



# City of Commerce

## Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, February 18, 2020 - 5:00 PM

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**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 5:17 p.m. in the Council Chambers.*

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 4 - Mayor Soria  
Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano  
Councilmember Argumedo  
Councilmember Mendoza

**Absent:** 1 - Councilmember Rebollo

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

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

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

*City Council/Successor Agency recessed to Closed Session at 5:18 p.m.*

1. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1). One (1) case: ZVI (aka) Harry Ryzman and Betty Ryzman, as Trustees of the Ryzman Family *v the City of Commerce, acting in a separate limited capacity elected to serve as the Successor Agency to the Commerce Community Development Commission et al.* - Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 19STCP02821.
2. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1). One (1) case: Coalition for Responsible Equitable Economic Development Los Angeles, an unincorporated association; Carlos Mendivil, James Moreno and David Pimenov *v the City of Commerce, the City Council of the City of Commerce, and City of Commerce Public Works and Development Services department et al.* - Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 19STCP03329.

3. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1). One (1) case: *East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice v the City of Commerce, et al.* - Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 19STCP03310.
4. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1). One (1) case: *Hugo Argumedo v. City of Commerce; Tina Baca del Rio; Ivan Altamirano; Oralia Rebollo; Eduardo Olivo; Bradley Pierce; John Soria et al.* - Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 19STCV22179.
5. 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 and properties located at:

A. 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.

B. 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.

C. 6364 Zindell Street, Commerce CA (APN: 6357-015-900 and 6357-019-304)

D. 5476 Jillson St. (APN: 6335-019-023), 5530 Jillson St. (APN: 6335-019-042), 2500 S Eastern Ave. (APN: 6335-024-046), (APN: 6335-024-03), (APN: 6335-024-039), (APN: 6335-024-048), (APN: 6335-024-04), (AP: 6335-024-043), (APN: 6335-024-044), (APN: 6335-024-045), 5600 Jillson St. (APN: 6335-023-049), (APN: 6335-023-0), (APN: 6335-023-054), 5611 E Washington Blvd. (APN: 6335-023-048), 5571 E Washington Blvd. (APN: 6335-024-056), (APN: 6335024057), and 5555 E. Washington, Commerce, CA 90040

E. 5736 E. Washington Blvd, Commerce, CA 90040 (APN: 6334006038), and 5733 Sheila St., Commerce, CA 90040 (APN: 6334006039)

F. 1338 S. Eastern Ave (APN: 5241-013-904), 1350 S. Eastern Ave (APN: 5241-013-908), 1362 S. Eastern Ave (APN: 5241-013-905), 1368 S. Eastern Ave (APN: 5241-013-906), 4519 Triggs St (APN: 5241-013-907).

G. (APN: 6357-016-906), 7155 E. Gage Ave (APN: 6357-016-907), 7165 E. Gage Ave (APN: 6357-016-909), 7169 E. Gage Ave (APN: 6357-016-908).

6. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1). One (1) case: *City of Signal Hill, City of Lakewood, City of Paramount, City of Downey, City of Vernon, City of Santa Fe Springs, Tract 349 Mutual Water Company, Montebello Land and Water Company, Maywood Mutual Water Company No. 3, Bellflower-Somerset Mutual water Company, South Montebello Irrigation District, Pico Water District, City of Cerritos, La Habra Heights County Water District, City of Pico Rivera, City of Norwalk, City of South Gate, Walnut Park Mutual Water Company, Tract 180 Water Company, Orchard Dale Water District, City of Commerce, City of Huntington Park, et al. v. Central Basin Municipal Water District, et al.* - Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 19STCP03882

### **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

*City Council/Successor Agency reconvened to Open Session at 6:02 p.m. in the Council Chambers.*

### **ORAL CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT**

*Assistant City Attorney Copado reported on Closed Session items:*

*Item #1 - City Council was briefed, and no final action was taken on this item.*

*Items #2, #3, #4, and #5.C. were not discussed in Closed Session.*

*Item # 5A, #5.B, #5.E, and item #5.F - City Council/Successor Agency were briefed and no reportable action was taken on this item.*

*Item #5D., and item #5.G - City Council was briefed and further direction was provided to staff. No reportable action was taken on this item.*

*Item #6 - The City Council was briefed and no reportable action was taken on this item.*

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

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

*Mayor Soria called regular meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.*

#### **ROLL CALL**

*Councilmember Rebollo arrived 6:12 p.m.*

**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 Mendoza offered the invocation.*

## **APPEARANCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. Presentation Regarding New Voting System "Voting Solutions for All People" by the County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder Office**

*Phillip J. Verbera, Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder, Community and Voter Outreach Specialist, provided a presentation regarding new voting system for March 3, 2020, election.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*James Hermann opposed candidate Rebollo for the upcoming election on March 3, 2020, and spoke in opposition to cannabis.*

*Carl Baker spoke in opposition to cannabis.*

*Mirabel Mendoza spoke in opposition of cannabis, and opposed Candidate/Councilmember Rebollo.*

*Ann Arnow spoke in opposition to cannabis and the harmful effects of marijuana.*

*Cathy Morfopolous, Lenny Camara, Carlos Rosales, and Norma Larocca spoke against cannabis, and hazards associated with the marijuana.*

*Ofelia Avila spoke in opposition to the current Councilmembers and cannabis in the City of Commerce.*

*Carlos Rosales spoke in opposition to cannabis.*

*Alma Suarez campaigned for March 3, 2020 election and spoke in opposition to the cannabis business.*

*Elisa Padilla spoke in support of Candidate Rebollo.*

*Richard Hernandez spoke about lies by Councilmembers.*

*Gloria Nezahualcoya spoke in opposition of cannabis, and corruption.*

*Steve Viesca stated that Council bringing new businesses to the City and spoke in support of cannabis that brings jobs and revenue for the City.*

*Lora Logan, President of Employee Association, stated that the association unanimously endorsed one candidate Oralía Rebollo for March 3, 2020, election.*

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

*Mayor Soria pulled item #7 for discussion per member of the public request to speak on this item.*

*Item #7- Alex Mathews, Local crematory representative, stated that they are a small company, and since they took a loan of two million dollars, not being able to use the site would put a company into bankruptcy. According to Mr. Mathews, the rest of the permits were received as well.*

*Director of Economic Development and Planning Jimenez provided an overview of the staff report.*

**Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano moved, seconded by Councilmember Argumedo, to approve the Consent Calendar minus item #7. 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.15A, 15B
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Approval of 2020 Civic Organizations
5. Appropriation of College Banner Program Funds to Scholarship Program
6. Plans and Specifications for the Traffic Interconnect System Upgrades Project

7. Report on Urgency Ordinance No. 748 Establishing Moratorium Prohibiting the Approval, Expansion, Intensification, or Relocation of Any New or Existing Funeral Services and Crematory Establishments
8. Traffic Calming Measures Along Ferguson Drive from Hendricks Avenue to Saybrook Avenue, Saybrook Avenue to Garfield Avenue and Garfield Avenue to East City Limit
9. Traffic Safety Measures at the Intersection of Jillson Street and Gaspar Avenue
10. Resolution Calling a Special Municipal Election on June 2, 2020 for Submitting to the Voters of the City of Commerce Two (2) Referendum Measures Regarding Ordinance Nos. 731 and 732; Setting Deadlines for Filing Written Arguments for and Against the Referendum Measures, and Rebuttals Thereof; Directing The City Attorney to Prepare an Impartial Analysis

### PUBLIC HEARING

11. Adoption of Amendments to the Commerce Municipal Code Traffic Bail Schedule

*Mayor Soria opened Public Hearing. There were no individuals wishing to address the City Council on this item. Mayor Soria closed Public Hearing.*

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

**Councilmember Rebollo moved, seconded by Councilmember Argumedo, to adopt Resolution amending Resolution No. 09-71 adopting amendment to the Commerce Municipal Code Traffic Bail Schedule, as it specifically relates to regulations of Title 10 (Vehicle, Traffic and Parking) of the Commerce Municipal Code, and other matters related thereto. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

12. Weed Abatement Program - Abatement Order Directing the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioners/Director of Weights and Measures to Abate Public Nuisance

*Director of Administrative Services and City Clerk Shumway provided a brief*

overview of the staff report. Mayor Soria opened Public Hearing. There no individuals wishing to address the City Council on this item. Mayor Soria closed public hearing.

**Councilmember Argumedo moved, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza, to approve the Abatement Order directing the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures to abate the public nuisance, and allow those property owners affected by the Weed Abatement Program to protest the inclusion of their properties within the program. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

### **SCHEDULED MATTERS**

#### **13. Committee and Commission Appointments**

*Elizabeth Del Carmen Martinez and Jonathan M Vallin were appointed to Special Needs Commission.*

#### **CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY REPORTS**

*Councilmember Argumedo announced the birth of his son. Councilmember Argumedo spoke about projects brought to the City and progress made while he was in office.*

*Councilmember Rebollo reported that she attended the Snow Day. Councilmember Rebollo stated that she approves the regulation of the cannabis industry; she does not support any abuse of any kind and spoke about her achievements during her five years as a Councilmember.*

*Councilmember explained the two incidents that happened when he got injured and spoke in opposition to cannabis. Councilmember Mendoza reported that he attended Senior Valentine's Dance.*

*Mayor Soria stated that one of the companies approved provides home delivery services, and there were no issues reported with that company. Mayor Soria spoke about factual information and that people need to look at other matters and what is going on in the City.*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.*

