

**CITY OF SOUTH GATE  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor W.H. (Bill) De Witt called a Regular City Council meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**INVOCATION** Pastor Nick Garife, Gateway Assembly Church led the Invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Larry Schroeder, Malarkey Roofing Products led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL** Carmen Avalos, City Clerk

**PRESENT** Mayor W.H. (Bill) De Witt, Vice Mayor Maria Davila, Council Member Maria Belen Bernal, Council Member Gil Hurtado and Council Member Jorge Morales; City Treasurer Gregory Martinez, City Manager Michael Flad, City Attorney Raul F. Salinas

**1a  
CERTIFICATE IN  
MEMORIAM** The City Council unanimously issued a Certificate in Memoriam of Betty Harper, long time South Gate resident and volunteer at Victory Elementary School.

**1  
RECOGNITION  
PLAQUE** Mayor W.H. (Bill) De Witt unanimously presented a recognition plaque to Larry Schroeder, Plant Manager and Palmer Malarkey, Plant Engineer from Malarkey Roofing Products for their outstanding and invaluable contributions to the community.

**2  
INTRODUCTION OF NEW  
AND PROMOTIONAL  
EMPLOYEES** The City Council unanimously continued the introduction of new and promotional full-time employees hired or promoted between October 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016, to the City Council meeting of February 28, 2017.

**3  
CITY COUNCIL  
APPOINTMENTS** Carlos Gomez was unanimously appointed to the Civil Service Commission by motion of Council Member Morales and seconded by Mayor De Witt.

**EXCUSED FROM  
ITEM 4** At this time, Mayor De Witt was excused from participating on item 4 and departed from the Council Chambers.

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### TRANSPORTATION PLANNING/ADMIN

The City Council opened the public hearing at 6:48 p.m. and closed the public hearing at 6:51 p.m. The City Council considered continuing the consideration of a Resolution adopting the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Firestone Boulevard Regional Corridor Capacity Enhancements Project, City Project No. 476-TRF; to the City Council meeting of February 28, 2017.

Vice Mayor Davila asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak on the item.

Christina Montalvo, 9815 Virginia Avenue inquired about the traffic in the City due to this project.

Vice Mayor Davila stated that there will be a presentation at the next City Council meeting and everyone is welcomed.

Having no one else come forward, Vice Mayor Davila closed the audience portion.

The City Council continued the consideration of a Resolution adopting the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Firestone Boulevard Regional Corridor Capacity Enhancements Project, City Project No. 476-TRF; to the City Council meeting of February 28, 2017, by motion of Council Member Hurtado and seconded by Council Member Morales.

**ROLL CALL:** Vice Mayor Davila, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Morales, yes; Council Member Bernal, yes; Mayor De Witt, was not present for discussion on the matter.

### REJOINED MEETING

Mayor De Witt rejoined the Council during the comments from the audience.

### COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Tyler Morrison, 9824 S. Alameda Street stated asking Council Member Hurtado, as he is a policy maker, about illegal yard signs being placed and then having to use tax payer dollars to have members of the Public Works Department remove those signs.

Mr. Morrison stated requesting Mayor De Witt's 700 forms and noticed a lot of money invested in the Wells Fargo Bank and Citigroup Inc. Wells Fargo Bank and Citigroup Inc. are major founders of the Dakota Access Pipeline which are committing human rights violations against the Standing Rock Sioux tribe. Mr. Morrison also mentioned Mayor De Witt's investments in Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Raytheon which are military industrial complex companies that are profiting off of war and do not represent the best interest of South Gate. Mr. Morrison is asking

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### COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE CONT'D

Mayor De Witt to divest from these companies.

Fabian Valencia, 9508 Madison Avenue represents a non-profit organization called Lost Angels and is an instructor of arts & crafts. Mr. Valencia is requesting assistance and funding to support people in creating instruments and activities. Mr. Valencia is working with the American Legion, Post 335.

Jesus Miranda, 8466 San Vincente Avenue provided City Council, City Clerk, City Treasurer and City staff a copy of the LA Time's article regarding Officials with HP Tow in Huntington Park being accused of seeking to bribe a City Councilman. He is concerned that our City is doing business with HP Tow.

Sandra Rivera Orozco, 4108 54<sup>th</sup> Street, Maywood is a voice for those who suffer from sclerosis and a democrat delegate for Los Angeles County. Ms. Rivera Orozco mentioned that the City of South Gate has a polished City Clerk which the delegate community endorsed last month.

Juliano Jarquin, 10606 NcNerney Avenue invited Council Members, City staff and community to attend an event called Peek Performance on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the American Legion.

Mr. Jarquin invited Council Members, City staff and community to attend a Candidate Forum on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the South Gate Park Auditorium.

Christina Montalvo, 9815 Virginia Avenue asked if the City of South Gate is aware of the ICE raid in the surrounding cities and will the City be taking any steps on notifying the residents.

Virginia Johnson, 5751 McKinley Avenue is not defending this action, but there really isn't a written rule in California that within a few weeks of an election candidates are not really pestered a lot for putting up campaign signage in public areas.

Ms. Johnson stated that last week her neighbor set-up a meeting with the Director of Community Development and Alvie Bentacourt, Senior Planner to discuss the Hollydale areas current and future progress. Ms. Johnson thanked staff for taking the time to meet with residents.

Ms. Johnson read in the Press Telegram that Long Beach and 125 other cities in California have opened up their websites to a program called "Cop Logic" which allows citizens to file police reports on-line from 9 to

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2017

### COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE CONT'D

10 low level crimes instead of showing up in person. She is not sure if our City is doing this right now, but if not, she hopes it is being worked on for our community.

Ms. Johnson hopes our Council Members does not endorse Democrat State Senator Bob Hertzberg's proposal in bypassing Propositions 13 and 218 that require voters to be active in the tax process.

Alice Cueto, 2911 Willow Place thinks ICE is deporting criminals and was glad to hear that South Gate and other cities are safer.

Adolfo Varas, 3375 Wisconsin Avenue stated that on December 28, 2016 Councilwoman Bernal made a public announcement on Facebook. The announcement stated an opening on the Planning Commission. Residents were discouraged to apply due to the desired qualifications. There are only two requirements which are a resident of South Gate and registered voter.

Nick Godoy, 8611 San Gabriel Avenue stated the vendors have returned. Mr. Godoy thought about running for Council, but he is not going to run if he's going to get criticized for investing in certain companies. He stated people invest to make profits.

Mr. Godoy mentioned that the ROTC has been doing Memorial Day for the past 3 or 4 years. The new principal at the high school is not allowing the ROTC get involved due to liability.

### REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Vice Mayor Davila mentioned that the South Gate High School principal and staff have been asked to participate in City events. They have been very negative in allowing students participate in City events. Vice Mayor Davila is requesting letters be sent to the Superintendent and Board Member regarding the school not allowing students participate in City events. She would also like to set-up meetings with the Superintendent and Board Member.

Vice Mayor Davila attended the Eco-Rapid Transit meeting and the board members approved the environmental study.

### EXCUSED FROM MEETING

At this time, 7:30 p.m., Vice Mayor Davila was excused from the meeting and departed from the Council Chambers.

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2017

### REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

CONT'D

Jackie Acosta, Director of Administrative Services had nothing to report.

Darren Arakawa, Police Captain had nothing to report.

Mike Flad, City Manager had nothing to report.

Arturo Cervantes, Director of Public Works had nothing to report.

Paul Adams, Director of Parks & Recreation stated the Vista for the spring will be available next week and the Azalea Festival is in March.

Joe Perez, Director of Community Development had nothing to report.

Gregory Martinez, City Treasurer spoke about Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Raytheon and what it means to this community. Treasurer Martinez mentioned Mayor De Witt has a company that works with those businesses. Mayor De Witt's company makes honeycomb panels and other stuff that is non-military. His company has employed hundreds of local people over the past forty/fifty years.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk mentioned the sample ballots (Voter Information Guide) have been mailed out last week. The City of South Gate has a link onto the LAVOTE.NET page for residents to be able to find their poll location and ballot information. The City has two different ballot groups which are 98 and 99. City Clerk Avalos reminded everyone that the City is a ballot drop off center.

City Clerk Avalos attended a Municipal Clerk's training and much of the information provided dealt with Senate Bills 415 and 450. She mentioned that at the next Council meeting; Council will have an opportunity to make a decision on whether or not to move forward with certain election dates. She had brought this information to Council last year and Council Member Morales needed more information. Clerk Avalos hopes Council Member Morales will provide input so she may be able to provide as much information possible to make a decision.

City Clerk Avalos invited everyone to attend a candidate forum scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> at the South Gate Auditorium Park.

City Clerk Avalos in her closing remarks noted the first couple to get married at city hall took place earlier in the day. Happy Valentines.

Council Member Bernal attended the HUB Cities meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> and they had a budget study session. She is proud of Mr. Joe Martinez, Executive Director for HUB Cities. He is taking a leadership role in wanting to inform himself more of the budget process and finances.

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2017

### REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS CONT'D

Council Member Bernal thanked Mr. Varas for his comments and apologized for her post that it was misinterpreted by residents thinking she does not want residents that don't have an education or degree to serve the community. Her parents have a combined fourth grade education. Her parents encouraged her to continue her studies, but never told her what to study. She does value education, but that does not mean that all her commissioners have a degree. She does want high standards for the residents that are going to serve the community.

Council Member Bernal read her facebook post into the record. Desirable qualifications: A Planning Commissioner's primary job is to make ethical land use decisions that are consistent with the policies and plans formally adopted by the City Council. Therefore, the first priority of a Planning Commissioner must be to develop decision-making skills and knowledge of City policies. Knowledge of urban planning, public welfare, economic development, policy recommendations, strategic thinking, and urban design, are not required but desirable.

Council Member Bernal thanked City staff for being attentive to the situation that occurred at Montara Elementary School.

Council Member Morales attended the California Contract Cities and League of Cities meetings and the general feel from both organizations is that the legislature is going to focus on two issues this session which are the state of the roads and affordable housing.

Council Member Morales mentioned a couple of bills that both organizations are supporting; (1) SB2 by Senator Atkins from San Diego which would add a \$75 fee to any transaction that isn't related to residential or commercial. (2) Another bill would set a \$3 billion bond.

Council Member Morales is asking City staff and Council to watch closely a trailer bill (SB35) by Senator Wiener.

Council Member Morales mentioned a "Fix our Roads Coalition," Senate Bill 1 and Assembly Bill 1 is trying to address the back log on road repair. This means an increase to the license fee, gas and diesel. People driving electrical cars might have to pay a fee.

Council Member Morales stated that in regards to public safety, California Contract Cities flew to Sacramento to ask for additional funds for law enforcement.

Council Member Hurtado was concerned about people's negative comments on Facebook regarding the teacher that passed away from meningitis.

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2017

### REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

#### CONT'D

Council Member Hurtado stated that people can come before Council and criticize them. He can accept it and believes Council can appoint any South Gate resident to a commission. He also believes anyone can invest their money as they wish. Council Member Hurtado is proud of his son. His son applied for a position as a crime scene investigator in the City of El Segundo.

Mayor De Witt is not planning on selling any of his investments. The City has two Wells Fargo branches and their stocks have gone down. Mayor De Witt stated that everyone's 700 forms are available in the City Clerk's Office.

Mayor De Witt stated that the County Sanitary District is still thinking about closing the transfer station on Garfield. The City Manager is working with their staff to see what can be done to keep that station open. He also attended the ICA meeting and Chief McDonald spoke on the affects of the additional inmates from the state prison system being released early.

Mayor De Witt is concerned about the issue with the South Gate High School and the LAUSD lack of communication on issues. The South Gate Women's Club has donated over \$10,000 for band instruments and other stuff.

Mayor De Witt mentioned that the ICRMA which is the insurance fund is having some difficulties and are getting organized. He mentioned that the storm water runoff issue is a big potential taxation for the City of South Gate.

Mayor De Witt stated Culver City passed a tax for all of their property owners at \$99 a parcel and it will generate about \$2 million to clean-up the Ballona Creek.

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Items 5, 7, 8 and 10 were approved by motion of Mayor De Witt and seconded by Council Member Morales. Mayor De Witt abstained from voting on items 6 and 9.

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#### MUNICIPAL CODE ADMIN

The City Council waived the reading in full and adopted Ordinance No. 2333 entitled – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of South Gate amending certain sections of Chapter 5.06 (Motion Picture, Television and Photographic Production), of Title 5 (Streets and Sidewalks), of the South Gate Municipal Code pertaining to requirements and procedures for the recording of visual images, during consideration of the Consent Calendar.

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TRANSPORTATION  
PLANNING/ADMIN

The City Council approved Amendment No. 3 to Contract No. 2796, Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority extending the grant funds lapsing date from June 30, 2017 to February 28, 2018 for the Firestone Boulevard Capacity Improvement Project, Metro Project ID No. F3124, City Project No. 476-TRF, for the "2009 Call for Project" Program grant funds, by motion of Council Member Hurtado and seconded by Council Member Morales; and

- a. Authorized the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 3 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

**ROLL CALL:** Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Morales, yes; Council Member Bernal, yes; Mayor De Witt, abstained; Vice Mayor Davila, absent.

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TRANSPORTATION  
PLANNING/ADMIN

The City Council approved a Professional Services Agreement (Contract No. 3300) with PlaceWorks, Inc., to provide environmental services to review Metro's Draft Environmental Impact Review/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the I-710 Corridor Project, for an amount not to exceed \$69,926, during consideration of the Consent Calendar; and

- a. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

8  
WATER

The City Council approved Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. 3182 with Canyon Springs Enterprises doing business as RSH Construction Services, Inc., adding and removing construction project elements to cost-effectively complete the Elizabeth Reservoir and Booster Pump Station at the Well No. 28 Site and New Well No. 29 at the Santa Fe Tank Site, City Project No. 494-WTR, which will reduce the contract amount by \$1,890, during consideration of the Consent Calendar; and

- a. Authorized the Director of Public Works/City Engineer to execute Change Order No. 1.

9  
PARKING & TRAFFIC/  
PARKS

The City Council accepted completion, effective January 13, 2017, of the construction of State Street Park, Safe Route to School (SR2S) Cycle 8 and 9, City Project No. 487-PRK and 449-TRF, performed by Environmental Construction, Inc., by motion of Council Member Hurtado and seconded by Council Member Morales;



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### PARKING & TRAFFIC/ PARKS CONT'D

- a. Approved Change Order No. 4 in the amount of \$32,603, which is balancing change order necessary to pay for actual quantities of work completed by Environmental Construction, Inc.;
- b. Authorized the Director of Public Works/City Engineer to execute Change Order No. 4; and
- c. Instructed the City Clerk to file the Notice of Completion with the Los Angeles County Recorder's Office.

**ROLL CALL:** Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Morales, yes; Council Member Bernal, yes; Mayor De Witt, abstained; Vice Mayor Davila, absent.

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### MINUTES

The City Council approved the Special and Regular Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2016, during consideration of the Consent Calendar; and

- a. Approved the Special and Regular Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2017; and
- b. Approved the Special and Regular Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2017.

11

### POLITICAL SUPPORT/ ELECTION

The City Council considered adopting a Resolution - supporting Measure H, a sales tax measure to fund homelessness services and prevention programs to be held in Los Angeles County on March 7, 2017.

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor De Witt, no; Council Member Hurtado, yes; Council Member Morales, yes; Council Member Bernal, no; Vice Mayor Davila, absent.

Item 11 died for lack of support.

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### COMMERCIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS

The City Council received and filed an update report on the Tweedy Boulevard and Hollydale Village Specific Plans, by motion of Mayor De Witt and seconded by Council Member Hurtado.

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**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

The City Council received and filed update report pertaining to Proposition 57, The Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act, by motion of Council Member Hurtado and seconded by Council Member Morales.

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**COMMERCIAL ASSESSMENT**

**DISTRICTS**

The City Council approved the Commercial Facade Improvement Program guidelines, by motion of Mayor De Witt and seconded by Council Member Hurtado.

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**WARRANTS AND**

**CANCELLATIONS**

The City Council approved the Warrants and Cancellations for February 14, 2017, by motion of Council Member Auditor Bernal and seconded by Mayor De Witt.

Total of Checks:	\$2,574,335.70
VOIDS:	\$ (1,588.50)
Total of Payroll Deductions:	<u>\$ (274,730.82)</u>
Grand Total:	\$2,298,016.38

Cancellations: 69197, 69484

**ADJOURNMENT**

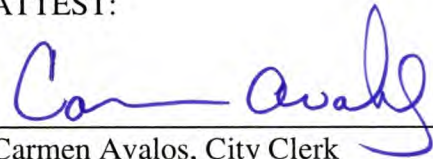
Council Member Hurtado adjourned the meeting in memory of Betty Harper, long time South Gate resident and Ramona Gedney a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Montara Elementary School at 10:08 p.m. and seconded by Mayor De Witt.

**PASSED** and **APPROVED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017.

ATTEST:



W.H. (Bill) De Witt, Mayor



Carmen Avalos, City Clerk