

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LA VERNE
Monday, March 20, 2023**

1. A regular meeting of the La Verne City Council was called to order by Mayor Hepburn at 6:31 p.m.
2. Before the start of the meeting, Mayor Hepburn welcomed the audience to the Council Meeting in which City business is conducted. He reminded everyone that per the City's Rules for Decorum, all speakers, members of the audience, and Council Members are to conduct themselves with decorum and to not engage in conduct that interrupts the orderly conduct of the meeting.

Mayor Hepburn, before calling for roll call, addressed an issue which has been brought to the Council's attention regarding the insertion of vocal personal statements upon the conclusion of the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor stated the City Council understands the Constitutional right of free speech and the sworn oath to protect it, that right of free speech, and all our other Constitutional protections, are the result of the sacrifice of others who have defended our Flag, and through it, our nation, and therefore asked persons to respect the presentation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Council Members present: Mayor Tim Hepburn
Mayor Pro Tem Rick Crosby
Council Member Wendy Lau
Council Member Steven Frank Johnson
Council Member Meshal "Kash" Kashifalghita

Absent: None.

Advisory personnel present: City Manager Ken Domer
Assistant City Manager JR Ranells
City Attorney Kimberly Hall Barlow
Assistant City Clerk Lupe Gaeta Estrella
Acting Chief of Police Sam Gonzalez
Fire Chief Chris Nigg
Community Services Director Yvonne
Finance Director Christy Lopez
Community Development Director Erick Scherer

4. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Veteran Maria McKinney, Air Force Staff Sergeant
5. Introduction of New Bonita Unified School District (BUSD) Superintendent
Bonita Unified School District (BUSD) Board President Glenn Creiman introduced BUSD new Superintendent Matt Wien. Also in attendance were Board of Education Board Members Greg Palatto, Chris Ann Horsley, and Jim Elliot.

BUSD Superintendent Wein stated that the School District ranked in the top 10 percent of best schools in the San Gabriel Valley, and he reported on the District's academic achievements. He looked forward to working with the City Council.
6. Proclamation Declaring the Month of March American Red Cross Month
Mayor Hepburn introduced and read the Proclamation declaring March 2023, Red Cross Month honoring the many volunteer heroes who provide hope in the face of life's emergencies.

7. Recognition and Presentation of "Pride of La Verne Award" Recipients

Mayor Hepburn reported on the Recognition and Presentation of "Pride of La Award" Recipients. He stated that annually, the City Council presents the "**Jack Huntington Award**" and the "**Jim Scranton Award**" to recognize volunteers who have made outstanding contributions and performed exemplary service to the City and the community. Each recipient receives an individual **Pride of La Verne** plaque and their names are placed on perpetual plaques displayed in City Hall.

The "Jack Huntington Award"

The "Jack Huntington Award" was named after S. Jack Huntington who moved to La Verne in 1970. Despite heavy professional obligations and time commitments to the U.S. Naval Reserve, Jack became actively involved in the community as a volunteer. He was active in various local organizations including the La Verne Jaycees, Little League, and the Youth Basketball program. Jack also served as a City of La Verne Commissioner for more than 15 years, completing two terms on the Parks & Recreation Commission as well as two terms on the Planning Commission. Jack Huntington was a citizen volunteer who exemplified the "Pride of La Verne" through selfless service to the community.

Mayor Hepburn announced that this year the "**Jack Huntington Pride of La Verne Award**" is being presented to **Linda Logan**. She is a long-time resident and is the Vice President of The McIntyre Company in Covina, a Commercial Real Estate Development and Management firm. She was involved in La Verne Little League as a team mom and a founding member of the La Verne Little League Auxiliary and helped to raise funds for the Junior Division Little League families to travel to Taylor Michigan for the World Series. Linda started K9 Partners of Covina, is a member of the Covina Rotary Club, was Rotary District 5300 Youth Exchange Officer for 4 years, Founder and Chairman of Field of Valor and most recently, in 2019, Linda started La Verne K-9 & Police Foundation. The Foundation has raised \$160,000.00 to date. They funded the purchase of K-9 Dino, equipped an existing police car with the special items needed to transport and help the K-9s work effectively, purchased special equipment, leashes, food, and training, and paid for medical expenses. Most recently the Foundation funded the purchase of K-9 Tupelo, a Bloodhound, her special leashes, harnesses, a GPS collar, and other special equipment for her handler, Officer Weinreb. Linda credits the community as having been wonderful partners. Katie's Pet Depot, a Foundation partner, has donated toys, food, and other items for K-9 Tupelo. The Foundation continues to support K-9 Tupelo with food and necessary items not donated.

Mayor Hepburn on behalf of the City Council, presented a Pride of La Verne Plaque to Linda Logan.

The "Jim Scranton Award"

The "Jim Scranton Award" was named after long-time resident Jim Scranton who was a member of the Youth Sports Committee since its inception. In 1986, he formed the La Verne Lazers Soccer Club organization which provides youngsters an opportunity to play soccer at a highly competitive level. Jim also spent five years on the City Sports Park Committee, which resulted in the development of 35 acres of sports fields for the community. He also participated in the City women's soccer program as a coach. Jim is survived by his wife Susan and their children. The Youth Sports Committee recommended that a Pride of La Verne Youth Sports Volunteer Award be named in honor of Jim Scranton.

Mayor Hepburn announced that this year the “**Jim Scranton Pride of La Verne Award**” is being presented to **Eric Shadrick**. Eric’s passion for volunteering started at his daughter’s La Verne Heights elementary school, where he helped at school events such as Sports Nights, Carnivals, Garden Club, fundraisers, and his wife, Lynda’s, Girl Scout Troops. He volunteered at Ramona Middle School & Bonita High School in several capacities and could regularly be seen flipping burgers on Friday Night Lights. He passed his lifelong love for soccer along to both daughters and his youth soccer career began as an Assistant AYSO Coach for one of their teams in 2006. He soon after became a Head Coach with 2 teams. He has held multiple positions within AYSO, such as Assistant Regional Commissioner, Divisional Coordinator, Referee, Coach, Trainer, Spring Select Coach, All-Star Coach, as well as Director of the Great Western Shootout. Eric began coaching at the club level 8 years later with the La Verne Lazars Soccer Club, where he joined the Board, created two teams for the Club and was voted President a year later. There, he served with an all-volunteer Board and helped strengthen the Club from 3 to 11 teams and was the Club Liaison to the City’s Youth Sports Committee for all 7 years. Since moving on from the Lazars, he looks forward to continuing to serve on the Youth Sports Committee as a Member at Large and is most recently a proud new founding member of Cal Poly Pomona’s Parent Ambassador Program, which helps support Cal Poly students & families as they transition to college life.

Mayor Hepburn on behalf of the City Council, presented a Pride of La Verne Plaque to Eric Sharick.

8. At 6:56 p.m., the City Council recessed and reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

9. Announcements of Upcoming Community Events Sherry Best, President of the La Verne Historical Society, reported on their upcoming events.

Mayor Pro Tem Crosby announced that Foothill Transit is proposing a change in their service line to Pomona making it a faster route to Mt. Sac and Cal Poly.

Council Member Lau announced that the La Verne Police and Fire Departments are holding a “Battle of Badges” Blood Drive on Thursday, March 23, 2023, at Fire Station One.

Mayor Hepburn announced that Garey Avenue in Pomona closed due to the Gold Line Construction will be reopened by next week.

10. Consent Calendar It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Kashifalghita, and unanimously to accept, approve, or act on the Consent Calendar items.

City Council Minutes City Council Minutes for March 6, 2023, **received and filed**.

Register of Audited Demands **Register of Audited Demands**, in the amount of \$1,914,180.75 dated March 2, 2023, and in the amount of \$864,587.46, dated March 9, 2023. **Approved**.

Street Closures for the 2023 La Verne Cool Cruise and Cruisin La Verne Holiday Car Shows

Street Closures for the 2023 La Verne Cool Cruise and Cruisin La Verne Holiday Car Shows - The City Council approved a three-year agreement with Flying Deuces, the event organizer for the La Verne Cool Cruise and Cruisin La Verne Holiday car shows in August 2022. In advance of the April 8, 2023, Cool Cruise car show, staff is recommending that the City Council approve street closures for the remainder of the car show events under the agreement and appropriate the necessary funds to cover the costs associated with having the April 8 Cool Cruise event. Future events will be budgeted separately as part of the annual budget process.

It was recommended that the City Council:

Authorize the Public Works Director to take the necessary steps to permit the temporary street closure for portions of D Street and Third Street in Old Town La Verne for the remainder of the car show events as outlined in the 2022 agreement, appropriate \$8,500 from the General Fund to the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget to cover the costs associated with having the April 8, 2023, event; and to approve the waiver of administrative review fees for the La Verne Cool Cruise and Cruisin La Verne car shows. ***Approved as recommended.***

Lowell Brandt Park Playground

Lowell Brandt Park Playground - The playground replacement at Lowell Brandt Park was originally approved as part of the Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 2019-2020 using Park Development Funds. This playground no longer meets safety standards and needs to be removed immediately and replaced, and an additional appropriation from the Capital Improvement Fund Reserve of \$171,700 is requested.

It was recommended that the City Council:

Award a contract to Miracle Recreation Equipment Co. in an amount of \$246,700 for the removal, site preparation, and installation of playground equipment at Lowell Brandt Park; and appropriate \$171,700 from the Capital Improvement Fund Reserve. ***Approved as recommended.***

Resolution No. 23-12 - Accepting the Fire Department's 2022 Report on Compliance with State Inspections Mandates

Accepting the Fire Department's 2022 Report on Compliance with State Inspections Mandates - In accordance with Senate Bill 1205 (SB1205) all fire departments, within the State of California, annually inspect buildings, public or private, that are utilized as a school, hotel, motel, lodging house, apartment house, and certain residential care facilities and report annually to its administering authority its compliance.

It was recommended that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 23-12, as follows:

Resolution No. 23-12 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNE, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF A REPORT MADE BY THE FIRE CHIEF OF THE LA VERNE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S REQUIREMENT TO INSPECT CERTAIN OCCUPANCIES PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 13146.2 AND 13146.3 OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE. ***Approved.***

11. 2022-23 Mid-Year Budget Update

Finance Director Lopez reported that the Mid-Year Budget is a financial update report for the 2022-23 Fiscal Year. Updated budget assumptions and estimates have resulted in increases of \$2,249,697 in revenue and \$2,243,504 in expenditures for the General Fund resulting in a net increase of \$6,193 to the General Fund Reserves for mid-year adjustments. Various non-general fund adjustments are included with a revenue increase of \$389,567 and expenditure increase of \$2,382,088. Finance Director Lopez went over the requested appropriations and budget amendments as detailed in the Staff report dated March 23, 2023.

There were Council comments. All Council Members agreed that Finance Director Lopez and Staff did an excellent job in preparing the Mid-Year Budget Report. City Council Members were also pleased with the increased transparency and the internal financial audit.

Mayor Hepburn called for public comments.

There was none.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Kashifalghita, and carried unanimously to approve the budget amendments detailed in the attached Budget Amendments Listing, adjusting revenues and expenditure appropriations for the fiscal year 2022-23 budget.

12. Request to Adjust Fire Marshal Salary

Fire Chief Nigg reported on the request to adjust the Fire Marshal Salary. He reported that when the Fire Marshal was hired, it was agreed that once the administrative cost-recovery failures were resolved, a more competitive Fire Marshal salary would be re-evaluated for recruitment and retention. A comprehensive review of the area Fire Marshal salaries including La Verne was conducted. A compatible and complete suggested salary was proposed. The position of a Fire Marshal better serves the Community and City Staff and aligns with Senate Bill 1205 which requires annual reporting to the City Council to State-mandated inspections on various facilities. It was recommended that the City Council approve a salary adjustment for the Fire Marshal classification to remain competitive in compensation.

It was moved by Crosby, seconded by Kashifalghita, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 23-13, updating the salary for Fire Marshal, as follows:

Resolution No. 23-13 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNE, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 22-48, A SALARY CHART FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES TO UPDATE THE SALARY FOR FIRE MARSHAL.

13. 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. (Below are only partial public comments, please visit the City's website to view the archived Council meeting.)

Mayor Hepburn called for public comment.

Joe Gabaldon, La Verne resident, spoke about Council Decorum rules. He felt that proclamations should only be issued to deserving La Verne residents who have shown their commitment and service to the City. He questioned the rules for public comments asking speakers not to repeat general comments that have been made before on the same matter. He also spoke on the City's statement on the Pledge of allegiance.

Sherry Best, La Verne resident, thanked the City Council for the statement on the Pledge of Allegiance.

Danita Beauchamp, La Verne resident, called the City Council hypocrites for the statement on the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jeff Bassler, La Verne resident, stated that the CCW carriers are very safe, and they are trained. He also spoke about the statement on the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kathy Kalousek, La Verne resident, thanked the City Council for having military veterans perform the Pledge of Allegiance. She also thanked the City Council for the statement on the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Hepburn stated it was Council Member Kashifalghita idea for having veterans perform the Pledge of Allegiance, and he should be thanked.

14. Council Comments

Below are only partial Council comments, please visit the City's website to view the archived Council meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Crosby reported that the City of La Verne has many actives planned and one of them of the Easter Egg Hunt in April.

Council Member Lau reported that she attended the House of Ruth Gala in March and announced that Tri-City Mental Health Services has many open job opportunities.

Council Member Johnson stated he was applying for a CCW permit and asked City Attorney Barlow if that would be a conflict of interest for him when the matter of the CCW fees comes up again before Council.

City Attorney Barlow replied she felt he did not have a conflict, because it was State matter and felt it would fall under the "public generally" exception, but would contact the FPPC to make sure and get back to him.

Council Member Kashifalghita reported that Wednesday, March 22, 2023, is the start of Ramadan. He reported he attended the American Armenian Coalition Charity event. He congratulated Damien High School Freshmen Maddox Park and Brandon Park for winning the First Year Policy National Debate Championship.

Mayor Hepburn thanked Finance Director Lopez and staff for the great job in keeping the Finance Department running smoothly.

City Manager Domer cautioned residents that in the next few days there will be high winds and rain and for them to be careful. He advised residents to call the Police Department for fallen power lines and the Public Works Department for fallen trees.

