

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE SOUTH GATE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017

INTRODUCTORY PROCEDURES

Chairperson Sylvia Masushige called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Colon.

ROLL CALL : By Norma Cardenas, Recording Secretary

Present: Chairperson Sylvia Masushige, Commissioner Angel Colon, Commissioner Jose Delgado, Commissioner Jerry Guevara, and Commissioner Velasquez.

Absent/Excused: None

Staff: Community Development Director Joe Perez, Senior Planner Alvaro Betancourt, Assistant Planner Jessica Jimenez, City Attorney Craig Hardwick, and Recording Secretary Norma Cardenas.

REPORT ON POSTING: By Norma Cardenas, Recording Secretary

1. MINUTES

The Planning Commission considered approving the minutes for the regular Planning Commission meeting of December 20, 2016.

Commissioner Colon moved and Commissioner Velasquez seconded the motion carried (3-0) to approve the Planning Commission minutes of December 20, 2016.

2. PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SOUTH
GATE MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROHIBIT
SINGLE-CAN BEER SALES FOR OFF-SALE
ALCOHOL LICENSES

Community Development Director Perez introduced this item.

This item was originally addressed before the City Council on November 7, 2016. City Council directed staff to draft a code amendment prohibiting single-can beer sales for off-sale alcohol

licenses for Planning Commission consideration. Director Perez recommended that the Planning Commission open the Public Hearing, listen to staff report, receive public testimony, and continue the Public Hearing to the next regular Planning Commission meeting. The City Attorney indicated the additional time would allow for research that would include surveying other cities on the same matter and investigating litigation experienced by other cities.

Chairperson Sylvia Masushige opens the Public Hearing.

Assistant Planner Jessica Jimenez presented staff report. Ms. Jimenez stated the proposed text amendment would add a fourth condition to Section 11.42.070 Condition of Approval, Mandatory Conditions, Subsection (A) (4) which will read:

4. The sale or distribution of single containers of beer, malt liquor, or ale shall be prohibited for off-site consumption.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if single can beer sales were currently a problem in the City. He asked if the staff sought input on the proposed ban from the business community. He also stated that the ordinance appeared to be an overreach and over regulation if there is no evidence of the City having any issues with single can beer sales.

Director Perez stated that this is, in part, a preventive measure for loitering, theft activity, and pan handling. He added that other cities (Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino, San Diego, Phoenix) have established this type of prohibition, depending on the need of each city, and that there is a variety of approaches to prohibition. In light of questions regarding potential existing problems, Director Perez said he would follow-up the SG Police Department and get their input.

Commissioner Delgado spoke in favor of this ordinance noting his experience with the City of Los Angeles and their challenges with single-can beer sales. He asked if there were financial impact to existing and future business in South Gate.

Director Perez stated the city does not know the financial impact sales but it will not affect existing businesses. He also clarified that existing businesses would have the ability to continue sales of single-can products as they would be grandfathered in place.

Commissioner Guevara highlighted the unintended consequences a ban might produce and the adverse economic impact that might unfold due to the ban. He specified BevMo, Trader Joe's and microbreweries as potential businesses that would be impacted by the ban. He requested staff look at different options to accomplish the same goals and to offer other ABC license types with the flexibility to impose certain condition according to each business.

Commissioner Colon voiced concerns of public input into the planning process. He commented that although staff and the Planning Commission provide the legally required outreach through the noticing process he believes social media is underutilized asset that can produce great public participation in the planning process. He asked that staff reach out to the business community for input on the item.

Director Perez indicated staff would incorporate the concerns raised and would look into additional options for implementation. He closed by recommending a continuance of the Public Hearing to the next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting.

Chairperson Masushige continued the Public Hearing to the next Planning Commission meeting.

Discussion followed and after no further comments Commissioner Velasquez moved Commissioner Delgado seconded and the motion carried (5-0) to continue the Public Hearing to February 21, 2017.

General Business

NONE

Audience Comments

NONE

City Staff Comments

Director Perez informed the Commission that Estrellita Del Mar restaurant had its grand opening on January 2017. He also highlighted the following business: Spin Cycle Lounge on Garfield Avenue and Royal Kids at El Paseo shopping center and Taco Bell on Century Boulevard and Garfield Avenue.

Chairperson Masushige congratulated Parks and Recreation for the new park on State Street and Southern Avenue.

Planning Commission Comments

Chairperson Masushige requested staff to review C.U.P Type 21 Off-sales beer wine and distill spirits application for Seven-Eleven located at the corner of Firestone Boulevard and Long Beach Boulevard.

Commissioner Colon inquired about banner permits for the same establishment.

Chairperson Masushige welcomed Commissioner Delgado and Commissioner Guevara to the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Delgado made a brief introduction about himself.

Commissioner Colon welcomed Commissioner Delgado and thanked City Attorney Craig Hardwick for attending the meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Planning Commission, Commissioner Colon moved and Commissioner Delgado seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried (5-0) to adjourn the meeting to February 21, 2017. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully,



Joe Perez, Secretary

APPROVED:



Sylvia Masushige, Chairperson