



# City of Commerce

## Meeting Minutes

---

Tuesday, September 4, 2018 - 5:00 PM

---

**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 Argumedo called meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. in the Council Chambers.*

**ROLL CALL**

*Mayor Pro Tem Soria arrived at 5:06 p.m.*

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

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

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

*City Council/ Successor Agency recessed to Closed session at 5:03 p.m.*

1. Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6 the City Council will confer with its labor negotiator, Edgar 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.
2. Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, the Successor Agency will confer with its real property negotiator, Edgar Cisneros, with respect to real estate negotiations concerning proposed price and other terms relating to the properties located at: 5476 Jillson St

(6335-019-023), 5530 Jillson St (6335-019-042), 2500 S Eastern Ave (6335-024-046), 6335-024-038, 6335-024-039, 6335-024-048, 6335-024-042, 6335-024-043, 6335-024-044, 6335-024-045, 5600 Jillson St (6335-023-049), 6335-023-053, 6335-023-054, 5611 E Washington (6335-023-048), 5571 E Washington (6335-024-056) and 5555 E. Washington, Commerce, CA 90040

3. 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

## RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

*City Council/Successor agency reconvened to open session at 6:30 p.m.*

## ORAL CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

*Assistant City Attorney Copado reported on Closed Session items #1 through #3 - City Staff provided an update on the items #1, #2 and #3 and no reportable action was taken on any of those items.*

## 6:00 P.M. - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

## CALL TO ORDER

*Mayor Argumedo called regular City Council meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.in the Council Chambers.*

## ROLL CALL

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

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## INVOCATION

## PUBLIC COMMENT

*Deputy Director of Development Services Marquez made an announcement of upcoming Re- Imagine Commerce pop-up event taking place on Saturday, September 15, 2018.*

*Gloria Nezahualcoya spoke that she was disappointed with the recent action that the City Council took regarding cannabis licensing in the City of Commerce. The City could wait couple years to decide on this.*

*Patricia Cebreros stated that there is a lot of misinformation out there in the community as it relates to the cannabis regulations and many residents were not*

aware. Ms. Cebreros recommended that this matter is placed on a ballot for the residents to vote on.

Jesus Toscano, opposed cannabis licensing in the City.

Rita Topalian stated that she is candidate for 32 Senate District, and outlined the issues and platform she is running on including immigration, and education. Ms. Topalian urged people to vote in the next General election.

Patricia Melendez opposed cannabis and asked to put it on the ballot.

Herbert Aldrete stated that the City Council does a great job. Mr. Aldrete asked that the sidewalks are Garfield and Gerhard Avenue. Mr. Aldrete requested an update regarding Sound Wall. Railroad only build from Garfield to Saybrook only portion built and the City needs to continue building soundwall from Saybrook to Gerhard.

Nellie Zepeda stated that she received an outstanding service at her last visit to Camp Commerce.

Richard Hernandez spoke in support of cannabis regulations in the City of Commerce.

### CONSENT CALENDAR

**Mayor Pro Tem Soria moved, seconded by Councilmember Rebollo, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

1. Approval of Warrant Register Nos. 28A, 5A and 5B

---

**SCHEDULED MATTERS****2. Status Update for the Bandini Elementary School Traffic Control Implementation Plan**

*City Administrator Cisneros provided an overview of the staff report. According to City Administrator Cisneros, staff met with the group of parents and few residents this afternoon to discuss possible solutions.*

*Henry Gomez spoke in opposition of the reduction of parking spaces on Leonis street.*

*Sandy Gonzalez recommended that the drop-off zone is placed on Kenzie street and not Leonis Street.*

*Flora Mariscurena recommended making a drop off zone in the alley and making it a one way street for that purposes. Ms. Mariscurena opposed cannabis regulations in the City of Commerce.*

*Adrian Gomez opposed the proposed drop off plan and stated that the plan is not flexible and asked that other options are evaluated.*

*Joanna Flores, Chair of the School Board, spoke regarding Bandini elementary drop off zone plan. According to Ms. Flores, plan was presented by City engineers, and not by school district. Ms. Flores stated that the School District is interested in working with all the partners on this matter and come up with the best plan that benefits everyone.*

*Benedetta Kennedy stated that the Kenzie Street is very congested and that the school representatives are interested in evaluating other possible options.*

*Discussion took place regarding different options. According to City Administrator Cisneros, drop off in the alley is not a feasible option due to the fact that there are garages, fire lane and high curb would result in issues. Staff is gathering input and will be evaluating all possible options. Discussion took place regarding safety of the children and also developing a plan that satisfies all stakeholder.*

*It was a consensus among the City Council that the safety is important and staff needs to conduct additional analysis to come up with the plan that would benefit*

*all. No action was taken on this item. Staff was directed to work with all stakeholders in evaluating different solutions.*

**3. Formation of a Pension Rate Stabilization Program Plan Trust, and Authorizing Staff to Enter into an Agreement with Public Agency Retirement Services for Plan Trust Fund Administrative Services, and Appropriation of Funds**

*Finance Director Domic provided an overview of the staff report. Discussion ensued.*

**Mayor Pro Tem Soria moved, seconded by Councilmember Rebollo, to adopt Resolution approving an Agreement with Public Agency Retirement Services for pension rate stabilization program plan trust fund administrative services, and deposit \$2.6 million from the General City reserves to the PARS Pension Rate Stabilization Program Trust. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**4. Committee and Commission Appointments**

*Councilmember Altamirano appointed Carlos Mendoza to Your Advisory Commission.*

## **ORDINANCES**

**5. Ordinance Repealing Chapter 5.61 "Medical Marijuana" of Title 5 (Business Regulations and Licensing) of the Commerce Municipal Code in its Entirety, and Replacing it with Chapter 5.61 "Commercial Cannabis Activities", of Title 5 (Business Regulations and Licensing) - Second Reading**

*Rita Villa stated that she is a member of Commission for Cannabis Regulation for City of Los Angeles. Ms. Villa stated that based on comments from residents it looks like that most of the residents are opposing cannabis regulation in the City. For the sake of transparency, Ms. Villa recommended that the matter is placed on a ballot. Ms. Villa also asked for the update on sidewalk on Ferguson Drive. City Administrator Cisneros responded that this item is going to be agendaized at a future meeting.*

*City Administrator Cisneros provided an overview of the staff report. Discussion took place. Councilmember Mendoza stated that that he opposes the ordinance.*

*Councilmember Rebollo spoke about medical benefits of cannabis. Mayor Pro Tem Soria clarified that there will be no store fronts. Mayor Argumedo stated that the City is in good financial situation and does not need an ordinance regulating cannabis.*

**Councilmember Rebollo moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Soria, to adopt the ordinance repealing Chapter 5.61 "Medical Marijuana" of Title 5 (Business Regulations and Licensing) of the Commerce Municipal Code in its entirety, and replacing it with Chapter 5.61 "Commercial Cannabis Activities", of Title 5 (Business Regulations and Licensing). The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 3 - Mayor Pro Tem Soria, Councilmember Altamirano, and Councilmember Rebollo

**Nays:** 2 - Mayor Argumedo, and Councilmember Mendoza

**6. Ordinance Amending Commerce Municipal Code Title 2 "Administration" by Adding Chapter 2.15 "Director of Public Works and Development Services" - Second Reading**

*Administrative Services Director and City Clerk Shumway provided a brief overview of the staff report.*

**Mayor Pro Tem Soria moved, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza, to adopt the Ordinance Amending Commerce Municipal Code Title 2 "Administration" Adding Chapter 2.15 "Director of Public Works and Development Services." The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 4 - Mayor Argumedo, Councilmember Mendoza, Mayor Pro Tem Soria, and Councilmember Altamirano

**Absent:** 1 - Councilmember Rebollo

**7. Public Hearing - An Ordinance Amending Title 19 "Zoning", Chapter 19.31.100 "Alcohol Sales - Development Standards and Use Conditions" -Second Reading**

*City Administrator Cisneros provided a brief overview of the staff report.*

**Councilmember Mendoza moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Soria, to adopt the Ordinance amending Title 19 "Zoning", Chapter 19.31.100 "Alcohol Sales - Development Standards and Use Conditions" to allow for the ancillary sale and dispensing of alcohol when proposed in conjunction with a restaurant. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 4 - Mayor Argumedo, Councilmember Mendoza, Mayor Pro Tem Soria, and Councilmember Altamirano

**Absent:** 1 - Councilmember Rebollo

**CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY REPORTS**

*Councilmember Mendoza reported that he attended the soft opening of the Veteran's Park building for the crash volleyball practices. Councilmember Mendoza stated that he met with staff in different departments on Friday and staff was very welcoming.*

*Councilmember Rebollo invited residents to the upcoming College Fair.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.*