

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
LA VERNE  
Monday, May 1, 2023**

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A regular meeting of the La Verne City Council was called to order by Mayor Hepburn at 6:30 p.m.

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.

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  
Assistant City Attorney Scott Porter  
Acting Police Chief Sam Gonzalez  
Finance Director Christy Lopez  
Public Works Director Meg McWade  
Community Development Director Eric Scherer  
Community Services Director Yvonne Duran

Pledge of Allegiance led by Veteran Antonio Rios, Marine Corporal

PRESENTATIONS/ Older American Month Mayor Hepburn, on behalf of the City Council, presented a Proclamation Declaring the Month of May 2023, as Older Americans Month celebrating older Americans and the key role, they play in sharing the wisdom and experience that inform today's decisions and actions, and fostering the connection and engagement that build strong, resilient communities. La Verne recognizes its responsibility to ensure that every American can age with dignity

The Proclamation was presented to the Senior Advisory Committee.

Outstanding Older American Nomination Mayor Hepburn reported that the Senior Advisory Committee nominated one senior citizen for the Outstanding Older American Award. This recognition is part of the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults 58th Annual Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD) Awards Program, which honors a senior citizen from each city in Los Angeles County .

**Older American Outstanding Nomination**

This year, the Senior Advisory Committee nominated Pat Baur as the City's Outstanding Older American. Pat has been a La Verne resident for 16 years. He served over 4 years in the Navy. He attended Cal Poly Pomona and graduated with a bachelor's degree in business. He worked at Coca Cola working on IBM 360 series computers. After retirement, he joined the La Verne Heritage Foundation and contributed countless hours towards the maintenance and upkeep of the eastern side of Heritage Park, while also serving as Vice President on the La Verne Heritage Foundation's Board. Pat is known as the "Leader of the Pack" amongst the Barn Boys, who along with this group, faithfully comes to work the grounds every Wednesday. Pat is instrumental in various special events that utilize Heritage Park.

Mayor Hepburn, on behalf of the City Council, congratulated Pat Baur for being nominated as the City of La Verne Outstanding Older American and presented him with a Pride of La Verne Certificate.

**Asian American and Pacific Islander-Heritage Month**

Mayor Hepburn, on behalf of the City Council, presented to Ken and Fang Valmonte, owners of Café Wang a Proclamation declaring the Month of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebrating and paying tribute to the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to American history, society, and culture.

At 6:52 p.m., the City Council recessed and reconvened at 6:57 p.m.

Mayor Hepburn stated that many residents attended tonight's meeting to speak pertaining to proposed development at 740 East Foothill Boulevard, San Dimas and that they will have the opportunity during public comment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Natalie Chaidez, Fairplex representative, announced that on Friday, May 12, 2023, is La Verne Day at Fair and admission for La Verne residents is only \$1.00.

Robin Carder, Fourth of July of Committee Representative, announced that they met with the La Verne Little League and that La Verne Little League will be participating in the Fourth of July Parade.

George May, La Verne Library Manager, reported on the library's upcoming library community events and programs.

Sherry Best, La Verne Historical President, reported on the Society's past and upcoming events.

Yvonne Gallegos, member of the Cultural Awareness and Inclusion (CASI) Committee announced that their next meeting is on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at Hillcrest.

Danita Beauchamp, La Verne resident, announced that the Bonita Unified School District will be meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, and requested residents to attend to address the unappropriated sex education material being taught at the schools.

Kathy Kalousek, La Verne resident, announced that Sowing Seeds for Life next Drive-Thru Panty is on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at the Charisma Life Church located at 305 E. Arrow Highway, Pomona.

Mayor Pro Tem Crosby announced that two events are being held in support in La Verne K-9 Police Foundation, the La Verne Police Officers' Association (POA) Golf Tournament and a 2023 Dog-Fest in May.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Lau, and unanimously carried to accept, approve, or act on the Consent Calendar items except for Item No. 3, Ticket Distribution Policy was pulled.

1. City Council Minutes

City Council Minutes of April 17, 2023, **approved as recommended.**

2. Register of Audited Demands

**Register of Audited Demands** in the amount of \$1,678,536.34 dated April 13, 2023, and in the amount of \$321,360.80 dated April 20, 2023, **approved as recommended.**

3. Pulled from the Consent Calendar/  
Resolution No. 23-15,  
Ticket Distribution Policy

Richard Bowen, La Verne resident, stated he was pleased that the City was approving the policy. He stated he would like to see put in the policy no gift giving by contractors and that it is a conflict of interest.

**Resolution No. 23-15 Ticket Distribution Policy** - The City Council is requested to approve a Ticket Distribution Policy to be included with the City of La Verne's Administrative Regulations. The Policy outlines the City's methods for ticket distribution and reporting that falls in line with regulatory requirements from the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Lau, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 23-15, adopting a Ticket Distribution Policy.

**Resolution 23-15**, titled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNE, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING A TICKET DISTRIBUTION POLICY, **approved as recommended.**

4. Declaration of Surplus Property

**Declaration of Surplus Property** - Vehicles and Equipment - This action will declare five vehicles and three pieces of equipment surplus due to age, condition, or no longer meeting operational requirements. Once declared surplus, the equipment will be disposed of per Administrative Regulation No. 606, **approved as recommended.**

5. 2023-24 Paramedic Service Fee

Finance Director Lopez reported on the 2023-24 Paramedic Service Fee Adjustment. She stated that the City's voter approved Paramedic Service Fee requires an annual public hearing to consider a rate change. The monthly fee is subject to an annual adjustment for a rate change based on the Consumer Price Index.

Mayor Hepburn opened the public hearing and called for public comment.

Danita Beauchamp, La Verne, resident, asked if the anticipated funds from the proposed increase was included in the current budget and what was the percentage of the increase.

Finance Director Lopez responded that yes the anticipated funds are included in the current budget and the percentage increase is 7.5%.

The City Council all agreed that the Paramedic Service Program is a valuable service for the community.

It was moved by Crosby, seconded by Kashifalghita, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 23-16, as follows:

Resolution No. 23-16,  
Adopting the Paramedic  
Service Fee

Adopt the Resolution No. 23-16 titled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNE, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE PARAMEDIC SERVICE FEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24" to adjust the monthly paramedic service fee from \$5.91 to \$6.35.

6. Appointments to the Active  
Transportation Committee

**Appointments to the Active Transportation Committee** - On July 18, 2022, the Assistant City Clerk gave notice of two (2) vacancies on the Active Transportation Committee (ATC). The City Council held ATC interviews on April 24, 2023, and will need to appoint two new members to the committee.

It was recommended that City Council conduct two motions to appoint new members to the Active Transportation Committee for a term of four years.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Lau, and unanimously carried to appoint Sabine Stieber to the Active Transportation Committee to a four-year term.

It was moved by Crosby, seconded by Lau, to appoint Muir Davis to the Active Transportation Committee. Motion failed by a vote of 2/3 (Hepburn, Johnson, and Kashifalghita voted No).

It was moved by Kashifalghita, seconded by Johnson, and carried by a vote of 4-1 (Crosby voted No) to appoint Jarrod Palmer to the Active Transportation Committee to a four-year term.

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.

The following residents spoke in opposition on the proposed development at 740 East Foothill Boulevard, San Dimas. They cited the development proximity to the surrounding neighborhoods, residents' safety, especially the children, traffic safety issues, and use of Police and Fire resources. They asked for the City Council support and a letter signed by all the Council be sent to the Board of Supervisors strongly opposing the proposed development. A few residents were upset with the City for removing their signs on their campaign to notify residents pertaining to the development and their opposition.

Piper Burke  
Nicky Hoar  
Melissa Burke  
Don Hubblell  
Danita Beauchamp  
Pam Berry  
Jeff Bassler  
Joe Gabaldon  
Rich Gill

**Carlos LeBlanca**  
Lilly Brainard  
Hector Castandas & Mrs. Castabdas  
Richard Bowen  
Wayne Perry  
Kathy Newlon  
Cynthia  
Sabine Sullivan  
Cynthis Gabaldon

Michael Carmichael, San Dimas resident  
John Ban  
Robert Schafer  
Two (2) additional residents

Christie, La Verne resident, was very concerned with the unappropriated sex education material being taught at the schools and thought the City Council should be aware.

City Manager Domer addressed the removal of the signs, citing that signs are only removed if there are in the City's right-of-way.

City Manager Domer stated that the City Council will call for a Special meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 6:30 for Council to vote on sending a letter in opposition of the proposed development to the Board of Supervisors.

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS

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

Council Member Lau thanked the audience for their attendance and participation in tonight's meeting. She reported on the La Verne Police Officers' Association (POA) upcoming Golf Tournament and the University of La Verne Scholarship Gala.

Council Member Johnson recalled that in 2003 when he was first elected to City Council, he was replacing Council Member Gatti who served on the Council for many years. He stated that Council will be adjourning tonight's meeting in memory of Council Member Gatti who recently passed away. He reported that the La Verne Rotary Club planted two Oak trees in memory of Dr. Garbis Der-Yeghiayan, a past Rotary member and a man whose life pursuing peace impacted his local community and the world.

Council Member Kashifalghita stated he strongly supported the residents and he was there for them.

Mayor Pro Tem Crosby stated he appreciated the young speaker's comments who spoke at tonight's meeting regarding the proposed development on Foothill Blvd. in San Dimas.

Mayor Hepburn thanked the Castanedas for their campaign opposing the proposed development and in getting the community together. He stated Council will be addressing the matter and they too, are opposed. He thanked the audience for attending.

The City Council recessed to 8:56.p.m. to closed session.

## CLOSED SESSION

The City Council met in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 for the following:

Conference with Labor Negotiators

Negotiators: City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and Assistant City Attorney

Employee Organization(s): La Verne City Employees Association, La Verne Police Officers' Association, La Verne Police Middle Management Association, and all unrepresented employees.

The City Council met with its legal counsel to discuss significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(b)(1)(3)(A) – one potential case - Meter Read Error Issued at Multi-Family Complex.

There was no announcement.

Adjournment at 9:45 p.m., in memory of former City Council Member Patrick Gatti. Pat was a long time La Verne resident and business owner of La Verne Florist in Oldtown La Verne. He served as a Council Member for 21 years, from 1982 to 2003, and served as Mayor Pro Tem for some of those years. Pat had a deep passion for the community and ran for Council to serve as a voice for the residents of La Verne.

During his time on the Council, Pat collaborated with and led many committees and commissions including the Child Care Summit Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission, Parks and Human Services Commission, Homeowners Association Advisory Committee, and the Noise Pollution Committee, to name a few. His pride for the community extended far past La Verne's borders spreading across the nation. After the 9/11 attacks, Pat Gatti assisted in the development of the parade as La Verne fire engines carried New Yorkers and their families through the streets. La Verne residents cheered and waved as these survivors made their way through the community. He valued collaboration and connections with others as he volunteered to visit our sister city in Acambaro, Mexico in 1987 and advocated for providing resources to their community. Gatti prioritized the economic development of the City and guided the Foothill Blvd Committee towards the development of multiple businesses that fostered La Verne's economic growth.

His service to the City continued after his time as a Council Member. He was part of the Old Town La Verne Business Improvement District for many years. He continued to invest his time and wisdom to the community up to his move to Arizona. He enjoyed his retirement in Arizona spending time with his family and speaking fondly of his memories of La Verne, which was his pride and joy. He is survived by his son, John, and his sister, Rose Marie.

Respectfully submitted,



Lupe Gaeta Estrella, CMC  
Assistant City Clerk