



City of Commerce

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 4, 2019 - 6:00 PM

**CONCURRENT JOINT 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**

6:00 P.M. - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Soria called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Present: 3 - Mayor Soria
Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano
Councilmember Argumedo

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Mendoza
Councilmember Rebollo

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Human Resources Director Pappo led the Pledge of Allegiance

INVOCATION

Mayor Soria offered the invocation

APPEARANCES AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of Award Certificates and Prizes to the First Place Winners of the Library Services Department 2019 Children's Bookmark and Essay Contest

Senior Librarian Sigrid Hudson and Education Commissioners presented certificates and prizes for winners of the Library Services Department 2019 Children's Bookmark and Essay Contest.

2. Commendation Recognizing the Organization for the Physically Impaired for Providing Outstanding Service to the City of Commerce.

Mayor Soria and Councilmembers presented commendation recognizing the organization for the Physically Impaired for their service to the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wanda Jackson spoke on behalf of Ivan Altamirano, and how he impacted her life.

Oscar Ruiz, 630 Teamsters representative, spoke in support of cannabis operations in the City of Commerce.

Carlos Quinonez, 630 Teamster representative, spoke in support for Cannabis operations, and announced the upcoming Job Fair organized by cannabis industry.

Lizy Lopez spoke in support of cannabis and stated that additional tax revenue would be beneficial for the City and it will create new jobs.

Jennie Muro spoke in opposition of cannabis and said that they would not pay salaries as promised. Ms. Muro spoke about health concerns associated with cannabis.

Julissa Altamirano spoke in opposition of Councilmember Mendoza's behavior. Ms. Altamirano stated that Councilmember Mendoza disrespects women.

Richard Hernandez spoke about notification and informing front staff about any meetings and cancellations and recommended to implement app for the public in order to see all upcoming meetings and cancellations.

Angelica Prieto asked that residents have been misinformed when signed petitions.

Alicia Rendosa stated that she has been the City of Commerce employee for 23 years and condemned Council behavior for starting a fight at the Contract Cities conference.

Laura Logan stated that negotiations are going on for 14 months and asked that the City Council directs the team to be cooperative and finalize the agreement between the City and employee union.

Rudy Chany spoke in support of cannabis, but asked that money received from cannabis industry are used to enhance services for the community such as more deputies, education, parks and maybe establishing dog park.

Anthony Navarrete stated that there is a lot of misinformation going on in the community, and asked whether Scientology pays commercial tax, and also they place literature in the mail boxes and this is federal offence and prohibited.

Dr. Molly Navarrete stated that the flyers distributed by the City provided more information about the industry, and there are no many businesses/industries that the City could attract to the City. Cannabis industry will create jobs.

Jesus Cervantes complained that seal was used for the brochure that was distributed regarding cannabis.

Gloria Nezahualcoya spoke in opposition of cannabis and asked that people are allowed to vote. Ms. Nezahualcoya stated that senior classes were provided before but now cannabis industry is taking credit for it as funding those expenses.

Sharon Basic opposes cannabis.

Mirabel Mendoza spoke in support of Councilmember Mendoza and asked that the violence issues is addressed.

Randy Munoz asked that residents are allowed to vote on the issue.

James Herrmann spoke in opposition of cannabis.

Soria thanked everyone for taking their time and speaking on issues. Read a statement to create new job and opportunities and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

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

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Mendoza, and Councilmember Rebollo

3. Approval of Warrant Register Nos. 21A, and 21B

4. Approval of Minutes

5. Award of Construction Contract Agreement to Myers & Sons Hi-Way Safety, Inc. for the Citywide Wayfinding Vehicular Directional Signs Project
6. Approval of On-Street Physically Challenged Accessible Parking Space for 1516 South McBride Avenue
7. Contract Approval for Home Preservation Grant Program for the Properties at 6010 Jillson Street and 2241 Fitzgerald Avenue
8. Project Acceptance of FY 2017-18 Annual Pavement Rehabilitation Project

SCHEDULED MATTERS

9. Update Regarding Proposed Ferguson Drive Union Pacific Railroad Sound Wall

Public Works and Development Services Director Babaki provided an overview of the staff report. According to Director Babaki, work on soundwall was put on hold due to the layoff of 1,600 BNSF employees. Once any updates provided, the matter will be brought back to the City Council.

Councilmember Argumedo recommended looking into legal options, associated costs for legal representation, and start taking appropriate measures as this has been delayed for so long. Councilmembers agreed with the statement. Further discussion ensued. No action was taking on this item. It was informational only.

10. Approval of Public Art for the New Parking Structure Development at 5401 Telegraph Road, Commerce, CA

Sonia Griego, Associate Planner, provided an overview of the staff report. Ken Jackson, Developer of the project from Ken Partners, and Marie Chavez, AltaMed, spoke about artwork selection, and stated that screens and there will have light on each of the floor at night. Discussion ensued. The cost of the artwork is far beyond the \$90,000 required for this project. Further discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano moved, seconded by Councilmember Argumedo, to adopt Resolution approving the Public Art proposed by the applicant, AltaMed Health Services Corporation at the project site located at 5401 Telegraph Road. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Mendoza, and Councilmember Rebollo

CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY REPORTS

Councilmember Argumedo spoke about signature gathering for Referendum Petition.

Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano wished Happy Birthday to his mother and his daughter. Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano read a statement regarding flight that occurred, and stated that this matter is under investigation and could not comment. Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano stated that he always represented Commerce in professional manner, and he is confident that when the investigation is complete the person responsible would be held accountable.

Mayor Soria spoke about respect for each other, and that community needs to move forward.

CLOSED SESSION

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Terry Westmore, Vice President of Employee Association, asked that the City Council takes it seriously to finish the agreement.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

City Council recessed to Closed Session at 7:41 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.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

City Council reconvened to Open Session at 8:22 p.m.

ORAL CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Councilmember Rebollo arrived at 7:41 p.m.

Assistant City Attorney Copado reported that Councilmember Mendoza was absent.

Item #1 - staff provided an update to the City Council, the City Council provided further direction and no final action was taken on this item.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.