



City of Commerce

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 - 5:00 PM

**CONCURRENT JOINT MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
COMMERCE, JOINT POWERS FINANCING AUTHORITY AND THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE COMMERCE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION**

5:00 P.M. CLOSED SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Altamirano called meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. via teleconferencing.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Councilmember Soria
Mayor Altamirano
Councilmember Argumedo
Councilmember Mendoza
Mayor Pro Tem Rebollo

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

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

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

City Council/Successor Agency recessed to Closed Session at 5:02 p.m.

1. Conference with Legal Counsel Pursuant to Government Code Sections 54956.9(d)(2) and 54956.9(e)(3) Regarding Anticipated/Potential Litigation - One (1) Matter
2. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1). One (1) case: *Morley Justman and Catherine Justman, as Trustees of the Justman Family Trust dated February 8, 1991 vs. City of Commerce, acting in a separate limited capacity elected to serve as the Successor Agency to the Commerce Community Development Commission et al.* - Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 20STCP00446.
3. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1). One (1) case: *ZVI (aka) Harry Ryzman and Betty Ryzman, as Trustees of the Ryzman Family v the City of Commerce, acting in a separate limited capacity elected to serve as the Successor Agency to the Commerce Community*

Development Commission et al. - Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 19STCP02821.

4. Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6 the City Council will confer with its labor negotiator, Edgar P. Cisneros, with respect to labor negotiations pertaining to:

A. The Memoranda of Understanding between the City and the City of Commerce Employees Association on behalf of the part-time employees.

B. The Memoranda of Understanding between the City and the City of Commerce Employees Association on behalf of the mid-management and non-management full-time employees.

C. Compensation and benefits for the unrepresented full-time executive management employees.

5. THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957

Consultation with: City Manager, Assistant City Manager, City Attorney, and other related City officials.

6. Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, the City Council will confer with its real property negotiator, Edgar Cisneros, with respect to real estate negotiations with:

A. Wash-Tel Commerce, LLC concerning proposed price and other terms relating thereto, comprised of 6329 and 6355 Washington Boulevard, Commerce, California, commonly referred to as the Stahl Trust property.

B. (APN: 6357-016-906), 7155 E. Gage Ave (APN: 6357-016-907), 7165 E. Gage Ave (APN: 6357-016-909), 7169 E. Gage Ave (APN: 6357-016-908).

C. 6364 Zindell Street, Commerce, CA (APN: 6357-015-900 and 6357-019-304) and 7316 E. Gage Ave. (APN: 6357-018-005)

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

City Council/Successor Agency reconvened to Open Session at 6:32 p.m.

ORAL CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Assistant City Attorney Copado reported on Closed Session items:

Item #1 - Legal Counsel provided an update, the consensus was reached, and further direction was provided. No reportable action was taken on this item.

Items #2 and #3- Staff briefed City Council, the direction was provided, and no reportable action was taken on these items.

Items #4, #5, and #6 and were not discussed.

6:00 P.M. - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Altamirano called meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. via teleconferencing.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Councilmember Soria
Mayor Altamirano
Councilmember Argumedo
Councilmember Mendoza
Mayor Pro Tem Rebollo

APPEARANCES AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation/Update from the Sheriff's Department Regarding Public Safety in the City of Commerce

Captain Rick Mejia provided a brief overview of the Community Policing program. Every effort is made to recruit deputies from the community, and fixed assignments are mandatory. In addition, deputies are planning community events and interest groups in order to understand what is expected of them and what services are required. Adequate training is critical. According to Captain Mejia, there are positive changes in the community.

According to Captain Mejia, training is essential, and most deputies received training on grand theft auto, and there was a 23% increase in arrests. However, vested community policing only works with community support; therefore, developing relationships with the community is necessary.

Councilmember Soria asked whether it is a pilot program of vested community policing, and how success is measured. Councilmember Soria requested that this program is presented in writing and case studies provided. Also, Councilmember Soria wanted to make sure that resources are allocated correctly.

Captain Mejia responded that, ultimately, this program is a common-sense approach to what is best for the community. These types of programs are not vested by the statistics but the attitude of personnel and working towards the

community's interests.

As for the resources are concerned that they cannot take personnel and deploy specials units somewhere else. However, from patrol capacity, they were reallocated to other communities. Soria recommended tracking successes and failures and create data to track the success of this theory works.

Captain Mejia stated that if the community is pleased with the services and that would be the measure.

Mayor Pro Tem Rebollo thanked Captain and his staff for participating in finding a new way to have Christmas with the Cop this year for youth and kids. Mayor Pro Tem Rebollo agreed that the foundation of effective community policing and making personnel available and interacting with residents is a crucial part of the services provided. Mayor Pro Tem Rebollo thanked all deputies for including the community in their events.

Councilmember Mendoza commented that within the last four years, the services improved significantly, and deputies are doing a great job, especially by responding quickly and handling situations extraordinary during riots.

Councilmember Argumedo commented that installing cameras on the intersection would improve services much more, and also adding bicycle patrol would be great. Councilmember Argumedo thanked deputies for the outstanding job they do.

2. Certificate of Recognition Honoring Jimmy Humilde, Steven's Steakhouse, and Car Clubs of California for Turkey Drive in the City of Commerce During the Holidays

City Council and the Mayor recognized all participants and thanked them for Turkey Drive and toy drive during the holidays. Jimmy Filipan, Steven's Steakhouse, noted that Jesse Flores and Jimmy Humilde were the main organizers and made these events happen for the residents of Commerce.

Stephanie Munoz thanked the City Council for donations and thanked Jimmy Filipan for allowing this event to happen.

Councilmembers and the Mayor commended everyone for making the lives of residents so much better during these challenging times.

3. Certificate of Recognition Honoring Jesse Flores from Elegants Car Club, Enrique Ruano from Southern Lifestyle Car Club, Stephanie Munoz, James Filipan from Steven's Steakhouse, and 28 Car Clubs of California for Organizing Toy Drive in the City of Commerce during the Holidays

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jonathan Hawes informed the City Council about the corruption of the El Monte promise Foundation Scholarship fund.

Laura Logan, President of CCEA, talked about hard working employees during these challenging times, and asked to reinstate all parks programs as soon as possible once it is safe.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Altamirano pulled item #10 from the Consent Calendar.

Councilmember Mendoza moved, seconded by Councilmember Soria, to approve the Consent Calendar minus item #10. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Councilmember Soria, Mayor Altamirano, Councilmember Argumedo, Councilmember Mendoza, and Mayor Pro Tem Rebollo

4. Approval of Warrant Register Nos. 12A, and 12B
5. Approval of Minutes
6. Weed Abatement - Declaring that Weeds, Brush, Rubbish are a Public Nuisance
7. Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for Regional Clean Bus Fuel Capital Grant Funds
8. Agreement with Gillig, LLC. for the Purchase of Five (5) 2021 Transit Buses
9. Contract Change Order No. 1 to Clean Energy for Installation of Concrete Filled Bollards Vehicle Impact Protection and R2 Build for Installation of New Electrical Switchgear Box for the City's LCNG Fueling Station Capacity Expansion Project
10. Resolution Authorizing Staff to Apply for an Urban Lands Grant Plan

Application with the San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains
Conservancy

11. Blue Curb Policy Update

CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY REPORTS

Councilmember Argumedo reported that he attended City's birthday celebration. Councilmember Argumedo issued his condolences for Javier Hernandez's family.

Councilmember Mendoza thanked City Manager for organizing free community Covid testing. Councilmember Mendoza recommended that the City develops a Commerce Eats program advertising local restaurants.

Councilmember Soria issued his condolences to the Vasquez family and talked about bringing employees back to work and working together through these challenging times.

Mayor Pro Tem Rebollo issued her condolences to Hernandez's and Vasquez's families and thanked the City Manager for advocating very hard for the community.

Mayor Altamirano asked that the community testing is advertised via different platforms and possibly sending a note to all households. Mayor Altamirano thanked the staff for organizing a great event for the City's Birthday celebration.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned in memory of former Commissioner Javier Hernandez and resident Vasquez at 7:54 p.m.