



City of Commerce

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 21, 2017 - 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 5:06 p.m.

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 the City Council/Successor Agency on any items on the Closed Session agenda.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

City Council/Successor Agency recessed to Closed Session at 5:07 p.m.

1. Pursuant to Government Code 54957, the City Council will consider personnel matters related to the appointment of Interim City Administrator.
2. Pursuant to Government Code 54957, the City Council will consider personnel matters related to the recruitment/appointment of an Interim Community Services Director.
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 compensation and benefits for the unrepresented full-time executive management employees.
4. Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9 (b), the City Council will confer with its legal counsel, and take appropriate action with respect to significant exposure to litigation in three potential cases.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

City Council/Successor Agency reconvened to Open Session at 11:20 p.m.

ORAL CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

City Attorney/Legal Counsel Olivo reported on Closed Session items:

Item #1- The City Council approved increase to step 5 for Interim City Administrator Rodriguez effective March 1, 2017 and an additional 5% increase to his compensation during his tenure as the Interim City Administrator along with the use of the City car. Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio moved, seconded by Councilmember Rebollo, the motion carried by the following vote:

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

Item #2 - The City Council approved the appointment of Duane Martin as Interim Community Service Director for 24 to 30 hours a week, effective March 1, 2017. Councilmember Leon moved, seconded by Councilmember Rebollo, the motion carried by the following vote:

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

Item #3 The City Council approved a 20% merit increase for the City Clerk with additional duties of Executive Assistant to the City Administrator. Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio moved, seconded by Councilmember Leon, the motion carried by the following vote:

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

Item #4 - The City Council did not take any reportable action on first exposure to litigation matter

The City Council provided direction to staff on second exposure to litigation matter; the direction was unanimous.

The City Council did not go into Closed Session on third potential exposure to litigation matter.

6:30 P.M. - CITY COUNCIL MEETING**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Altamirano called meeting to order at 6:35p.m. in the Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Human Resources Director Casalou led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Leon offered the invocation.

APPEARANCES AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to Employee of the Quarter Hector Orozco, Street and Tree Maintenance Supervisor (4th Quarter/Oct-Dec, 2016)

Mayor and Councilmembers issued a Certificate of Recognition to Employee of the Quater Hector Orozco.

2. Recognition of City Administrator Jorge Rifa on his Retirement and his Contributions to the City of Commerce

Mayor and Councilmembers recognized and thanked City Administrator Jorge Rifa for his service and congratulated on his retirement.

3. Recognition of 10 Year Service for Mayor Pro Tem Tina Baca Del Rio and Councilmember Lilia R. Leon

Mayor Altamirano issued 10 Year Service Awards to Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio and Councilmember Leon, and recognized them for their dedication to the community and moving the City forward all those years.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Craig, Craig Realty, thanked City Administrator Rifa for his service to the community and gave him a retirement gift.

Deputy Diana Fazzini, and Explorer Raul Becerra thanked City Council and especially Councilmember Rebollo for providing venue for Los Angeles County Explorer Softball Tournament.

Deputy Arellano stated that Captain Perez could not attend the meeting and on behalf of Captain Perez and Commerce Deputies congratulated City Administrator Rifa on his retirement.

Christina Asadourian congratulated City Administrator Rifa on his retirement and

announced upcoming "Walk and Talk" event in the City of Commerce scheduled for March 4, 2017 at 9 a.m.

Councilmember Leon moved, seconded by Councilmember Rebollo, to adopt . The motion failed by the following vote:

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Leon moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

4. Approval of Minutes
5. Approval of Warrant Register Nos. 15A and 15B
6. Commendation Recognizing Haig Papaian as a Recipient of the Commerce Industrial Council's George Tumanjan Philanthropic Award
7. Appointment of Interim City Administrator to Oversight Board, and Commissions
8. Policy for the Investments of the City of Commerce Funds
9. Central Basin Municipal Water District Board Restructure -Voting Update
10. Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report for Offsite Properties within Exide Preliminary Investigation Area

PUBLIC HEARING

11. Weed Abatement

City Clerk Shumway provided brief overview of the staff report.

Councilmember Rebollo left Council Chambers at 7:35 p.m. Mayor Altamirano opened Public Hearing. There were nobody wishing to address the Council. Mayor Altamirano closed Public Hearing.

Councilmember Argumedo moved, seconded by Councilmember Leon, to approve the Abatement Order directing the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures to abate the public nuisance, and allow those property owners affected by the Weed Abatement Program to protest the inclusion of their properties within the program. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - Councilmember Leon, Councilmember Argumedo, Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio, and Mayor Altamirano

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Rebollo

SCHEDULED MATTERS

12. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016

Councilmember Rebollo returned to Council Chambers at 7:43 p.m.

Deputy Finance Director Brooks introduced Jonathan Foster from Davis Farr Audit Firm.

Mr. Foster provided an overview of the audit results, and stated that Davis Farr issued "unmodified" opinion on City's financial statements. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Leon moved, seconded by Councilmember Argumedo, to receive and file the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

13. Mid-Year Budget Review - Amending the Annual Operating and Capital Budgets for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Finance Director Domic provided an overview of the staff report. Director Domic stated that the City Council approved OPEB trust fund couple years ago and staff is recommending additional \$500,000 placed for this account. According to Finance Director Domic, staff is looking at establishing PERS stabilization trust fund and in a future bring funds and earnings back to General Fund to address some increases that could occur.

Councilmember Leon requested telephone protocols to be revisited and look into establishing a dedicated phone receptionist position, and eliminate the automated phone option that is currently in place. Finance Director Domic stated that it could be discussed as part of the upcoming budget. It was a consensus among the City Council to continue this item to the next agenda.

14. Utility Box Art Beautification Committee Artwork Selection

Public Works and Development Services Director Babaki provided an overview of the staff report. According to Director Babaki, there has been a slight change since the agenda report was posted. While at the meeting with the consultant for another City project, staff was made aware that three of the recommended utility boxes will be replaced in a year and a half. Director Babaki stated that staff could provide

alternative locations for the utility boxes or go with the original recommendation by the Beautification Committee.

Discussion ensued and it was a consensus among the City Council to move forward with the original recommendation. Director Babaki stated that art submissions are continuous and would be reviewed on a regular basis. Councilmember Rebollo recommended that this program is extended to the City of Commerce Teen program and high school art students. There was a consensus among the City Council that this program is extended to residents of Commerce, Teen program by reserving two to three utility boxes the youth and residents submissions and staff was also directed to reach out to Christina Garcia's office and other City representatives to see if they have any great artwork that could be used on utility boxes.

Mayor Altamirano stated that he has to recuse himself on voting on utility box located on Fidelia and Washington, while Councilmember Argumedo recused himself on voting on Atlantic and Washington location due to those utility boxes located within 500 feet from their residences.

Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio moved, seconded by Councilmember Leon, to approve the Beautification Committee Selection of artwork to be installed at various city owned signal utility cabinets except Washington and Fidelia and Washington Boulevard and Atlantic locations; authorize the Parks and Recreation Department to wash and prime city owned signal utility cabinets before the artist begins work, and install anti-graffiti coating on completed artwork; and, authorize the Finance Department to issue a purchase order for each selected artist and artwork in the amount of \$800 each, with 50% being paid before the artwork is to begin and the remainder after completion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmember Argumedo, Leon, Rebollo, Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio and Mayor Altamirano.

Councilmember Leon moved, seconded by Councilmember Rebollo, to approve art utility boxes at Washington and Fidelia and Washington and Atlantic locations. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 - Councilmember Leon, Councilmember Rebollo, and Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio

Recused - Councilmember Argumedo, and Mayor Altamirano

15. Green Zones Implementation Phase 1 - Status Update

Deputy Director of Development Services Marquez provided an overview of the staff report. Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio left Council Chambers at 8:41 pm.

No action was taken on this item. It was informational only.

16. Purchase of Equipment for Surveying the City from Aerial View

Mayor Altamirano stated that having a drone would allow the City to survey the City from the aerial view and address issues with some City properties by developing a profile of the City. In addition, drone could be used for City events.

City Administrator Rifa stated that the Federal Aviation Administration is regulating drones and there are number of things that have to be considered and the City has to be careful about taking aerial pictures.

Mayor Altamirano and Council directed staff to research and get some additional information about regulations and bring this item back for first meeting in April.

17. City Council Community Events- March 2017

Mayor Altamirano requested that staff research regulations and provide Council with direction of what information could be placed in the Report to the People regarding the Council events. Discussion ensued.

As it relates to two proposed events, Councilmember Rebollo recommended that one event is in the morning and one event in the afternoon. City Attorney Olivo stated that he would research whether these two events could be promoted any other ways except Report to the People. Councilmember Argumedo asked that the City Clerk provides information regarding campaigning during the election time. Further discussion took place. Mayor Altamirano stated that he was having events while being a Mayor and these are the same events involving entire Council.

18. Appointments to Community Union Pacific Railroad Task Force

Councilmember Leon and Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio requested to continue being on the Task Force and ad hoc Railroad committee. Councilmembers requested to bring this item back for Council appointments in March.

CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY REPORTS

Councilmember Leon thanked Mayor Altamirano for recognizing her for 10 years of service. Councilmember Leon announced that Miss Commerce is scheduled for March 11, 2017, Smarter Forum scheduled for February 22, 2017, and Neighborhood Watch meeting at St. Marcelina Church on March 2, 2017.

Councilmember Rebollo Invited residents to United Family of Bristow event. Councilmember Rebollo thanked Asqualientes organization for putting such a great delegation visit and thanked all sponsors.

Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio and Councilmember Leon discussed the situation with recent crimes.

Mayor Altamirano stated that the security camera program is in full effect and encouraged residents apply for \$500 rebate program for security cameras offered by the City of Commerce.

City Council recessed to closed session at 9:16 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 p.m. in memory of Keith Boyer.