



City of Commerce

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 1, 2016 - 5:00 PM

**CONCURRENT REGULAR 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 5:02 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Councilmember Leon
Councilmember Argumedo
Councilmember Rebollo
Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio
Mayor Altamirano

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

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

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

City Council recessed to Closed Session at 5:03 p.m.

1. Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, the Successor Agency will confer with its real property negotiator, Jorge Rifá with respect to real estate negotiations:

A. With Craig Realty Corporation concerning proposed price and other terms relating thereto, comprised of the former Commerce Community Development Commission-owned real property located along the Telegraph Road Corridor, south of Gaspar Avenue and north of the Commerce Casino [Tubeway Avenue], formerly known as 5809, 5819, 5823, 2901/2903, 5933, 5959, 6000, 6003 and 6233 Telegraph Road and 2240 Gaspar Avenue; 2311, 2322 and 2366 Travers Avenue, Commerce, California.

B. California Commerce Club Inc. and Craig Realty corporation concerning proposed price and other terms relating thereto, comprised of the former Commerce Community Development Commission-owned real property located 6233-6041 Telegraph Road and 6030-6055 Washington Boulevard, Commerce, California.

Four members of the City Council stated that they received campaign contributions from Commerce Casino within the year and could not participate on item #1B. Following the drawing in order to establish the necessary quorum, Councilmembers Argumado and Rebollo were excused from participating on item #1.B.

2. Pursuant to Government Code 54957, the City Council will consider personnel matters related to the recruitment of a City Administrator.
3. Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6 the City Council will confer with its labor negotiator, Jorge Rifa, 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.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

City Council reconvened to Open Session at 6:30 p.m.

ORAL CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

City Attorney Olivo reported on Closed Session items and stated that the City Council did not take any reportable action on item #1 and item #2, and the City Council did not go into Closed Session on item #3.

6:30 P.M. - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Altamirano called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Councilmember Leon
Councilmember Argumado
Councilmember Rebollo
Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio
Mayor Altamirano

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Human Resources Director Casalou led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Argumedo offered the invocation.

APPEARANCES AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Certificate of Recognition to Graphics and Printing Specialist Anthony Aguilar whose redesigned Library logo was recognized by the California Association of Public Information Officials (per Councilmember Leon' request).

Councilmembers and the Mayor issued a Certificate of recognition to Anthony Argular.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Caroline Gomez asked that Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio steps down from the City Council.

Charles Calderon stated that Commerce residents are circulating a petition asking Los Angeles District Attorney to investigate Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio, and also asked that Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio steps down from her position.

Gloria Nezahualcoya voiced her concern that the City Council responds to resident comments at the end of the Council meeting and asked that Council either immediately respond right away to the residents or not comment at all. City Attorney Olivo clarified that pursuant to Brown Act no deliberation or engaging in discussion is allowed during the public comment. According to City Attorney Olivo, Council could respond and is allowed to make statements at the end of the City Council meeting under the City Council reports.

Richard Hernandez stated that the direction for Neighborhood Watch meeting was not provided correctly by City staff member over the phone and he was not able to attend the meeting. Mr. Hernandez asked that Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio truthfully responds to allegations.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Rebollo asked to pull item #9 for discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio moved, seconded by Councilmember Argumedo, to approve the Consent Calendar minus item #9. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Councilmember Leon, Councilmember Argumedo, Councilmember Rebollo, Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio, and Mayor Altamirano

2. Approval of Warrant Register Nos. 27A, 2A and 2B

3. Approval of Minutes
4. Fund Trade Agreement for the Exchange of Proposition A Funds with the City of Lancaster
5. Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for Proposition C - 5% Transit Security Funds
6. Renewal of Service Agreement with Tutor.com for Online Learning Services
7. Agreement with iLink Business Management and Express Employment Professionals for Temporary Staffing Services
8. Authorize MIG Planning and Environmental Services to Conduct Studies and Prepare CEQA Analysis for 972 Goodrich Boulevard
9. The 6th Annual Commerce Clean-Up Day Sponsored by Craig Realty Group Citadel, LLC

Councilmember Rebollo asked to see whether they could reach out to Mr. Craig and ask for an extension for groups that get financial reimbursement. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Rebollo moved, Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio seconded, to recognize Craig Realty Group Citadel, LLC for sponsoring and hosting the 6th Annual Commerce Clean-Up Day and also to the California Department of Transportation Maintenance Division for its participation and assistance with respect to clean-up activities surrounding this event. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Argumedo, Leon, Rebollo, Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio and Mayor Altamirano.

SCHEDULED MATTERS

10. I-710 Local Advisory Committee Project Update

Ernesto Chavez, Representative of Metro, made a brief introduction. Shannon Willits provided an I-710 Corridor Project overview including overview of project Alternative 5C, and Alternative 7, overview of safety and traffic problems, suggested solutions, and sources of potential funding to finance the project.

Discussion took place on how current funding of 500 million is being allocated. Mr. Chavez stated that the first decade funding goes to EIR studies and allocated to

some other smaller local projects and Washington Boulevard Widening and Reconstruction project in the City of Commerce is one example of local projects. According to Mr. Chavez, second and third decade of funding is not allocated yet. There is no formula of how the money would be allocated and it is based on the projects submitted.

Councilmember Argumedo stated that the cheapest alternative would cost around five billion dollars, and other alternative almost double the cost. According to Mr. Chavez, once the first decade is complete in 2019, it will be around 380 million left for second and third decade funding. Discussion took place on the potential date of completion of the project. Mr. Willits stated that by the end of the next year one of the Alternatives would be selected.

11. Washington Boulevard Widening and Reconstruction Project Update

Mayor Altamirano and Councilmember Argumedo stepped down from participating on this item due to 500 radius restriction as it relates to their residency and project proximity.

Public Works and Development Services Director Babaki provided an overview of the staff report, and stated that the project is being carried out without an additional impact on the current operating budget, and on time.

12. Revisions to the Personnel Classification And Compensation Plan - New Classification Specification and Salary Range for Facility CIP Project Manager

Human Resources Director Casalou provided an overview of the staff report. According to Director Casalou the position was part of the operating budget and it was upgraded to include requirements of the college degree and higher job requirements. According to Director Babaki, the caliber of the position requires Manager versus Supervisor in order to manage City's CIP projects.

Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio left Council Chambers at 8:20 p.m.

Discussion took place regarding qualification for the position, why it was no included in the budget presentations and was not part of budget department head requests, and what additional funds would be required for this upgrade. Following discussion, City Administrator Rifa stated that eventually the City could eliminate Swinerton Construction management contract and allow this position to take duties of that contract.

Further discussion took place whether there are in house qualified people could fill this position and the difference between Supervisor position that was previously approved and CIP Manager.

Councilmember Leon moved to approve. There were no second.

Councilmembers Rebollo and Argumedo requested that more information and justification provided and this item brought back at a later meeting.

Councilmember Leon noted that the higher position level would give an individual in that position a decision making responsibility. Director Babaki added that that position would allow an authority to administer contracts, to put together CIP projects, to negotiate change orders, to trouble shoot, etc. Councilmember Rebollo asked whether this position would eliminate contract with Swinerton Construction, to which Director Babaki stated that there would be a transition period and overlap, and also it would depend on number and size of CIP projects that the City has in works.

Councilmember Leon moved, seconded by Mayor Altamirano, to amend the Classification and Compensation Plan by creating a new classification specification: Facility CIP Project Manager for the Public Works and Development Services Department.

Ayes: 3 - Councilmember Leon, Councilmember Rebollo, and Mayor Altamirano

Nays: 1 - Councilmember Argumedo

Absent: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio

13. Agreement with the Mercer Group to Provide Consulting Services Related to the Adoption of a Strategic Plan

Director of Human Resources Casalou provided an overview of the staff report. Discussion ensued regarding services provided and finalization of the City's Strategic Plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio returned to Council Chambers at 8:38 p.m.

Councilmember Argumedo moved, seconded by Councilmember Rebollo, to adopt Resolution approving an agreement with the Mercer Group in an amount of \$3,700 to provide consulting services to facilitate the adoption of the draft strategic plan. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Councilmember Leon, Councilmember Argumedo, Councilmember Rebollo, Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio, and Mayor Altamirano

14. City Request to Aguascalientes, Mexico: Hosting of Commerce Student Ambassadors

City Administrator Rifa provided an overview of the staff report.

Councilmember Rebollo moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio, to authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Sister City, Aguascalientes,

Mexico, to formally request the establishment of an annual goodwill program to host three (3) Commerce student ambassadors to participate in the City's Anniversary celebration in October. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Councilmember Leon, Councilmember Argumedo, Councilmember Rebollo, Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio, and Mayor Altamirano

15. Report on the City's Code Sections and State Law that Prohibit Street Racing

City Attorney Olivo provided an overview of the staff report. According to City Attorney Olivo, the City's Municipal Code cannot add on or contradict the State Law, however, City Code already provides for forfeiture of vehicles and spectators being charged a fine.

City Attorney Olivo stated that there are issues of imposing a fine above the State established amount and staff would need to do further research on that and what the process would be. Councilmember Rebollo asked to explore the possibilities of bigger fine amount for forfeiture. City Administrator Rifa stated that there are some impound fees involved for the vehicles that are towed away. Further discussion ensued.

16. Commissioners Handbook

City Clerk Shumway provided an overview of the staff report. Discussion ensued. Council asked that copies of the Commissioner's manual are provided to the City Council and also Commissioner training scheduled. This item was tabled to the next City Council meeting.

17. Appointment to Oversight Board

Mayor Altamirano re-appointed City Administrator Rifa to the Oversight Board.

CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY REPORTS

Councilmember Rebollo congratulated Public Safety and Community Services Department for a great public Safety luncheon for Sheriff's and Fire personnel and all the volunteers. Councilmember Rebollo reported that she attended Young Legislators Graduation Luncheon hosted by Cristina Garcia. Councilmember Rebollo congratulated Water Polo Girls and Boys for their achievement.

Councilmember Leon reminded everyone that Neighborhood Watch meeting was held past Thursday at Vista Del Rio homes. Councilmember Leon asked that all call or inquiries regarding Neighborhood Watch meetings are transferred to the Community Services Department in order to provide correct information to residents regarding location, time and day of the meeting. Councilmember Leon

invited residents to National Night Out, and anyone interested to 2016 Children's' reading program celebration on Thursday, August 4, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Veterans Park Gym.

Mayor Baca Del Rio stated that FPPC issue is still a pending case and once it is finalized, she would report out the results.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.