

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LA VERNE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OF THE LA VERNE CITY HALL
Monday, August 19, 2019**

1. A regular meeting of the La Verne City Council was called to order by Mayor Kendrick at 6:30 p.m.
 2. Council Members present: Mayor Don Kendrick
Mayor Pro Tem Charlie Rosales
Council Member Robin Carder
Council Member Muir Davis
Council Member Tim Hepburn

Absent: None.

Advisory personnel present: City Manager Robert Russi
City Attorney Robert L. Kress
Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director Dan Keeseey
Assistant City Clerk Lupe Gaeta Estrella
Community Development Director Eric Scherer
Community Services Director Bill Aguirre
Police Chief Nick Paz
Interim Fire Chief Kirk Summers
Personnel Officer JR Ranells
Community Services Coordinator Yvonne Duran
Police Captain Coleen Flores
Police Lieutenant Sam Gonzalez
Principal Planner Candice Bowcock
 3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Kendrick.
 4. Presentations - Badge Pinning for the Police Department

Corporal Frankie Cambero

Officer Timothy Lopez
- Mayor Kendrick, on behalf of the City Council, congratulated and recognized the following Police Department personnel.
- Corporal Frankie Cambero** - Frankie attended California State University, Los Angeles where he received his Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice. In 2012, while attending Cal State LA, Frankie was hired by the La Verne Police Department as a Police Aide. One year later, he was hired on as a full time Police Officer. During his time with the La Verne Police Department, Frankie has collected several titles including patrolman, certified drone pilot, drug recognition expert, major accident reconstructionist, and school resource officer. Now, Frankie holds the title of Corporal. His father, Frank Cambero pinned his badge.
- Officer Timothy Lopez** - In 2014, Timothy was accepted into La Verne's Explorer Program. After a year, he was promoted to the rank of Explorer Sergeant and began his ascent through the ranks of the La Verne Police Department. In January of 2019, Timothy was hired full time by the La Verne Police Department and sent to the Rio Hondo Police Academy where he graduated on July 25, 2019 with Class #208. His badge was pinned by his father Peter Lopez.

General Plan Advisory
Committee (GPAC)
Recognition

Mayor Kendrick, on behalf of the City Council, recognized and thanked the members of the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) for their efforts in helping to guide the update to the City's General Plan. Over the last 14 months, the GPAC has met with our General Plan Update Consultant team from De Novo Planning Group, and City Staff to help work through discussions on community issues and establish a set list of goals and policies to help guide the City over the next 20 years.

The members of the GPAC are:

Ed Hume	Jefferson Hill
Planning Commissioner Jason Simison	Wayne Hurley
Thomas Allison	Patti Latourelle
Joe Scott	Scott Snyder
Kisha Brennecke	Doug Strange
Vanessa Hess	Sabina Sullivan
Avo Kechichian	

5. Announcements of Upcoming
Community Events

Any person who wished to make a brief announcement of a future community event that is open to the general public did so as follows:

Mayor Kendrick announced that tonight's meeting is being live-streamed.

Dana Barford, Tri-City Mental Health Services announced there will be a Stakeholders meeting on September 10 & 12, 2019.

Council Member Carder announced that Friday, September 6, 2019, is La Verne Day at the Fair and special admission for La Verne residents is \$1. She stated to claim the \$1 admission residents should visit LAcountyfair.com/LaVerneDay.

Mayor Kendrick and Council Member Hepburn both announced it was the first day of school and for residents to drive carefully when school students are out and commended the Police Department for their efforts in keeping the students safe.

Richard Bowen, Eagle Drive, La Verne, announced that the next meeting of the Coalition of Concerned Citizens is on Thursday, August 22, 2019 at the Saint John Episcopal Church in La Verne, at 7 pm., and that they will be discussing the condition of Sierra La Verne Golf Course.

6. Consent Calendar

It was moved by Rosales, seconded by Davis, and unanimously carried to accept, approve, or act on the Consent Calendar items.

City Council Minutes

City Council Minutes of the adjourned meetings of May 20, 2019, June 3, 2019, June 24, 2019, June 25, 2019. Minutes of the regular meetings of June 5, 2019 and June 17, 2019, ***received and filed***.

Registers of Audited Demands

Register of Audited Demands, as follows:

1. In the amount of \$721,612.41, dated June 19, 2019
2. In the amount of \$2,455,811.48, dated July 10, 2019
3. In the amount of \$829,421.68, dated July 17, 2019
4. In the amount of \$2,119,983.26, dated July 25, 2019
5. In the amount of \$591,507.84, dated August 1, 2019; and
6. In the amount of \$329,298.62, dated August 8, 2019

Staff recommended approval of the Register(s) of Audited Demands.
Approved as recommended by staff.

Treasurer's Reports

Treasurer's Report for the Months of May and June 2019, **received and filed.**

Youth Sports Funds

Youth Sports Funds - The Youth Sports Committee has approved the use of \$137,000 from the Youth Sports Capital Improvement Fund. AYSO, La Verne Lazars, and the La Verne/San Dimas Pop Warner are requesting the funds to pay for a portion of the restroom/concession stand being built at La Verne Sports Park.

Staff recommended that the City Council should approve the amount of \$137,000 out of the Youth Sports Capital Improvement Fund to pay for a portion of the restroom/concession stand being built at La Verne Sports Park.
Approved as recommended by staff.

Resolution (s) passed & adopted, as recommended, as follows:

Resolution No. 19-57,
Authorizing Parcel No. 82380
Consolidation

Resolution No. 19-57 - Final Parcel Map No. 82380 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNE, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING A PARCEL CONSOLIDATION - On February 7, 2017, the Development Review Committee (DRC) approved Tentative Parcel Map No. 82380 (Case 3-17 TPM) to consolidate two parcels into a single parcel to allow the owner of the property to construct an addition and other improvements over an existing property line.

Staff recommended that the City Council should adopt Resolution No. 19-57, approving Final Parcel Map No. 82380 and direct staff to sign the map as to its conformance with the Subdivision Map Act and City Municipal Code.
Approved as recommended by staff.

Resolution No. 19-58,
Authorizing a Contract with Eco
Tierra Consulting, Inc. for
Environmental Services (500
East Baseline Road)

Resolution No. 19-58 - Contract CEQA 500 Baseline - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNE, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH ECO TIERRA CONSULTING, INC. -The City is currently processing an application for annexation and development of the property at 500 East Baseline Road. Along with the applicant, the City has selected Eco Tierra Consulting, Inc. as the consultant to prepare the required environmental document to meet the California Environmental Quality Act for the project.

Staff recommended that the City Council should adopt Resolution Number 19-58, approving an agreement with Eco Tierra Consulting, Inc. for environmental services, and authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the environmental consult. **Approved as recommended by staff.**

Resolution No. 19-59,
Authorizing Agreement with
Dawn Trilles, RN and Christine
Jackson, RN to provide
Paramedic Continuing
Education (CE) and Quality
Improvement (QI) for the
La Verne Fire Personnel

Resolution No. 19-59 - Trilles, Jackson Nursing Agreement - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNE, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR NURSING SERVICES – The contracts are for the hourly services of Dawn Trilles RN, and Christine Jackson, RN, to provide paramedic continuing education (CE) and quality improvement (QI) for La Verne Fire Department personnel.

Staff recommended that in order to continue to provide for high quality continuing education for paramedics, and to provide a quality improvement program as required by State and County regulations, it is recommended that consultant contracts for Dawn Trilles, RN and Christine Jackson, RN, be approved and the Mayor authorized to sign them by the approval of Resolution No. 19-59. ***Approved as recommended by staff.***

Resolution No. 19-60,
Authorizing a Pedestrian Bridge
Agreement with San Gabriel
Valley Council of Governments
(SGVCOG)

Resolution No. 19-60 - San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) Pedestrian Bridge Agreement - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNE, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AGREEMENT WITH SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SGVCOG) - The City's Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District Plan includes the construction of a pedestrian bridge across Arrow Highway to serve the planned Gold Line Light Rail station to be located at Arrow and E Street. Metro subsequently awarded the City a \$900,000 grant to develop plans, specifications, and engineering (PS&E) for the project, including environmental work. The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG), through its Capital Projects and Construction Committee, has agreed to perform the PS&E for the project. The attached agreement allocates the Metro funding to the SGVCOG and establishes the obligations of both the SGVCOG and the City.

Staff recommended that the City Council should adopt Resolution No.19-60, authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments for the purpose of providing design services related to the Pedestrian Bridge project. ***Approved as recommended by staff.***

Resolution No. 19-61,
Authorizing an Agreement with
the City of San Dimas for
Crossing Guard Services by the
La Verne Police Department

Resolution No. 19-61 - San Dimas Crossing Guard Agreement - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNE, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH SAN DIMAS FOR CROSSING GUARDS - The City of San Dimas approached the City of La Verne requesting to enter into an agreement to provide crossing guard services at the intersection of Walnut Avenue and Juanita Avenue in the City of San Dimas.

Staff recommends that City Council should approve the Agreement between the City of La Verne and the City of San Dimas, for the La Verne Police Department to provide crossing guard services, for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. ***Approved as recommended by staff.***

7. At 7:05 pm, the City Council recessed to meet as the Public Finance Authority and reconvened to regular session at 7:10 pm.

8. Presentation of Survey Results Regarding Tax Measure

Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director Keesey reported on the survey results regarding the proposed tax measure. He reported that on May 6, 2019, the City Council approved consulting agreements with TBWB Strategies and True North Research to evaluate the feasibility of a potential tax measure for the March 2020 ballot. A survey of likely La Verne voters was subsequently developed and conducted during June 2019. The survey results indicate sufficiently strong support for a sales tax measure to preserve police, fire, and paramedic services, public works related activities, and other essential city services. He stated that a minute motion approving the staff recommendation to pursue a 0.75% general sales tax measure that includes an oversight component; draft appropriate ballot language for a sales tax measure; and develop a public outreach/education component to inform the community about the measure or other City Council direction would be appropriate. He introduced Timothy McLarney, Ph.D. from True North Research and that he would be presenting the findings of the survey.

Timothy McLarney, Ph.D. from True North Research reported on the results of the survey along with a slide presentation. He spoke about the purpose of the study and the methodology used. He stated that the survey showed that the residents felt that the quality of life in La Verne was good to excellent and that the residents were very satisfied with the City of La Verne. He reported on the ballots tests and he stated that the results showed strong support of the measure and that the residents would vote yes. He stated that it would be feasible to move forward with a sales tax measure, because voters value the quality of life and they have a positive opinion of the City's performance in providing services. In addition, he stated that the City should expand the conversation with the Community to build awareness of the need. In closing, he stated there was a solid natural support for the measure and all ballot tests were well above the simple majority for 50% + 1 required for the passage of the measure.

Mayor Kendrick called for public comment

Fred Faught, Virginia Avenue, La Verne, asked how many registered voters are there in La Verne? He asked if the survey poll was broken down by age, working or non-working and how did the consultant come up with the list; and is that information available? In addition, he asked if the polled residents were told that there is no guarantee the sales tax revenue will be spent on police, fire and public works, and asked if they would still vote yes.

Richard Bowen, Eagle Court, La Verne, stated if the measure passed the sales tax revenue would go to the City's General Fund. He asked if there will be oversight on how the funds are spent and will there be citizen input. He spoke about the company who conducted the poll. He stated that they specialize in passing city measures; and that the consultant doesn't live La Verne and he's making money on the deal.

Lynne Del Toro, La Verne, asked if sales tax funds would be used for new projects, new hires to the Fire Department or used to maintain current staff.

Anna Anderson, Sloan Avenue, La Verne, asked if the City raises the sales tax and so does the County of Los Angeles, how would that work and would the sales tax go up higher.

City Manager Russi replied to the questions. He stated that the sales tax will not go up any higher than 10.25% and that there is a cap. He stated that sales tax revenue would be used for projects, to hire, maintain current staff; and to maintain the practice of employee compensation. He stated there would be an oversight committee on how the funds will be spent.

Timothy McLarney, Ph.D. from Ture North Research explained how they arrived with the list of residents polled.

There were no further public comments and the Mayor called for Council comments.

Council Member Hepburn stated that originally he did not support the tax measure. He stated that since there will be an oversight committee consisting of staff and residents and with the Gold Line coming, the City will need more public safety personnel on staff to keep the community safe, he stated he was now very much in favor of the measure.

Council Member Davis stated he is a strong proponent for the measure. He stated that historically, La Verne has been a very frugal Community. He spoke about the Fiscal Sustainability Workshop, negotiation with employee groups and having to tighten their belts with the groups. He stated that the City needs more revenue to support the employees. He stated he supported the measure and there will be an oversight committee and Council should move forward with this approach

Mayor Pro Tem Rosales stated that the City of La Verne needs more public safety employees and those funds are needed to accomplish this. He spoke about legislation in Sacramento which makes it difficult for the La Verne Police Department to police the City's streets.

Council Member Carder stated she was in favor of the measure and if the City doesn't go after the sales tax, the County will. She was in favor of the Oversight Committee and liked the idea of having residents on the committee. She stated that money was needed for the employees, and equipment. She stated this was the way to get the resources to keep moving forward.

Mayor Kendrick stated that 2/3 of the City Budget goes to public safety and there is not a whole lot left over for the employees. He stated the County will go after the sales tax, and it would be best that the sales tax revenue goes to our employees so they can continue providing the services to the community. He stated that the City needs more public safety employees for the safety of the community. He thanked Council Member Hepburn for his support of the tax measure.

It was moved by Davis, seconded by Hepburn, and unanimously carried to Pursue a 0.75% general sales tax measure that includes an oversight component; Draft appropriate ballot language for a sales tax measure; and Develop a public outreach/education component to inform the community about the measure.

Review of Communication
Center Operations

Interim Fire Chief Summers reported on the Review of Communication Center Operations. He stated that earlier this year an issue within the City's dispatch system arose that caused emergency calls from the dispatch center to either of the fire stations to be dropped or the fire station alerting systems failed to receive the call. This failure of the alerting system significantly delayed several emergency responses. While there have not been any recent reoccurrences, and after an exhaustive effort by the City's IT, Fire, and Police Department personnel, a definitive cause for the system failure was never completely identified or resolved. As a result of concerns for the reliability of the dispatch system, the City Manager requested that a review of the current dispatch operation be undertaken and options be explored to ensure that the City was providing the most reliable emergency dispatch system possible for both of the Fire and Law disciplines.

Interim Fire Chief Summers reported on the result of that service delivery research and the recommendations for the modernization of Police and Fire emergency dispatch operations as reported on Staff Report dated August 19, 2019. He stated that there are two viable options available regarding dispatch service. Upgrade the current Law/Fire Dispatch Center or contract for Fire services. He stated that the most viable and feasible is to contract for fire dispatch services. Two proposals were received, one from Verdugo Dispatch and second one from the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. He stated that Los Angeles County Fire Department is significantly less expensive than Verdugo and far more compatible with the La Verne Fire Department. In addition, he reported on the benefits to the La Verne Police and Fire Departments in contracting with Los Angeles Fire Department and separating the Police and Fire Dispatch. He stated that response time will be reduced and that Los Angeles County Fire Dispatchers are trained to provide medical emergency dispatch, where La Verne dispatchers are not. He thanked Police Chief Paz and Captain Flores for their input and assistance in finding a solution with City's dispatch center. He recommended that the City contract with Los Angeles County Fire Department for fire dispatch services.

The City Council discussed the pros and cons of contracting with the Los Angeles County Fire Department for fire dispatch services.

Mayor Kendrick called for public comment on this matter.

Gary Hunter, La Verne resident, stated it was silly just to have one dispatcher. He did not like the idea of contracting with Los Angeles Fire Department for fire dispatch services. He said he did not like them and did not want them in the City.

Jim Murphy, La Verne resident, asked if the City looked at sharing dispatch services with other cities, like Claremont, instead of contracting with Los Angeles County Fire Department. He also suggested maybe the Police Department could contract out for police dispatching by partnering with other local cities instead of the contracting for fire dispatch services.

Terry Prentice, La Verne resident, stated he was concerned that La Verne at times has only one dispatcher on duty.

There were no further public comments.

Council Member Carder stated she gave this matter much thought about what is best for the community. She stated that the residents don't want Los Angeles County Fire Department. After speaking to the Police and Fire Chiefs, and having learned that the Los Angeles County Fire Department provides emergency medical dispatch and that the response time will be reduced, she felt that contracting with Los Angeles Fire Department for fire dispatch services is the best for the community. She stated that the La Verne Police Department needs to work on training and hiring more dispatchers, but at this time contracting with the County for fire dispatch services is the best step for the City to move forward.

Council Member Davis stated that it was a matter of leasing or owning and what is more economically feasible. He stated that he was in favor of contracting with Los Angeles County Fire Department for fire dispatch services, which is more feasible and that they would provide the best service.

Council Member Hepburn stated he spoke to many people regarding this issue. He stated there were too many calls and not enough dispatchers. He stated it was unacceptable. Council Member Hepburn stated that the City needs to hire more full-time dispatchers. He stated it was not right that there were times that only one dispatcher was on duty. He stated that funds are needed to address this concern. He thanked Interim Fire Chief Summers and Police Chief Paz for researching this matter. He stated that by contracting with the County for fire dispatch services the response time would be reduced and they provide medical emergency dispatch, which the City does not have, and it would save lives. He stated that contracting for fire dispatch services is not a step towards contracting for fire services; and that they were totally separate issues.

Mayor Kendrick stated that by contracting with Los Angeles County Fire Department for fire dispatch services that does not mean the City is contracting for fire services. He stated he is in favor of contracting with the county which would help improve police dispatch, and would improve the quality of life in La Verne.

It was moved by Hepburn, seconded by Carder, and unanimously carried to direct the City Manager and the Interim Fire Chief to finalize the terms of an agreement with the Los Angeles County Fire Department to provide fire dispatch services.

7. 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 Kendrick called for public comment.

Kathy Newlon, La Verne resident asked what the City is doing about the homeless issue in the City. She stated that they are a threat and a danger to the community and that Council should pass an ordinance. She spoke about the City of Upland putting up "No to Panhandlers" signs in their City and that the La Verne Police also encourages residents to say no to panhandlers. She stated she wrote to all members of the Council regarding this issue. She stated that the Mayor replied that he did not feel right not helping the homeless. She felt it was wrong that the Mayor did not follow the Police Department's suggestion to say no to panhandlers.

Lynn Del Toro, La Verne resident, contacted Supervisor's Barger's Office regarding Marshall Canyon Trail connecting to Sierra La Verne. She suggested the City contact their office to see what kind of assistance they can provide regarding this issue.

Li Haung, La Verne resident, spoke about the new sex education program at Bonita High School and that the parents were not notified. Council Member Carder stated she was previously on the Bonita Unified School Board, and can assist her in contacting someone in the School District and would meet with her after the meeting.

Chris Gendreau, Chase's Restaurant Owner, and Downtown Business Improvement District Board Member announced that Linda Wilkinson has withdrawn her lawsuit against him and it's over. He stated he will support the new owner of the Third Street business, and he would continue growing Chase's restaurant and the sales base in downtown La Verne, which pays for City services.

8. Council Comments and Meeting/Conference Reports

Council Member Hepburn announced that the funding for construction of the Gold Line Extension to Pomona has been secured thanks to the COG Cities dedicating future Measure M dollars to fill the remaining gap. He reported that he attended the Police Department National Night Out Event and it was a success. He commended the La Verne Police Department for doing an outstanding job in hosting the event. In addition, he reported attending the one-year anniversary of Café Wang and that they had great food.

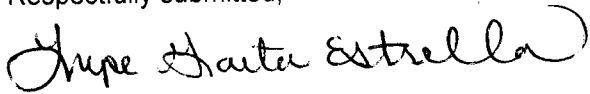
Council Member Davis also reported that he attended the La Verne Police Department National Night Out Event. He spoke about the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments efforts in securing funding for the Gold Line Construction Project.

Council Member Carder thanked the San Gabriel Council of Governments in reaching out to twenty-seven cities to vote in favor in securing funding for the Gold Line Construction Authority. She reported on the award of contract for the Alignment Design/Built Project for the first nine miles of the Gold Line Project from Glendora to Pomona and she reported that if funding is secured by September 2021, the project to Montclair could be completed. She handed out information on the Gold Line Project. In addition, she reported on the Gold Line Construction Authority upcoming open house and that more information is available on the Gold Line website.

Mayor Kendrick reported on two movie nights at the park hosted by the La Verne Police Officer's Association and he also reported on the last concerts in the park event. He announced that the band the "Answer" has agreed to play at the Fourth of July Fireworks show in 2020. He stated that La Verne has eight more CERT members from Hillcrest. He reported that he attended the Fairplex Command Center Ribbon Cutting ceremony and that he also attended Café Wang one year anniversary event. He thanked Council Members Carder and Hepburn for their hard work and efforts on the Gold Construction Project. He also thanked City Manager Russi, who is also President of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments City Manager's Committee for his efforts and hard work in assisting the San Gabriel Valley Council of Government by contacting the cities regarding securing the funding for the Gold Line Construction Project.

9. Adjournment at 8:49 pm, to Monday, August 26, 2019, at 2:00 p.m., interviews for applicants for the Active Transportation Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lupe Gaeta Estrella". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lupe Gaeta Estrella, CMC
Assistant City Clerk