



# City of Commerce

## Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, September 18, 2018 - 5:00 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 Argumedo called meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. in the Council Chambers.*

#### **ROLL CALL**

**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/Successor Agency on Closed Session items.*

#### **RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

*City Council/Successor Agency recessed to Closed Session at 5:04 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. 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.

#### **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

*City Council/Successor Agency reconvened to open session at 6:12 p.m.*

**ORAL CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT**

*Assistant City Attorney Copado reported on Closed Session items #1 and #2- Staff briefed the City Council/Successor Agency and no reportable action was taken on either of the items.*

**6:00 P.M. - CITY COUNCIL MEETING****CALL TO ORDER**

*Mayor Argumedo called regular City Council meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.*

**ROLL CALL**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*Public Works and Development Services Director Babaki led the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**INVOCATION**

*Mayor Pro Tem Soria offered the invocation*

**APPEARANCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

1. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to Employee of the Quarter - Andres Manquero

*Human Resources Director Ela Papo spoke about Andres Manquero accomplishments and Mayor and City Council presented a Certificate of Recognition to Employee of the Quarter Angres Manquero.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Israel Gaitan spoke in support of cannabis and what benefits it would bring to Commerce including tax revenue increase.*

*Sharon Basic spoke about the parking situation at the Village area and asked the the proper enforcement is done for the no overnight parking.*

*Benaquel Naravjo, and Ernest Cavotrious opposed cannabis regulation, and spoke about negative effects for the City of Commerce.*

*Director of Administrative Services and City Clerk Shumway read letter for the record submitted by Rosa Zambrano who opposed cannabis manufacturing or delivery in the City of Commerce.*

*Steve Viesco spoke in support of cannabis and thanked City Council for not allowing cannabis dispensaries in the City. Mr. Viesco stated that cannabis businesses would create jobs for the community.*

*Scott Johnson stated that the only local newspaper in Commerce is Wave, and he is the publisher of the independent newspaper. Mr. Johnson spoke about change of the towing companies in Commerce and Mr. C's business.*

*Kevin Lainez supported cannabis ordinance and spoke that the revenue would allow to fund new programs, and asked that additional assistance is provided to residents displaced by I-710 expansion project.*

*Elisa Paelilla, Nancy Reynolds, Jose Gonzalezs, Ramela Cruz, Erika Bojorquez and Richard Hernandez spoke in support of cannabis regulation in the City of Commerce.*

*Ernesto Gonzales supported cannabis in the City and talked about similar situation that happened when casino was coming to the City of Commerce and how the City benefited from this over years.*

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

*Mayor Pro Tem Soria requested to pull item #13, Councilmember Rebollo requested to pull item #6 and Mayor Argumedo requested to pull item #12.*

**Mayor Pro Tem Soria moved, seconded by Councilmember Altamirano, to approve the Consent Calendar minus items #6, #12 and #13. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

- 2. Approval of Warrant Register Nos. 6A and 6B**
- 3. Proclamation Declaring the Month of October 2018 as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**
- 4. Proclamation Declaring the Month of September as Deaf Awareness**

Month

5. Commendation for the City of Aguascalientes on the Occasion of their 443rd Anniversary
6. Proposed STOP Sign Installations along Triggs Street at the Intersection of Triggs Street and Duncan Avenue

*Councilmember Rebollo thanked Public Works Department for completing this project.*

*Councilmember Rebollo moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Soria, to approve the proposed STOP sign installations and STOP bar markings along Triggs Street at the intersection of Triggs Street and Duncan Avenue, converting it to an all-way or four-way STOP -controlled intersection, as recommended by the Traffic Commission. The motion carried by the following vote:*

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

7. Removal of Traffic Calming Street Markings along Triggs Street
8. DTSC Agreement for the former Specific Plating Site Environmental Assessment and Remediation - 1350 S. Eastern Avenue, Commerce, CA.
9. On-Call Professional Services List for Architectural Engineering, Planning Services, and Building and Facilities Assessment - Adding Goodale Architecture Planning to the List
10. Memorandum of Understanding, and Facility Use Agreement - The American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles
11. Amendment to CPS HR-Consulting Agreement for City-Wide Classification and Compensation Study
12. Atlantic Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project

*Mayor Argumedo recused himself from participating on item \$12 due to potential conflict of interest. Councilmember Altamirano moved, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza, to approve the construction project plans, specifications, and estimates for the Atlantic Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project and authorize staff to advertise the Notice Inviting Bids. The motion carried*

by the following vote:

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

**13. Authorization of Engineering Design, and Geotechnical Investigation Contracts, for Pavement Rehabilitation Program FY 2018-19**

*Mayor Pro Tem Soria recused himself on participating on this item due to potential conflict of interest. Councilmember Mendoza moved, seconded by Councilmember Rebollo, to adopt Resolution authorizing staff to proceed with the FY 2018/19 Pavement Rehabilitation Project Design and Geotechnical Investigation for an estimated total of approximately \$4 Million program; authorize Transtech Engineers Inc. to proceed with the necessary work for design services; authorize Geo-Advantec, Inc, to proceed with Geotechnical Investigation Services and provide about 10% for contingencies. The motion carried by the following vote:*

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

**14. Agreement with Bouza Law Firm for Specialized Legal Services**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**15. Resolution Establishing New Fees Related to the Implementation of the Commercial Cannabis Permit Program**

*Assistant City Attorney Copado provided an overview of the staff report.*

*Mayor Argumedo opened Public Hearing.*

*Jose Zambrano spoke in opposition of the cannabis ordinance.*

*Scott Johnson spoke about Blue Icon consultant involvement in the election process while being hired for cannabis outreach; and the public notice for cannabis being published in the Cerritos News.*

*Councilmember Mendoza made a statement opposing cannabis, and questioned the statistics that was presented, and who canvassed the City and when it was done. Councilmember Mendoza questioned why City Administrator is in charge of creating review committee as it relates to the application process. Asked that the*

*ordinance is re-tracked and the City Council reconsiders the ordinance.*

*Councilmember Rebollo stated that this is confrontational item and in March the company came forward and wanted to operate legally. The entire City Council reviewed the request and approved it. There was one call for service from Sheriff's Department unrelated to cannabis at that location. Councilmember Rebollo spoke about medical benefits of cannabis.*

*Mayor Argumedo stated that presentations at the community meetings were one sided and no negative impacts were discussed until Sheriff's Department made presentation at the last community meeting at the Veteran's park. Also there were no direct questions asked whether residents were in favor or against cannabis in Commerce. Mayor Argumedo stated that there are several projects are in the works and would place Commerce in a good financial sound position and there were no need to move with cannabis in the City.*

*Assistant City Attorney Copado explained that ordinance has three phases of initial, screening and approval process. There are grounds of disqualification, no exemptions, exceptions or variances allowed. Applicants are required to do life scan to determine whether there are criminal convictions. Second phase is scoring on objective criteria, and staff has ability of what type so things that the City would be interested in. Council has a final approval whether development agreement is approved. Discussion took place regarding staff/review committee. City Administrator has an authority to appoint on who is going to be on the review committee.*

*Mayor Pro Tem Soria spoke about loosening alcohol licensing requirements by ordinance that was passed recently and nobody opposed. Mayor Pro Tem Soria spoke about moral compass. Mayor Pro Tem Soria mentioned that one of recent presentations the City of Los Angeles demonstrated that there were no spike in crime statistics due to cannabis.*

*Mayor Argumedo opened public hearing.*

*Erika Bojorquez and Novid Yoosefia supported cannabis regulation.*

**Councilmember Rebollo moved, seconded by Councilmember Altamirano, to adopt Resolution adopting fees related to the implementation of the commercial cannabis permit program, pursuant to Ordinance No. 700. 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

## **SCHEDULED MATTERS**

### **16. Commerce Community Benefits Funding For Senior Programs**

*City Administrator Cisneros provided an overview of the staff report.*

*Gloria Nezahualcoya question whether the cannabis business should be in Commerce since it had been operating illegally all that time.*

*Mayor Argumedo recommended to move funds to general fund and use whenever it is needed instead of allocating for specific programs. Councilmember Altamirano stated that once money goes into the General Fund, they get dissolved.*

*Councilmember Rebollo recommended allocation for Home Fix up grant and allocate money for those applicants that do not meet requirements. Councilmember Rebollo asked that more programs brought up for discussion and especially Community Services Programs.*

**Councilmember Rebollo moved, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza, to approve expenditures related to the Senior Rent Subsidy Program -Option 2, additional Chi Kung and Yoga Classes and the purchase of two new computers and printers through the Commerce Community Benefits Fund. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

### **17. Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Municipal Translation Company for Interpreter Services at City Council and Related Meetings**

*City Administrator Cisneros provided an overview of the staff report. Councilmember Mendoza recommended to hire a part-time translator.*

**Mayor Pro Tem Soria moved, seconded by Councilmember Rebollo, to approval a Professional Services Agreement with Municipal Translation Company to provide simultaneous interpreter services at City Council and related city meetings. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

### **18. Los Angeles County Safe Clean Water Parcel Tax Ballot Measure**

*Pamela Manning, Community and Government Relations Group of County Public*

Works Department, stated that this Measure W is coming on November election. There is water resilience issue and Board decided after research to put it on the ballot and improve water quality and increase water supply. There will be parcel tax issued with estimated revenue to be generated of 300 million. Revenue will be distributed as following: 50% will go into regional area, 40% will go back to the Cities (1.3 million dollars is estimated to be allocated for Commerce), and 10% goes back to Flood Control District.

Discussion took place about what the tax would be for residents. Ms. Manning stated that on average it would be \$83 per household. Discussion took place to put more information for the community regarding this ballot measure. 20 million dollar problem for cities to comply with the clean water regulations. And nobody is budgeting for this and it will be hard for cities and everyone if these money are not available.

Ms. Manning recommended to have a workshop to educate community and get information to the community.

This was information only item. No action was taken on this item.

#### **19. Approve Non-Resident Participation in Youth Recreational Sports**

Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation Marquez provided an overview of the staff report.

Councilmember Rebollo stated that three of the four parks in the City had issues of creating teams and enrollment in sports. Councilmember Rebollo recommended to keep registration open for two weeks for just residents and if there are not enough kids enrolled open up for non-residents. According to Councilmember Rebollo, this is a good idea to pilot this program. In addition, Councilmember Rebollo recommended that staff evaluate and analyze of why children not signing up for sports, and possibly look into playing in leagues with other cities to make it more competitive. In addition, staff needs to do a better outreach in all school including charter schools.

Extensive discussion took place regarding an enrollment cost for non-residents, and it was a consensus among the City Council to reduce it to \$15 for one child for a year for all sports enrollment or \$25 for multiple children per household for year along sports activities. Another recommendation was to bring all-star teams and explore possibility of playing in leagues with other cities. Councilmember Altamirano recommended bringing back Olympics or track meets for all teams.



*It was a consensus among the City Council to pilot this program in three City parks except Rosewood.*

**Councilmember Rebollo moved, seconded by Councilmember Soria, to approve allowing non-residents to participate in youth recreational sports programs (not including competitive/travel sports) as a pilot projects in three parks and set a fee at \$15 per sport as a non-residents recreational sports fee or \$25 per household. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**20. Allocation of Funds for Initial Design to Supply Electrical Power to the Existing Fueling Station next to the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility**

*Public Works and Development Director Babaki provided an overview of the staff report.*

**Mayor Pro Tem Soria moved, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza, to adopt Resolution allocating \$10,000 for Southern California Edison to prepare the initial design and develop plans for supplying electrical power to the existing fueling station next to the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy facility, so that it can continue its operations in supplying natural fuel to buses and other vehicles for the City's Transportation Department. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**21. Committee and Commission Appointments**

*Councilmember Rebollo appointed Amber Cebreros to Youth Advisory Commission.*

**CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY REPORTS**

*Councilmember Altamirano reported that he attended Reimagine Commerce event on Saturday regarding General Plan.*

*Councilmember Rebollo reported that she attended General Plan Pop-Up event, Senior Center celebration, Library Services event and Fiesta Patrias.*

*Councilmember Mendoza reported that he attended Senior Dance, 16th of September celebration and talked about mosquito problems in the LA County.*

*Mayor Pro Tem Soria reported that he attended General Plan Pop-Up event, Fiesta Patrias, and congratulated City Administrator Edgar and Jessica Cisneros on baby girl.*

*Mayor Argumedo reported that he attended General Plan Pop-Up event, Fiesta Patrias and stated that Camp Commerce registration went well.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.*