



City of Commerce

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 15, 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

Mayor Soria called meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano arrived at 5:25 p.m. and Councilmember Mendoza arrived at 5:15 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

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

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

City Council/Successor Agency recessed to Closed Session at 5:08 p.m.

1. Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, the City Council will confer with its real property negotiator, Edgar Cisneros, with respect to real estate negotiations with:

A. 5476 Jillson St. (APN 6335-019-023), 5530 Jillson St., Commerce, CA 90040 (APN 6335-019-042)

B. 5533 E. Washington - (APN 6335-019-043), 5505 E. Washington (APN 6335-019-047), and 5519 E. Washington, Commerce, CA 90040 (APN 6335-019-046).

C. 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.

D. Craig Realty Corporation concerning proposed price and other terms relating thereto, comprised of 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, 5901, 5959, 6000, 6003 and 6233 Telegraph Road and 2240 Gaspar Avenue; 2311, 2322 and 2366 Travers Avenue, Commerce, California.

2. CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE REGARDING PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT/APPOINTMENT pursuant to Government Code 54957 (b) (1)
Employee Title: Director of Parks and Recreation and Director of Economic Development and Sustainability
3. CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE REGARDING PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1).
Employee Title: City Manager, Edgar P. Cisneros
4. CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE REGARDING LABOR NEGOTIATIONS pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6
Employee Title and Unrepresented Employee: City Manager, Edgar P. Cisneros
City Representative: Norma Copado

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

City Council/Successor Agency reconvened to Open Session at 6:15 p.m.

ORAL CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Assistant City Attorney Copado reported on Closed Session items:

Item #1- briefing was provided to City Council/Successor Agency, and no reportable action was taken on this item.

Item #2 - City Manager Cisneros briefed City Council, and no reportable action was taken on this item.

Item #3- Briefing was provided to City Council, and no reportable action was taken on this item.

Item #4 - City Manager Cisneros was not present during the discussion of this item. City Council approved changes to City Manager Cisneros contract. The vote was the following:

AYES: Councilmember Rebollo, Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano and Mayor Soria (3)

NAYES: Councilmembers Mendoza and Argumedo (2)

This item is also on the regular City Council meeting agenda as item #13.

6:00 P.M. - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Soria called regular City Council meeting to order at 6:16 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

Assistant City Manager Domic led the Pledge of Allegiance

INVOCATION

Councilmember Argumedo offered the invocation.

APPEARANCES AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation Declaring October 23-31, 2019 as "Red Ribbon Week" in the City of Commerce

Mayor and Councilmembers proclaimed October 23, 2019 through October 31, 2019 as "Red Ribbon Week."

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gloria Nezahualcoya asked who is paying for food for Senior Center events organized by Mayor and raffle prizes. Ms. Nezahualcoya requested that the City Council allows residents to vote on the cannabis issue.

Dave Rodriguez spoke about cannabis and hiring consultants for processing cannabis applications, which cost the City over \$400,000.

Ann Arnow spoke in opposition to City Manager's agreement extension. Ms. Arnow alluded that most of the employees and consultants hire made recently are related to Huntington Park and City Manager Cisneros.

Camila Mirada spoke about human rights and also in opposition to cannabis

ordinances and asked for the right to vote.

James Herrmann spoke in opposition to cannabis.

Alma Sores spoke in opposition to cannabis and asked to keep Commerce clean and safe.

Sharon Basic reported non-operational light and asked why staff did not follow up on her previous complaint.

Richard Hernandez complained about cannabis operation on Washington and Eastern.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Argumedo asked to pull item #13 for discussion.

Assistant City Attorney Copado provided an overview of the staff report, and stated that term of agreement, salary, severance pay, and allocation of tax differed college saving fund were changed in the agreement.

Discussion took place about entire package increase in percentage.

Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano moved, seconded by Councilmember Rebollo, to adopt Resolution approving employment agreement with City Manager Edgar P Cisneros. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmember Rebollo, Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano and Mayor Soria (3)

NAYES: Councilmembers Mendoza and Argumedo (2)

Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano moved, seconded by Councilmember Rebollo, to approve Consent Calendar minus item #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. 6A and 6B

3. Senate Bill 2 Planning Grants Program and Authorize Staff to Apply for Funding

4. 2nd Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles Gateway Region Integrated Regional Management Joint Powers Authority
5. General Municipal Election - Resolutions Calling and Giving Notice of the March 3, 2020 General Municipal Election, Requesting Board of Supervisors to Render Specified Services and Candidate Statement Requirements
6. Professional Services Agreement with Coyote, Wildlife & Pest Solutions to Perform Coyote Abatement Services and Adopting the Related Notice of Exemption
7. Temporary Street Closures for the City of Commerce's 2019 "Trick or Trot" 5K Run
8. Irrevocable Right-of-Way Easement for Street Dedication for the Real Property at 2222 Yates Avenue, Commerce
9. Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Commerce, the City of Montebello, the City of Pico Rivera, the City of Santa Fe Springs, and the City of Whittier Regarding the Metro Gold Line East Side Extension Phase II
10. Rejection of All Construction Bids for the Citywide Wayfinding Vehicular Directional Signs Project
11. Special Holiday Schedules for City Hall & Other Facilities
12. Meeting Cancellation- January 7, 2020
13. Employment Agreement with City Manager Edgar P. Cisneros

SCHEDULED MATTERS

14. Update on Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles Proposed Tax Measure

Chief Osby, Fire Chief of Los Angeles County, provided an overview of the proposed tax measure. According to Chief Osby, the main goal of this measure is to establish a robust fiscal strategy. The calls for service are gradually increasing, and there are necessary upgrades for infrastructure and communication systems

that are needed. Chief Osby stated that if the City chooses to opt-in, the District will conduct outreach before the election. Mr. Osby also noted that the tax amount collected in the jurisdiction would be only spent in that same jurisdiction. The proposed tax rate of six cents per square foot is for residential and commercial businesses. The District also would bear the cost of the ballot measure preparation and placing it on the ballot.

Discussion took place about the cost for the taxpayers, and whether all tax money collected would stay in the City of Commerce. According to Chief Osby, with the proposed tax rate, the District would receive 2.4 million that will be only spent within Commerce. The majority of funds would be spent on overhead, infrastructure and staffing, and replacement of equipment and upgrades to existing infrastructure. Further discussion took place whether there is a sunset clause in this tax measure and whether six cents proposed tax is the hard number. Chief Osby stated that six cents is not a hard number and could go up or down, and there is no sunset clause.

15. Agreement of Purchase and Sale and Escrow Instructions Between the Commerce Refuse to Energy Authority, and the City of Commerce, for Property Located at 5926 South Sheila Street, in the City of Commerce

City Manager Cisneros provided an overview of the staff report. Discussion took place.

Councilmember Rebollo moved, seconded by Councilmember Argumedo, to adopt Resolution approving the Agreement to Purchase and Sale and Escrow Instructions between the Commerce Refuse to Energy Authority (CREA), and the City of Commerce, for property located at 5926 South Sheila Street, in the City of Commerce, California. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

16. Committee and Commission Appointments

Councilmember Rebollo appointed to Youth Advisory Committee.

CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY REPORTS

Councilmember Rebollo thanked Montebello Scholar for Scholars organization that provides scholarships for low-income students. Councilmember Rebollo announced that she graduated USC local leaders academy. Councilmember Rebollo said that she also attended COG meeting.

Councilmember Mendoza reported that he celebrated Indigence day, and attended Pumpkin Patch.

Argumedo reported that he attended Pumpkin Patch.

Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano reported that he attended Pumpkin Patch grand opening.

Mayor Soria attended Pumpkin Patch, Fall Fundraiser for Scholarships for Scholars, and recognized Human IT for providing resources to students and scholars.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned in memory of Rudy Martinez and James Mojica at 8:08pm.