence Day festivities held on July 3 and 4. He stated that the fireworks presentation and laser-light show were successful and that the interactive laser show allowed residents of all ages to dance, sing, and participate in the celebration. He thanked Parks and Recreation staff for managing an especially active period that included World Cup watch parties and the two-day Independence Day festival. He also recognized Public Works for maintaining clean and attractive parks and Transportation staff for operating event shuttles.

Mayor Lainez attended the Commerce Crush volleyball banquet and congratulated the athletes on their season. He stated that the athletes were looking forward to the temporary facility approved earlier in the meeting. He also attended a Ballet Folklórico banquet and performance at the Senior Center. He praised the young performers, their costumes, and their dances and commended Ariana Rito-Lopez for the program's growth following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Lainez stated that the meeting would be adjourned in memory of Rene Lara and Sandra "Sandy" Cornejo. He described Mrs. Cornejo as a matriarch and icon of Commerce whose love for the community and service to its residents would be deeply missed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Kevin Lainez adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m. in memory of Sandra "Sandy" Cornejo and Renee Lara.