



# City of Commerce

## Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, September 5, 2017 - 6:30 PM

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**CONCURRENT ADJOURNED 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 Pro Tem Altamirano called meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.*

**ROLL CALL**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

*There were no individuals wishing to address the City Council/Successor Agency on any items on the agenda.*

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

*City Council/Successor Agency recessed to Closed Session at 5:01 p.m.*

1. Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(a), the Successor Agency will confer with its legal counsel, and take the appropriate action, with respect to the pending litigation of: *Mayans Development, Inc. and Los Jardines, LLC v City of Commerce Community Development Commission, et al.*, Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC505679.
2. Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, the Successor Agency will confer with its real property negotiator, Matthew Rodriguez with respect to real estate negotiations with 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.
3. 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 one potential case.

4. Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(a), the City Council will confer with its legal counsel, and take the appropriate action, with respect to the pending litigation of: Hugo Argumedo v City of Commerce; Tina Baca del Rio; Eduardo Olivo; Bradley Pierce; Jorge Rifa, et al., United States District Court for the Central District of California, Case No. 2-17-CV-06083-DMG-PLA.
5. Pursuant to Government Code §54957, the City Council will consider personnel matters related to public employee discipline/ dismissal/release/compensated administrative leave and other available changes in employment status or terms and conditions of employment of a certain public employees (1 case).

## RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

*City Council/Successor Agency reconvened to open session at 6:33 p.m.*

## ORAL CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

*City Attorney Olivo reported on Closed Session items:*

*Item #1 - The Successor Agency did not take any reportable action on item #1.*

*Item #2 - The Successor Agency provided direction to staff and the direction was unanimous.*

*Item #3 - The City Council provided direction to staff and the direction was unanimous*

*Item #4 - Councilmember Argumedo recused himself from participating on this item. The City Council approved the legal defense for Brad Pierce for the pending litigation of Hugo Argumedo v City of Commerce; Tina Baca Del Rio; Eduardo Olivo; Bradley Pierce; Jorge Rifa. et el. The motion carried by the following vote:*

*AYES: Councilmembers Soria, Mendoza, Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano and Mayor Rebollo.*

*Recused: Councilmember Argumedo*

*Item #5 The City Council provided direction to staff and the direction was unanimous.*

## **6:30 P.M. - CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

## CALL TO ORDER

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*Parks and Recreation Director Lipton led the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**INVOCATION**

*Mayor Rebollo offered the invocation.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Mr. Seguro thanked City Council for sponsorship of the Adventure Club, and spoke about the recent trip to Washington and New York.*

*Randy "Sax" Romero asked that the City considers purchasing land next to Camp Commerce in Lake Arrowhead in order to prevent future development of the rehab center.*

*Richard Hernandez asked that the process is made more clear as it relates to purchase and seale of property to Craig Realty.*

*Gloria Nezahualcoya stated that there were no workshop for the rent control, and asked for more transparency.*

*Sylvia Munoz stated that the deputies should not congregate at the gas stations. Ms. Munoz asked whether Councilmember Soria and Councilmember Mendoza are taking car allowance. Ms. Munoz supported Randy Romero and asked that Council takes care of the situation in Camp Commerce.*

*Jason Stinett complimented the new Commerce Connect publication.*

*Vanessa Stinett, invited to scholarship fundraiser for October 3, 2017.*

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

*Mayor Rebollo asked to pull item #5 and #7 for discussion.*

*Item #5- Discussion took place regarding the timeliness of lease extension. City*

*Attorney Olivo stated that RFP is required by law. Deputy Director of Public Works Operations Nila stated that staff was working on other big projects and City Administrator was informed about lease expiration.*

*Item #7 - In response to Mayor Rebollo question whether it would require an RFP, City Attorney Olivo stated that for this type of contract it would not require RFP process unless the City Council wishes to direct staff to issue RFP.*

*Councilmember Mendoza moved, seconded by Councilmember Argumedo to approve items #5 and #7. The motion carried by the following vote:*

*AYES: Councilmembers Argumedo, Mendoza, Soria, Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano and Mayor Rebollo.*

**Councilmember Mendoza moved, seconded by Councilmember Argumedo, to approve the Consent Calendar minus items #5 and item #7. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

1. Approval of Warrant Register Nos.3A, 3B, 3C and 28A
2. Approval of Minutes
3. A Proclamation Designating the Month of September 2017 as Public Safety Recognition Month
4. Appointment to Los Angeles Gateway Region Integrated Regional Water Management Joint Powers Authority Board
5. Amendment to Services Agreement with California Water Service Company and Release of a Request for Proposal for Lease of Real Property
6. Memorandum of Understanding with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for Measure "M" 20% Transit Operations Funds
7. Agreement with Data Ticket, Inc. for Processing Parking Citations
8. Agreement with New Flyer of America, Inc. for the Purchase of Four (4) 2018 Transit Buses

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**SCHEDULED MATTERS****9. Stormwater Activity Update - Proposition 1 Grant Award**

*Deputy Director of Public Works Operation Nila provided an overview of the staff report. Discussion took place whether 10 million dollars were solely allocated for the City of Commerce or a group of cities, and Deputy Director of Public Works Operation explained that the City of Commerce is one of the cities of LA River Upper reach cities and benefits from this total amount allocation. No action was taken on this item. It was receive and file.*

**10. City of Commerce Ficus Tree Replacement Program**

*Mayor Rebollo talked about the ficus tree removal and impacts that it does to the community. Discussion ensued about the maturity of the trees that are replacing ficus trees. Further discussion took place regarding damage some trees are doing to sidewalks and potential legal liability. There were \$30,000 allocated to replace ficus trees, and the process would take about 10 years as it will be done gradually. According to Deputy Director Nila, half of the trees are going to be evergreens and those are very beneficial for the environment. Deputy Director Nila recommended increasing tree replacement budget if the Council wishes to replace with more mature trees.*

*Councilmember Soria spoke about one resident who did not want to remove the tree and whether the City could continue servicing/trimming that tree. Councilmember Mendoza requested a list of all ficus trees in Commerce. It was a consensus among the City Council to direct staff to plant more trees in contaminated/polluted areas.*

**Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano moved, seconded by Councilmember Argumedo, to adopt Resolution authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$6,000 from Measure AA, Category A - one-time infrastructure projects/capital items to increase the size of replacement trees as part of the City's Ficus Tree Replacement Program. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**11. Ad Hoc Committee Appointment Regarding Fitzgerald Area Parking Concerns**

*It was a consensus among the City Council to appoint Councilmember Soria to ad*

*hoc committee. Councilmember Argumedo had been previously appointed to the ad hoc committee.*

**12. Create the Council Ad Hoc Committee for Veterans Park Recreation Center**

*Parks and Recreation Director Lipton provided an overview of the staff report. Mayor Rebollo recommended merging two sub committees -Sports Complex ad hoc committee and Veterans Park Recreation Center ad hoc sub committee. Mayor Rebollo is currently a member of the sub committee, and it was a consensus among the City Council to appoint Councilmember Mendoza to sub committee as second member and merge both sub committees.*

**13. Creation of New Committees and Commissions**

*Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano requested that the City Council considers creating additional committees to address homeless issues, veterans issues and other pressing issues in the community. Mayor Rebollo recommended that Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano works out the details and come back to Council with recommendations. Discussion ensued. It was agreed that existing committees like Community Services could extend their scope and take those responsibilities. No action was taken on this item.*

**14. Committee and Commission Appointments**

*Councilmember Soria appointed Carmen Marquez to Library Commission.*

*It was a consensus among the City Council to re-appoint Steve Craig and John Reno to Measure AA Advisory Committee. City Council directed staff to contact union to see if someone else would like to represent employees on the Measure AA Advisory Board. Council directed to contact John Reno whether he is planning to attend I-710 Local Advisory Board.*

*It was a consensus among the City Council to re-appoint Robert Taylor and Mark Lopez to I-710 Local Advisory.*

*Further discussion ensued about Railroad Task Force. The membership expired on that committee, and it had not been meeting for years. City Council directed staff to research and provide more information on this Task Force and Environmental Justice Task Force and bring it back for discussion. Mayor Rebollo recommended to combine Environmental Justice Task Force and Railroad Task Force. Mayor Rebollo asked that staff reach out to the community and advertize the Task Force.*

**CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY REPORTS**

*Councilmember Argumedo requested that staff reports on the issues that were brought up regarding Camp Commerce.*

*Councilmember Soria stated that he went on a trip to Mexico and visited arts and culture centers there. Councilmember Soria stated that it could be great opportunity for exchange of art and promoting art. Councilmember Soria reported that he attended Neighborhood Watch meeting, and invited everyone to attend Public Safety workshop scheduled for September 20, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.*

*Councilmember Mendoza reported that he attended scholarship breakfast and invited everyone to participate in the upcoming College Fair in the City of Commerce. Councilmember Mendoza spoke regarding vector control matters.*

*Mayor Rebollo invited residents to the upcoming College Fair, Fiestas Padres, and Neighborhood Watch meeting on Ferguson. Mayor Rebollo urged residents and community to call representatives in order to support immigrant students and their rights.*

*City Council recessed to closed session at 8:08 p.m.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting adjourned in memory of Father Meyer.*