



City of Commerce

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 18, 2019 - 5:00 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**

5:00 P.M. CLOSED SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Mayor Soria
Councilmember Argumedo
Councilmember Mendoza
Councilmember Rebollo

Absent: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano

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 8:32 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. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8:

Property: The former Commerce Community Development Commission-owned real property located along the Telegraph Road Corridor, south of Gaspar Avenue and north of the Commerce Casino [Tubeway Avenue], formerly known as 5809, 5819, 5823,

2901/2903, 5933, 5959, 6000, 6003 and 6233 Telegraph Road and 2240 Gaspar Avenue; 2311, 2322 and 2366 Travers Avenue, Commerce, California.

Property Owner: Successor Agency to the Commerce Community Development Commission

Negotiating party: Edgar P. Cisneros & Silverado Management

Under negotiation: Lease Agreement

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The City Council/Successor Agency reconvened to Open Session at 8:56 p.m.

ORAL CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Assistant City Attorney Copado reported on Closed Session items: Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano was absent during the Closed Session.

Item #1- Staff provided and update to City Council and no final action was taken on this item.

Item #2 - this item has not been discussed in Closed Session.

6:00 P.M. - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Manager Cisneros led the Pledge of Allegiance

INVOCATION

Councilmember Rebollo offered the invocation.

APPEARANCES AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to Nora Ferrer, Acting Administrative Assistant, as the Employee of the Quarter (January - March 2019)

Councilmembers and the Mayor presented a Certificate of Recognition to Nora Ferrer as Employee of the Quarter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Herrmann, spoke in regards of Referendum Petitions and complained about the letter received from City Clerk rejecting Referendum Petitions. Mr. Herrmann asked for the opportunity for the residents to vote on the cannabis matter.

Frank Afoa spoke in support of cannabis, and stated that this industry would bring well paid jobs to the City of Commerce including other community benefits.

Alma Suarez complained about Referendum Petitions being rejected based on technicality and asked for the right to vote.

Oscar Ruiz, 630 Representative, stated that the members participated in the job fair that took place past Saturday. Mr. Ruiz spoke in support of cannabis, and stated that residents were misled when asked to sign Referendum Petitions.

Sarah Dudley asked that item #13 is removed from Consent Calendar for discussion. Ms. Dudley was representing Coalition for Responsible and Equitable Economic Development in Los Angeles, and stated that a comment letter in opposition of Citadel project was submitted for Council consideration.

Gloria Nezahualcoya asked that people are allowed to vote on the matter of cannabis.

Jose Pina, Free LA, stated that he was concerned about ground lease for Citadel project and stated that EIR and CEQA needed for this project.

Godfrey Wahira, representing Free LA, expressed concerns about Citadel project ground lease.

Angela Rodriguez spoke in support of cannabis and stated that it would make community better.

Carlos Quinonez, Teamster 630, spoke in support of cannabis, and also stated that during Referendum Petition signature collection people mislead residents about the intent of the petition.

Kate Spear, representing Hospitality Workers Union, requested that item #13 removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion, and spoke in opposition of this item. Ms. Spear concern was that the project is moving forward before full CEQA review.

Jesus Cervantes asked that the residents are given the opportunity to vote.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano asked to pull items #3, #6, and #13 for discussion. Councilmember Mendoza asked to pull item #11 for discussion.

Item #3- Mayor Soria recused himself from participating on this item due to the potential conflict of interest and left Council Chambers.

Councilmember Rebollo moved, seconded by Councilmember Argumedo, to adopt Resolution approving renewal of on-call Professional Services Agreement and addition of firms to the on-call consultant list. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

RECUSED: Mayor Soria.

Item #6 - City Manager Cisneros provided an overview of the staff report. Discussion ensued. Councilmember Mendoza stated that this allocation of funds could come from general fund instead of Community Benefits Fund, and recommended that money from Community Benefits Fund are placed into General Fund and then fund the projects. Further discussion took place whether it would be prudent to keep separate funds or merge those two funds.

Councilmember Rebollo moved to approve, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano, to authorize the Community Benefits Fund to partially fund the cost associated with the Commerce Community Dodgers Night, partially fund costs for the Schurr High School Girls Water Polo Championship and authorize increase to the Senior Rent Subsidy Program. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Abstained: Councilmember Argumedo.

A motion made by Councilmember Argumedo to fund expenses from General fund was not considered since the vote was made on first motion.

Item #11- City Manager Cisneros provided a brief overview of the staff report. Councilmember Mendoza stated that in the past people with no relevant experience got jobs in different departments, and stated that there should be more transparency. According to Director of Human Resources Pappo, change of qualifications would allow better pool from in-house employees and outside. First recruitment would be done in-house and if less than three qualified in-house employees express interest, position would be advertised to outside.

Councilmember Rebollo moved, seconded by Councilmember Argumedo, to adopt Resolution amending the Classification and Compensation plan by revising the classification specifications for the Senior Library Page classification. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Item #13- Assistant City Manager Bobadilla provided a brief overview of the staff report and stated that the project would be brought back to the City Council for EIR.

Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Rebollo, to adopt Resolution approving Ground Lease Agreement between Silverado Management and the City of Commerce for approximately 1.8 acres of the 10.62 acre parcel, located at 6233 Telegraph Road, Commerce, CA. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano moved, seconded by Councilmember Rebollo, to approve Consent Calendar minus item #3, #6, #11 and #13. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

2. Approval of Warrant Register Nos. 22A, and 22B

3. Renewal of On-Call Professional Services Agreements, and Adding to the On-Call Professional Services List
4. First Amendment to the Remix Software, Inc. Transit Planning Software Agreement
5. Award of Contract to California Facilities Specialties for Veterans Park Gymnasium Indoor Gym Divider Curtain Project
6. Community Benefits Funding Request for Commerce Dodgers Night, Schurr High School Girls Water Polo Championship and Increase for Senior Rent Subsidy Program
7. Authorization for Transportation Grant Funding for Capital and Operating Assistance for Fiscal Year 2019-2020
8. Annual Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Year 2019-2020
9. Temporary Lease of City Owned Property Located at 2500 Eastern Avenue for a 4th of July Fireworks Stand with American Promotional Events, Inc. - West, A California Corporation, D.B.A. TNT Fireworks
10. Temporary Street Closures for the 2019 Annual 5K Freedom Run
11. Amending the Senior Library Page Classification
12. City Hall Closure in Observance of Independence Day, July 4-5, 2019
13. 30-year Ground Lease with Silverado Management for Parcel Located at 6233 Telegraph Road, Commerce

SCHEDULED MATTERS

14. Adoption of Annual Operating 2019/2020 Fiscal Year Budget

Finance Director Domic provided an overview of the staff report. Discussion took place about the reserve fund and surplus. It was stated that regardless of money available in the reserve fund, the Council is taking a frugal position possibly preparing for economic slowdown. Finance Director Domic stated that there is a difference between reoccurring budgeted items and one time expenditures, and that the reserve fund has been used to purchase land in order to move forward with

the Council vision for economic development. This is an investment in the future of the City. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Rebollo moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano, to approve Resolution adopting the City Administrator's proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2019/2020. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

15. Design Selection for the Veterans and "Heroes" Designated Parking Space Signs

Deputy Director of Engineering Young provided an overview of the designs. Following discussion it was a consensus among the City Council to go with option #1.

16. Amendment and Addition to the California High Speed Rail Authority Agreements

Deputy Director of Engineering Young provided an overview of the staff report. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Argumedo moved, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza, to adopt Resolution approving Amendment No. 1 extending the City's Agreement with the California High Speed Rail Authority to January 21, 2021; authorizing Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement with Southstar Engineering and Consulting, Inc.'s extending the term of the agreement; and authorizing Mott MacDonald, LLC to provide civil engineering and design service pursuant to their on-call agreement with a contract term of June 4, 2019 to January 21, 2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - Mayor Soria, Councilmember Argumedo, Councilmember Mendoza, and Councilmember Rebollo

Absent: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano

17. Appointment to Commerce-Refuse - to - Energy Authority

City Manager Cisneros recommended that Assistant City Manager Bobadilla is appointed as alternate as staff representative. Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano left Council Chambers during this item.

Councilmember Rebollo moved, seconded by Councilmember Argumedo, to appoint Assistant City Manager Bobadilla as alternate. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - Mayor Soria, Councilmember Argumedo, Councilmember Mendoza, and Councilmember Rebollo

Absent: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano

CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY REPORTS

Councilmember Mendoza asked of why a new set up at the dais. Councilmember Mendoza stated that residents requested an opportunity to vote. Councilmember Mendoza apologized for May 18th incident. Councilmember Mendoza thanked everyone for reaching out to him and checking on him.

Councilmember Rebollo reported that she attended COG meeting and I-710 committee, and requested that the update is provided related to I-710 development. Thanked Kids Club and teens that participated at the Special Olympics Touch Run. Councilmember Rebollo stated that she has not attended in Indian Wells, and asked that her colleagues are respectful for each other. Councilmember Rebollo stated that some who collected signatures under false pretense.

Mayor Soria spoke about being united and moving forward as a city. Mayor Soria issued his condolences to Carolyn Gomez who lost her husband Kelly Gomez.

ADJOURNMENT

City Council adjourned to Closed Session after regular scheduled meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.