

**ADJOURNED MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LA VERNE**
Monday, February 28, 2022

1. The City Council Meeting was opened to the public. In an effort to keep a safe environment and to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 Virus, the City limited occupancy and required masking for those in attendance. To facilitate public participation for those who did not wish to attend in person, the meeting was made available virtually.
2. A regular meeting of the La Verne City Council was called to order by Mayor Hepburn at 6:35 p.m.
3. Council Members present: Mayor Tim Hepburn
Mayor Pro Tem Muir Davis
Council Member Robin Carder
Council Member Wendy Lau
Council Member Rick Crosby

Absent: None.

Advisory personnel present: City Manager Robert Russi
Assistant to the City Manager JR Ranells
City Attorney Robert L. Kress
Assistant City Clerk Lupe Gaeta Estrella
Community Services Manager Yvonne Duran
Finance Director Marla Pendleton
Public Works Director Shawn Igoe
4. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Crosby.
5. Review Fire Operations and County Services

Fire Chief Nigg and City Manager Russi provided the City Council with an overview on the status of the Fire Department's current fire services operation, as well as information on the discussions with the County of Los Angeles regarding fire services along with a power point presentation. Kurt Latipow from AP Triton gave a preliminary update on the Standard of Coverage.

Staff recommended that after the presentation, City Council should review and consider, and provide staff with direction on whether to continue the pursuit of contracting fire services or abandoning those discussions with the County.

Mayor Hepburn called for public comment on this matter.

There were public comments at the meeting. (To hear what was said during public comment, please visit the City's website to view the archived Council meeting.)

The City Council was all in support of keeping the La Verne Fire Department. They thanked Fire Chief Nigg, City Manager Russi and the La Verne Firefighters' Association for their hard work and for the negotiations; and discussions with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department for fire services.

Chief Nigg stated that this was a team effort. He thanked the La Verne Firefighters for their spirit of cooperation and willingness to move forward in a positive direction. He also thanked the County of Los Angeles Fire Department for their time and efforts on the fire study to provide fire services to the City of La Verne.

It was moved by Davis, seconded by Lau, and unanimously carried to discontinue negotiations with the County of Los Angeles for fire services.

There was one public comment email received and is attached.

6. Public Comment

This was the time set aside for anyone wishing to address the City Council on items not listed in any other place on the agenda. Mayor Hepburn called for public comment and waited for staff to check for any public comment via telephone communication.

Mayor Hepburn called for public comment.

There were public comments at the meeting and via the webinar. To hear what was said during public comment, please visit the City's website to view the archived Council meeting.

7. Adjournment at 8:00 p.m., to Monday, March 7, 2022 at 5 p.m. for a City Council Study Session on SB9.

Respectfully submitted,



Lupe Gaeta Estrella, CMC
Assistant City Clerk

Mayor Tim Hepburn

Councilmember Robin Carder

Councilmember Wendy Lau

Councilmember Rick Crosby

Councilmember Muir Davis

The La Verne Firefighters' Association would like the City Council to decide whether we are staying La Verne Fire or transitioning to La County Fire. Continuing to go down both roads is counterproductive and is a waste of resources. We cannot fix the ongoing problems plaguing the department, such as recruitment, retention, and an automatic aid agreement with LaCoFD, until the city council decides on a definitive direction. Without that direction and commitment, it will be difficult to provide the best service and provide a high level of safety for both the citizens and your Firefighters alike.

The LVFA continues to voice our support in the direction that Fire Chief Nigg is leading our Fire Department. We supported his plan to start an Ambulance Operator Program, Staff Fire Station 3 with a Fire Engine, and staff our Fire Ladder Truck (Quint 761). Although this is a huge step forward, it is only the initial step. A commitment to save the Fire Department means a commitment to continue funding wages, benefits and the operational needs to support and keep us safe in our duties. If City Council affirms its commitment to all of the above, we, in turn, commit to supporting Council in discontinuing contract discussions with the LA County Fire Department. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andy Glaze

La Verne Firefighters' Association President