

**CITY OF SOUTH GATE  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019**

- CALL TO ORDER** Mayor María Belén Bernal called a Regular City Council meeting to order at 6:47 p.m.
- INVOCATION** Reverend Sean Pica, Redmeemer Lutheran Church
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Sandra Varela, Community Development Technician II
- ROLL CALL** Carmen Avalos, City Clerk
- PRESENT** Mayor María Belén Bernal, Vice Mayor Jorge Morales, Council Member Denise Diaz, Council Member Maria Davila and Council Member Al Rios; City Treasurer Greg Martinez, Assistant City Manager Michael Flad, City Attorney Raul Salinas
- 1 PRESENTATIONS** The City Council issued a Certificate of Appreciation to Esmeralda Perez and Celeste Espinoza for participating in Mayor Bernal's South Gate Mentors Initiative during the month of December.
- 2 PERSONNEL** The City Council allowed staff to introduce the new and promotional full-time employees hired or promoted between October 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018, and four from prior quarters that were missed.
- 3 CITY SEAL** The City Council conducted a Public Hearing to consider taking public testimony concerning the proposed Ordinance amending certain Sections of the South Gate Municipal Code regarding the use of the City Seal, and continued the Public Hearing to the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting of April 23, 2019.
- 4 TWEEDY BLVD SPECIFIC PLAN** The City Council conducted a Public Hearing to consider:
- a. The Planning Commission's proposed changes pertaining to Library/Gallery/Museum, Alcohol Sales as Part of a Restaurant, and Antenna/Communications Equipment and provide staff with direction as to which, if any, of the modifications should be made to the final Tweedy Boulevard Specific Plan document;
  - b. Waiving the reading in full and introducing an Ordinance - adding new Section 11.28.030 (Tweedy Boulevard Specific Plan), to

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Chapter 11.28 (Specific Plans), of Title 11 (Zoning), of the South Gate Municipal Code;

- c. Adopting a Resolution - approving General Plan Amendment No. 2019-01 by adding place types "Light Industrial/Flex and Manufacturing Distribution" to the Tweedy Educational District and changing the residential General Plan designation of a portion of the General Plan area from Neighborhood-Low to Neighborhood Medium; and
- d. Adopting a Resolution - approving the Initial Study and Negative Declaration, dated April 19, 2017, pertaining to the Tweedy Boulevard Specific Plan.

This item was continued to the April 23, 2019 City Council Meeting.

### 5 BUSINESS LICENSE

The City Council conducted a Public Hearing and unanimously approved the six-month compliance review of the Live Entertainment Permit for Buena Mesa restaurant, located at 5861 Firestone Boulevard by motion of Vice Member Morales and seconded by Council Member Davila.

Joe Perez, Community Development gave a brief presentation on this item.

Mayor Bernal opened the Public Hearing.

Ralph Verdugo, 5861 Firestone Boulevard said that the restaurant is doing well. The Food Network is going to do a spot on the resident. They have had some problems with transients but the Police Department has been very responsive.

Council Member Davila has visited the restaurant and enjoyed the food.

Council Member Diaz has also visited the restaurant and has also enjoyed the food.

### COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Virginia Johnson, 5751 McKinley Avenue is sorry to hear the Alvie Betancourt is leaving the City. She stated that the libraries are not receiving current editions of the local newspaper. She is concerned that the Parking Study Meeting regarding the Eastside of the City is scheduled on the same date and time as the City Council Meeting and this is the only parking meeting that they scheduled for a Tuesday. Art Cervantes, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director has scheduled a parking meeting for Area 4 to accommodate the residents that were not able to attend for Wednesday, January 30, 2019. Also, there is Street Sweeping



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### COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE CONT'D

now on Holidays and asked if Code Enforcement will be following this same schedule. She thanked Joe Perez, Community Development Director and City Staff for making it possible to visit the Vermont permanent housing facility in Gardena. She noticed, there is no curfew, there are three meals a day, air conditioning, the residents can have alcohol and drugs in their units but the staff will try to dissuade this behavior but she believes this is just a way for the State to try to make California look better for the future Olympic Games.

Darrell Hatch, County Sanitation District stated that he has been working with County for the 18 years and he spoke about contract negotiations between the Sanitation District and the Employees.

Orman Gaspar, Santa Barbara said that he was informed by his tenant that the City has placed a median down the center of Firestone Boulevard which limits his access to his business and reports that his business is down 40% due to the median. As the owner of the property, he is upset that he did not receive any type of notice from the City. He requested that City Staff meet with him to discuss this matter further.

Ben Rod, Firestone Boulevard business owner stated that since the median was put in place he has lost about 50% of his business and continues to get worse. His employees are complaining because he is having to cut their hours. He has been trying to talk to someone from the City since October with no response.

### REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Joe Perez, Community Development Director informed everyone that on January 23, 2019 we will be having our homeless count at the South Gate Senior Center, we will have a Career Expo which is sponsored by HUB Cities and the Chamber of Commerce on January 31<sup>st</sup> at the South Gate Park Auditorium and lastly the METRO is hosting an update on the West Santa Ana Branch Project on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the South Gate Girls Clubhouse.

Art Cervantes, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director stated the City was awarded a 4.6 million dollar grant to make improvements on Tweedy Boulevard.

Mike Flad, City Manager spoke on the UTLA strike and the deal points to a possible contract. He had a very productive trip to Sacramento for the California Contract Cities legislative action day wherein he had the opportunity to meet face to face with legislatures. His discussion focused on the States pressure on housing and provided push back to Senator Weiner's Office with regards to how these types of housing projects impact communities like ours. Redevelopment 2.0 and protecting police services were discussed as well.

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### REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

CONT'D

Raul Salinas, City Attorney said that he normally doesn't comment when employees leave the City but Alvie Betancourt is leaving the City and during Mr. Salinas's early years with the City, when we were trying to search for documents and embroiled in litigation he was there helping us. We were successful in our litigation in partial due to Mr. Betancourt's help. The City Attorney's Office owes him a great deal of gratitude and will miss him.

Greg Martinez, City Treasurer spoke on the passing of Allen Treen. He also stated that he will be working the Homeless Count and encouraged people to volunteer.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk said that Council did receive the most current version of the UTLA agreement and she also emailed to each member of Council as soon as she received it. Last week she attended the Community Voter Outreach Committee at the County. Our auditorium will be used during the election on March 5<sup>th</sup> for those City's that did not consolidate. More than half the county have already transitioned to having their elections aligned to the next Presidential Election. The County is looking into the possibility of having Vote Centers and making those available for March of 2020. They are excited about the new voting system that is coming online in 2020 and the possibility of having more people being able to vote.

Council Member Diaz said that along with the Mayor she attended "WELL" Water Education for Latino Leaders. It was a three day water education conference on how communities of color get overlooked when it comes to water issues. It is a six month training traveling throughout the State of California.

Council Member Rios said that he attended the METRO Next Gen meeting in Bell. It was an opportunity for the communities to speak on METRO and the bus routes. He also attended the Urban Orchard Event this weekend and is very excited about the plans.

Council Member Davila also attended the Urban Orchard Community Meeting and thought it was a very successful event. She informed Council that the City of Bellflower decided to pull out of Eco Rapid Transit.

Vice Mayor Morales attended the California League of Contract Cities Legislative Tour and feels that this is going to be an incredibly tough year for local government. There are a lot of issues with the taking away of local control. He congratulated Alvie Betancourt on his new job.



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### REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

#### CONT'D

Mayor Bernal asked if any residents have contacted the City regarding payment options because they were experiencing hard ship because of the government shut down.

Mr. Flad responded that the first thing that we are most worried about is HUD funding and the vouchers.

Mr. Perez stated that in regards to Section 8 funding we are covered all the way through February and HUD just indicated to us that we can use our reserves. The reserves should cover us through at least half of March.

Mayor Bernal attended the ICA meeting and they are getting ready for their winter seminar on February 2, 2019. ICA focus on public safety, business matters and economy. Along with Council Member Davila she attended the Northgate reopening and she met with AltaMed. The Mayor spoke on the "WELL" program and how it is not only for Latino Elected Officials but Elected Officials that represent communities that are larger Latinos. She is looking forward to learning more about this program.

The Mayor attended the County Sanitation District meeting and thanked Mr. Hatch for being here tonight. There is another meeting tomorrow and will review the letters and emails that she has received from Sanitation District employees.

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Items 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 14 were unanimously approved by motion of Vice Mayor Morales and seconded by Council Member Davila. Items 8, 13 and 15 were pulled for discussion.

#### 6 ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

The City Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 7843 entitled – Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Gate, California, - initiating the annual proceedings for the levy of the Fiscal Year 2019/20 assessments and ordering the preparation of an Engineer's Report for the Street Lighting and Landscaping Maintenance District No. 1 during consent calendar.

#### 7 WIRELESS COMMUNICATION

The City Council considered unanimously approved A and B during consent calendar.

- a. Approved Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 2873 with Bear Communications, Inc., (successor-in-interest to Advanced Electronics, Inc.) extending maintenance services and a related FCC license for the City's radio communication system through June 30, 2019, in the amount of \$34,958; and

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7  
WIRELESS  
COMMUNICATION  
CONT'D

- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 1 in a form acceptable by the City Attorney.

8  
SIGNAL  
SYNCHRONIZATION

The City Council approved A and B by motion of Mayor Bernal and seconded by Council Member Rios. Council Member Davila and Council Member Diaz abstained.

- a. Approved an Agreement (Contract No. 3500) with Iteris, Inc., to provide engineering plans, specifications and estimates for the Tweedy Boulevard Signal Synchronization Project, LAMTA ID F7309, City Project No. 514-TRF, in the amount not-to-exceed \$169,929; and
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Bernal, yes; Vice Mayor Morales, yes; Council Member Rios, yes; Council Member Davila, abstain; Council Member Diaz, abstain.

9  
PARKING

The City Council unanimously approved A, B, C, D and E during the consent calendar.

- a. Approved an Agreement (Contract No. 3501) with EC Construction to construct the Hildreth Avenue Traffic Mitigation Project, City Project No. 600-ST (Project) and award the Base Bid - Schedule A and Additive Bid - Schedule B, in the amount not-to-exceed \$254,411;
- b. Appropriated \$94,411 in Measure M funds to Account No. 311-790-39-9472 to fund the project;
- c. Authorized the Director of Administrative Services to transfer \$15,000 in Measure R funds and \$120,000 in Measure M funds from Account No. 311-790-31-9447 to Account No. 311-790-39-9472 to fund the project;
- d. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney; and
- e. Approved the Notice of Exemption for the construction of the Project and direct the City Clerk to file it with the Los Angeles County Recorder's Office.



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### URBAN GREENING

The City Council unanimously approved A and B during the consent calendar.

- a. Approved Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 3352 with The Trust for Public Land for supplemental environmental soil characterization studies, in the amount not-to-exceed \$34,350; and
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 1 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

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### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The City Council unanimously approved A and B during the consent calendar.

- a. Approved the Side Letter of Agreement (Amendment No. 2 to Contract 3393) with the South Gate Police Management Association regarding retiree medical for lateral peace officers; and
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Side Letter of Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

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### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The City Council unanimously approved A and B during the consent calendar.

- a. Approved the Side Letter of Agreement (Amendment No. 2 to Contract 3394) with the South Gate Police Officers' Association regarding retiree medical for lateral peace officers; and
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Side Letter of Agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

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### QUARTERLY REPORT

The City Council unanimously received and filed the First Quarter Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2018/19 by motion of Mayor Bernal and seconded by Council Member Davila.

14

### SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

The City Council unanimously approved A, B and C during the consent calendar.

- a. Accepting completion of construction, effective November 16, 2018, of the Citywide Sidewalk Improvements Project, Phase V and the Walnut Street Parking Lot Improvements, City Project No. 566-ST;

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14  
SIDEWALK  
IMPROVEMENTS  
CONT'D

- b. Approving owner-initiated Change Order No. 2 to Contract No. 3446 to fund final construction quantities for the Project, in the amount of \$45,706; and
- c. Directing the City Clerk to file a Notice of Completion with Los Angeles County Recorder's Office.

15  
MINUTES

The City Council approved A, B, C, and D by Council Member Rios and seconded by Council Member Davila. Vice Mayor Morales abstained on Item 1c.

- a. Approving the Special and Regular Meeting minutes of November 13, 2018; and
- b. Approving the Special and Regular Meeting minutes of November 27, 2018; and
- c. Approving the Special and Regular Meeting minutes of December 11, 2018; and
- d. Approving the Special Meeting minutes of January 10, 2019.

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Bernal, yes; Vice Mayor Morales, abstain for Item 1c; Council Member Rios, yes; Council Member Davila, yes; Council Member Diaz, yes.

16  
CITY COUNCIL

The City Council unanimously approved the City Council Goals for Fiscal Year 2018/19 by motion of Vice Mayor Morales and seconded by Mayor Bernal.

17  
WARRANTS

The City Council unanimously approved the Warrants and Cancellations for January 22, 2019 by motion of Council Auditor Davila and seconded by Mayor Bernal.

Total of Checks:	\$ 1,929,378.96
Voids:	(\$ 1,200.00)
Total Payroll Deductions:	<u>\$ 335,753.18</u>
Grand Total:	\$1,592,425.78

Cancellations: 80711

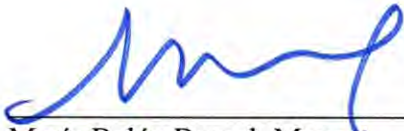


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**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Bernal adjourned the meeting in memory of Allen Treen, long time City resident and South Gate Museum volunteer at 10:19 p.m. seconded by Council Member Davila.

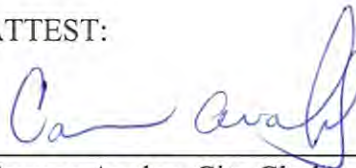
**PASSED** and **APPROVED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.



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María Belén Bernal, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Carmen Avalos, City Clerk