

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LA VERNE
Monday, March 7, 2022**

1. The City Council Meeting was opened to the public. 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 6:34 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. Presentation of "Proclamation Recognizing the Month of March, 2022 as "Women's History Month"

Mayor Hepburn on behalf of the City Council presented to Yvonne Gallegos representing the Cultural Awareness and Social Inclusion Committee (CASI) a "Proclamation Recognizing the month of March, 2022 as Women's History Month" celebrating women's contributions to history, culture and society and paying tribute to the generations of women who changed the face of society through courage and activism.

Yvonne Gallegos representing the Cultural Awareness and Social Inclusion Committee (CASI) thanked the City Council for the proclamation. She recognized women in the community for their contribution and leadership including Council Members Carder and Lau.

Rimmi Hundal, Director, Tri-City Mental Health Services reported on the Cultural Awareness and Social Inclusion Committee (CASI) and her involvement on the committee.
6. Announcements of Upcoming Community Events

Danita Beauchamp reported on upcoming meetings of the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors and the County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office Public Safety Cluster meeting pertaining to the Afflerbaugh & Paige Camps matter.

City Manager Russi reported that the information on the Cluster meeting would be posted on the City's website.

George May, Manager La Verne Library reported on the La Verne Library programs. He stated he was happy to report that the La Verne Library has expanded its operating hours.

Sherry Best, President, La Verne Historical Society reported that they are selling jars of marmalade to raise funds for the restoration of the 1938 Inman International Truck. She also reported that Bonita High School Auto shop is holding a car show featuring the work of the students and there will be zoom presentation on the Claremont Wildlands Conservancy. Information on the events can be found on the City's and La Verne Historical Society websites.

7. Consent Calendar

It was moved by Carder, seconded by Crosby, and unanimously carried to accept, approve, or act on the Consent Calendar items, except for the reconsideration of ULV/SBDC and Chamber of Commerce Business Grant Proposal. Council Member Lau declared a conflict of interest on this matter because she is on the Board of Trustees for the University of La Verne.) approved by a vote of 4-0, as follows:

City Council Minutes

City Council Minutes of February 22, 2022, ***received and filed.***

Register of Audited Demands

Registered of Audited Demands for the following:

In the amount of \$1,298,026.27 dated February 3, 2022
In the amount of \$751,891.59 dated February 19, 2022
In the amount of \$1,089,399.33 dated February 17, 2022; and
In the amount of \$491,629.51 dated February 24, 2022

Approved as recommended by Finance Director Pendleton.

Declaration of Surplus Property

Declaration of Surplus Property - The police equipment listed on Attachment A attached to the staff report dated March 7, 2022, is outdated and no longer needed. Each unit is obsolete and ineffective for current operational requirements. Each will become surplus to the City's operational needs and should be disposed per Administrative Regulation No. 606.

Police Chief Flores recommended that the City Council declare the equipment identified in Attachment A as surplus to the City's needs and further recommends that the staff be directed to sell each fairly and equitably to Accredited Security LLC per Administrative Regulation No. 606. ***Approved.***

Conflict of Interest/Lau

Council Member Lau declared a conflict of interest on this matter because she is on the Board of Trustees for the University of La Verne and she did not vote.

Reconsideration of ULV/SBDC and Chamber of Commerce Business Grant Proposal

Reconsideration of ULV/SBDC and Chamber of Commerce Business Grant Proposal - After the Council's February 22 action, approving ULV/SBDC and Chamber of Commerce Business Grant Proposal, it was determined that based on the structure and operation of the Small Business Development Center at the University of La Verne (ULV) and Council Member Lau's position on the board of Trustees, that out of abundance of caution, that the proposal for the SBDC and Chamber to administer the grant program be brought back for approval with Council Member Lau recusing herself from the vote.

City Manager Russi recommended that the City Council reapprove the proposal as submitted. ***Approved by a vote of 4-0 (Lau Abstained).***

8. American Recovery Plan Act - Essential Worker Premium Pay Stipends

City Manager Russi reported on the American Recovery Plan Act - Essential Worker Premium Pay Stipends. He stated that at the December Council meeting, the City Council was presented with an outline of the City's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and a preliminary plan for their use. In addition to giving concurrence to the proposed uses, the City Council directed staff to bring back an outline of a Stipend for employees for their consideration. After researching the provisions of the Act and what other agencies are providing, staff has prepared a set of criteria that was reviewed by the City Council at their January 18 meeting. That plan was shared with the affected employees and their associations. In order to implement the stipends, final approval by City Council is necessary.

Mayor Hepburn called for public comment on this matter.

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

City Manager Russi responded to questions asked during public comment.

Mayor Hepburn agreed with the Essential Worker Premium Pay Stipends. He stated that the City employees do an amazing job and it was important to show them appreciation for the tough job they do.

Council Member Carder stated that the City employees are the backbone of the City. She stated it was a scary time during the pandemic especially for first responders. She praised the public works staff for their work for providing street barricades to the downtown local businesses and restaurants during the pandemic helping them to thrive. She also praised all the City employees who came in to work every day during the pandemic to keep the City running and for doing a great job.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis agreed with Council Member Carder. He stated that consideration and decisions were made for the use of the ARPA funds for the community, like the Small Businesses Grant Program, Housing Rehabilitation Grant Program and the funding of CIP improvement projects for the next five years. He stated that City employees serve the community and they are very much appreciated.

It was moved by Davis, seconded by Lau, and unanimously carried to authorize staff to execute side letters with represented employee groups; to appropriate \$520,000 from the City's ARPA allocation; and authorized the Finance Department to issue stipends as provided under the outlined criteria.

9. 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.

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.

10. Council Comments

Council Member Crosby stated that there was a lot of good and important information gained at the study session on SB 9 held prior to the City Council meeting.

Council Member Lau reported that she and Mayor Hepburn attended the Hillcrest VIP reception displaying artwork by high school students. She stated that the artwork is amazing. She reported that at the last Cultural Awareness and Social Inclusion Committee (CASI) meeting, Police Chief Flores, Captain Gonzales, Lieutenants Dransfeldt, Prows and Thomas Frayeh were guest speakers at the last meeting. She stated residents can view the video of the meeting at their website at diverselaverne.org. In addition, she was pleased to recognize March as "Women History Month" honoring women for their contributions and achievements to their community and the world. She stated that it has been two years since the pandemic and normalcy. She urged people to be kind to each other.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis reported on the Cultural Awareness and Social Inclusion Committee (CASI) and hosting Police Chief Flores and staff. He reported on an upcoming Pomona Valley Transportation Authority meeting (PVTA) and Little League Opening Day. He stated that the SB 9 study session was very informative and there was a lot of good discussion on the matter.

Mayor Hepburn stated that the City has come a long way since the pandemic. He stated that normalcy was coming back. He was happy to see youth and high school sports back and seeing the players having fun again. He stated that La Verne was a great place to live. He stated the City had a great Council and City staff for taking good care of the community.

11. Closed Session

The City Council recessed to closed session at 7:37 p.m. for the following:

Review of Hearing Officer's proposed decision on an Employee Disciplinary Matter (Personnel Rule 5200 F) per Government Code Section 54957(b).

At 7:48 p.m., City Council reconvened to open session and announced the City Council approved Resolution No. 22-11, rendering a decision regarding the appeal.

Resolution No. 22-11,
Rendering a Final Decision
Regarding an Appeal of
Discipline

RESOLUTION NO. 22-11 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNE RENDERING A FINAL DECISION REGARDING AN APPEAL OF DISCIPLINE.

12 The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m., to Monday, March 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. for a Fire Badge Pinning Ceremony.

Respectfully submitted,



Lupe Gaeta Estrella, CMC
Assistant City Clerk