



General Council Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2021

Via Zoom Call

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1. Call to Order & Welcome: President Leon, 7:00 p.m.
2. Flag Salute: Led by Mike Baldwin
3. Invocation: Rick Wright
4. Roll Call: Recording Secretary Jeffrey Rodriguez - Present: Leon, Lewin, Rodriguez, Ordubegian, Kilpatrick, Ahlers, Libra, Baghdassarian, Madsen, Yu, and Mueller Not Present: Barnes.
5. Swearing in of new Council Members – Led by County Supervisor Kathryn Barger. The Supervisors Office appreciates you all volunteering to serve your community. You are the heartbeat of the community. Please keep your eyes and ears open, and let me know when you see issues or problems facing this community. You're the voice, and the conduit from the community to the Supervisors office. Thank you for making me a better Supervisor, and thank you for all the work you are doing in the community. **Supervisor Kathryn Barger swears in the newly elected Town Council Members (Regular members - Baghdassarian, Ahlers, and Mueller; and the Alternates – Yu, Madsen, and Barnes).** Supervisor Barger also thanked the outgoing Councilmembers, including former councilmembers Rabinov, Ear, and Stupakis for all their hard work and dedication to the community. President Leon Comments – Thanks the Supervisor for always being a phone call away, and helping the Council to make La Crescenta a great place to live.
6. Election Report – Councilmember Kilpatrick gave the following updates - Election occurred on December 10th and 11th. Thank you to all the volunteers & the Sherriff Department who helped with the election those days. Everyone did an amazing job, and it couldn't have been done without you. We had 480 votes cast by 262 voters. There were 49 write-in ballots. St. Luke's election venue was great, and the signage to direct people was helpful. In closing, thank you to everyone who voted in this election,

and please come out again to vote next year with your neighbor. It's such an important and fundamental process for this community. We are a conduit for your voice, we are elected by you, so please make your voice heard next election. The full election report is available on the website. President Leon Comments – Thank you Chris for all your efforts, and you really did a great job. You did a lot of heavy lifting, and it was a job well done. Thank you to everybody who helped make the election a success. Also, thank you to the sheriff department who helped to take the ballot boxes and keep them safe.

7. Officers Election – Councilmember Kilpatrick leads the election process for the CVTC Officers. Councilmember Kilpatrick shares his screen, which shows all the perspective council members running for each position. It's also noted that, everybody who wanted to run for a position was able to run. Corresponding Secretary is the only position that is contested, the rest are unopposed. Kerri Lewin and Elizabeth Ahlers are both running for the position. A mini forum is held, and each candidate gives a one minute introduction to themselves, why they are running, and what qualities they would bring to the position. The voting will take place via a text to councilmember Ordubegian, who will process the votes and announce the winner. All regular members voted, and Kerri is announced as the new Corresponding Secretary. Councilmember Kilpatrick comments - I've been on the Council for a year now, and I've found this to be one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever done. There are so many important issues facing our community, and I look forward to working with you all in the future. Congratulations and thank you very much for serving the community.
8. Approval of November Meeting Minutes, **Motion** to approve by Councilmember Lewin, Seconded by Councilmember Ordubegian. Approved unanimously.
9. Approval of January Meeting Agenda, **Motion** to approve by Councilmember Lewin. Seconded by Councilmember Libra. Approved unanimously.
10. Farewell to outgoing Council members – President Leon comments – Thank you for all your hard work in this community, and you all have made a difference. I'd especially like to recognize senior Council members Ear, Rabinov, and Stupakis for your service throughout the years. Certificates of your service will hopefully be mailed to each of you very soon. Again, thank you for all your service to this community.
11. Community Reports (3 min and questions)
 - a. Youth Council – Lucy Ricky gave the following updates – We have maintained our regular meeting schedule, which is two times a month. We are partnering with the CVTC for a t-shirt design event. We are asking the youth of our community to submit t-shirt design. Our designated committee will review the submissions and pick a

- winner. T-Shirts will be made using the winning design, and then sold to raise money for the CVTC Scholarship Fund. It's a good way for young artists to express themselves and to raise money for our students.
- b. Sheriff – Lieutenant Rob gave the following updates – Zero homicides, 1 assault, 2 burglaries, 22 larcenies, 1521 citation written last year. A lot of Cadillac convertors stolen. Mostly Honda's and the Toyota Prius. Therefore, at Two Strike Park, on the January 29th, there will be an itching event. We hope to leave identifying marks on your Cadillac convertor, so in the event it's stolen, we can identify it as belonging to you. We are appointment only, and it's all sold out. Hopefully we can do more of these events in the future. Questions – Can you tell us anything about the rape at Two-Strike Park. The Lieutenant responds – That falls under the Parks Bureau and I'll need to find out more from them. Question – How are these convertors stolen. Lieutenant responds – typically the car is jacked up quickly and then sawed off. Question – Are all cars targeted or just select ones. Lieutenant responds – It can be any car, but some cars are easier than others, so those will be targeted first. Question – Why isn't more being done to prosecute the yards who buy these convertors. Answer – We are trying to and there is a team dedicated to finding these “dirty” yards.
 - c. Fire Department – Maria Grycan gave the following updates – In November we had 65 response, none were fires. 52 medical calls, with 37 transported to a hospital. In December we had 70 total responses, 46 medical calls, with 27 transported. We had two fires – One vehicle and one residence. It was contained to just those areas. Gas leak on Prospect Ave, with no damages. 7 total incidents of wires down in Nov. and Dec. President Leon comments – thank you for coming here today to inform our community, and we appreciate you.
 - d. CHP – Officer Keller gave the following updates – 6 TC's we responded to. Only 1 had injuries. Not too much is going on. No vehicle vs. pedestrian or cyclists involved. Prepare for more rain, and check your tires and windshield wipers. Again, watch your speed in the community. We'll be patrolling the area, especially around the schools. Introduces Officer Bay, who is the new C.O.P.S. officer and will be assisting me with these presentations and patrolling the area. He's been on the department for a couple of years. He's also on a bike, and you'll see us around. The CHiPS fundraiser for kids was a great success, and we appreciate how generous all our communities were. Councilmember Lewin asks a question – Any details on what happened to the welcome to La Crescenta sign, close to Pennsylvania. Officer Kellers responds - There was a DUI incident a few months back, but I'll look into the more recent incident and find out more info for next meeting.
 - e. CV Chamber – Mike Baldwin gave the following updates – **Mr. Baldwin swears in the Officers of the CVTC (Councilmembers: President – Leon, V.P. – Kilpatrick, Recording Secretary – Rodriguez, Treasurer – Libra, Corresponding Secretary – Lewin).** The Chamber has been slow because of Christmas and New Year. We are planning to

have a mixer on March 10 at Bob Smith Toyota. This will go towards scholarships for our students. We'll also have a mixer at El Charro restaurant on March 31st. We are also planning a 10 day Silent Auction starting on March the 25th. There is also the Hometown Country Fair on April 30th. Last year's fair was a great success, so please come out and join in the fun this year.

- f. CV Water – No updates given –
- g. CV Cert – No updates given
- h. CV Ready - Fire Council - No update given
- i. CVCA – Mr. Michaels gave the following updates – Thank you to all of those involved in the elections as well as the candidates. I wanted to announce our next CVCA meeting on January 27th at 7 p.m. We'll be talking about local projects, as well as a ballot initiative seeking signatures. Essentially it will try and take back some control over development from the State, and return it to local municipalities (e.g. our LUC) to decide the type of development that is best for their community. Please look at the initiative, and assign your signature if you'd like. Community question - is this a State initiative. Mr. Michaels responds – Yes, it's a State initiative. Miss Chessum asks - Can a signature be done electronically. Mr. Michaels responds– Since it's a ballot initiative I believe it has to be a wet signature. I'll look into this further
- j. GUSD – GUSD Boardmember Jennifer Freeman made the following comments – I want to congratulate all the new members of the Council and I look forward to working with all of you. I also wanted to say thanks to the Council Members Stupakis, Ear, and Rabinov. GUSD Superintendent Ekchian gave the following updates - When we went on winter break, we didn't expect omicron would get this bad. On December 22nd we received word from the Governor's office that we'd be receiving at home test kits. Much of our staff worked through the break to help distribute them to the community. We also posted dates and times for Covid testing at our school. On Jan 3rd we returned, and we had a lot stricter Public Health Guidelines. Which strongly recommend more testing, and wearing masks indoors/outdoors. From the 3rd to the 9th, we tested more than 15,000 students and staff members. The lines were long, but with so many people getting tested, it was a success. I am pleased to say we had over 90 percent of our students back in school. 4 percent are doing independent studies. Since January 10th, we've tested another 12,000 students/staff. A lot of community is taking advantage of the testing. We appreciate this community bringing their kids to get tested, so we can keep our schools safer. GUSD Board Member Freeman gave the following updates – Athletics are happening. Been a bit of a stop and go because of the latest guidelines. In the Pacific league, we have decided to not allow spectators at our indoor matches. We've been evaluating this on a week by week basis. We wanted to students to still be able compete, and so we wanted to exercise as much caution as we could. The Board of Education on Tuesday decided to put a term limit initiative on the ballot for Board members. This will be voted on in June, and it will decide whether or not we

- should move to a 3 term limit. President Leon comments – We appreciate you coming to provide your important updates, and all you do for the kids of our community. Community question – What was the infection rate during those weeks of testing – Miss Ekchian responds - The first week was 7.3, and second week it was 9.6. These numbers only reflect those which we tested directly, not those who did home testing or were tested elsewhere. We are posting these numbers, and I'll send them to the Council. Community question – You mentioned earlier that health guidelines dictate that children have to wear masks outdoors as well. Do you know why that is. Miss Ekchian responds – We would like outdoor activities to not require masks. I personally support that view. I think once the surge goes down, I'll advocate that our students not be required to wear masks while outdoors. Hopefully this will just be for a two week period.
- k. Land Use Committee – Miss Chessum gave the following updates – The LUC met on December 2nd 2021. There was no January meeting. The big issue we're dealing with is SB9. This law went into effect in January. Basically it allows an R1 to be divided, and essentially divided again. We had representative from the County come talk to us about the implementation of the bill and answer any questions we had. We found out that only the top portion of the La Crescenta, Orange and above, will be exempt from the law. This is because that part of La Crescenta is considered a high fire zone area. We have concerns about the density that this could bring to La Crescenta. We need to modify our CSD, to include R1's into that, so we have more control over that. The Town Council wrote a letter to The Supervisor's office asking that we be able to work with the county to modify our CSD and on the implementation of this law. The Supervisor's office did agree that we can work with the County to update the CSD to incorporate R1's into our CSD. Other neighboring communities already have these restrictions (Tujunga, La Canada, Glendale etc.) We have a meeting on February 3rd at 6:30 where we can discuss this more. We need to have a say on how housing will increase. The Supervisor is very supportive of moderate development for our community. Councilmember Baghdassarian asks – Do local schools have any say in this. More students could cause potential issues at some of our schools. Is anybody looking into this possible issue. Miss Chessum responds – There are a lot of concerns on what this new law will do to our infrastructure, including schools. Because zoning is governed by regional planning - we need to work with them to enact certain measures to control how development comes to La Crescenta. It's a law, so we can't go against State law, so we need to work with Regional planning on the implementation of the law. Community question – Do they require garages for all these houses that could be built or are they all going to be parking on the streets. Miss Chessum responds - Yes, parking could be an issue, but I'll look into what the exact garage requirements are. We have a little leeway to keep our streets clear of as many cars as possible being in a

high fire zone. Please come to our meetings, and I appreciate the Council always supporting the LUC.

I. Streets and Transportation – Miss Rabinov gave the following updates –

12. Community Announcements (2 minutes)

- a. Library: Miss Martha Wiggins gave the following updates – Everything is normal for the library. We have reduced capacity because of the Omicron variant. We've reduced our capacity to 20 customers at a time in the library. We've also reduced staff. In January we gave out 75 vaccinations at the library. On February 9th of February will be having our next vaccination clinic
- b. Park & Rec – No update given
- c. American Legion – Mr. Baldwin gave the following updates – Toy Drive - We had 5 pickup trucks worth of Toys that were donated. We donated \$800 between the Moose Lodge, American Legion, and the VFW. We sent \$50 gift cards to all the active duty personnel we heard about in our area. We assisted the CV Woman Club with their drive-thru Santa. We donated \$500 to a family who's house burned down in December. CV High School coordinated the effort for the family. No bingo going on right now, but hopefully we can when the numbers start going down.
- d. Promplus/firehouse – No update given

13. LA Public Works Presentation La Crescenta/Montrose Transportation Improvements Project – Andrew Ross and Sarah Ahmed from Public Works will be going over the proposed plan. To view a video of the County's presentation, as well as the comments/questions from the community/Council - Please click on this link, <https://youtu.be/JQ3riH1rrns> (timestamp 2:01:00 to 3:23:00). **Highlights from the presentation/workshop:** Project Background – Originated as a pavement resurfacing project in La Crescenta Montrose, as part of an Countywide pavement program to maintain County roads. We then have opportunities to do other projects while do the resurfacing. There are essentially 5 parts to this project as it's currently laid out - Resurface portions of roadways and reconstruct existing curb ramps, Replace asphalt sidewalks and curb ramps with concrete along Orange Ave., Install bikeways along various roadway segments to encourage active transportation, Construct drywells to capture surface water and improve water quality, and construct bulb-outs to improve pedestrian safety. Slides in the presentation presented by Public Works have information, maps, and pictures illustrating each one of the project parts mentioned above. There is extensive information and slides on the proposed bulb-outs. Continental crosswalks are an alternative to bulb-outs. Traffic studies are not required nor necessary in this case, because we aren't changing the flow of traffic. In Re: Bulb-outs, there were field visits done in November and December, where pedestrian patterns were observed, and we did not observe drivers using the parking lane to turn

right, and there are possible drainage issue that will be addressed during the design phase. Next steps: Final decision on bulb-outs, Finalize design, Additional Outreach as the project progresses, and anticipated start of construction March 2025. **Some community questions/answers** - Question – Why was the Mountain Pine area selected, as it is far away from schools/traffic. County Answer – It is away from schools, but there was feedback that a lot of people walk/ride in this area, so it was decided to look into the feasibility of one there. The Council could decide not to have one there, or anywhere, and that is totally fine with us. Question – Is there a need for bulb-outs – County Answer – Need is tricky, there is no data that points to high traffic and incidents in the area, but that data doesn't factor in the human element. One might be more willing to walk or ride if they feel safer or allow their kid to walk to school because it's safer. Question – Will the proposed bike lanes remove any parking along the streets where they would be implemented. County Answer – We are still only in the conceptual phase, not at the design phase yet, but our goal is to not remove parking spaces whenever possible. Question - If one particular aspect of this proposed project isn't implemented, say the bulb-out on Mountain Pine, could that money be diverted to other areas of need in the community (e.g. other streets being repaved, a sidewalk where there currently isn't one etc. etc.) County Answer – It's very likely not possible. A lot of work has already gone into these proposed improvements and the due diligence required for them. If we tried to add something new somewhere else, that due diligence hasn't been done at the new location, and thus would delay the whole project further. Also, there are two different pots of money this project is pulling from. One is a safety pot, and another is a resurfacing pot, so it would not be a like for like switch. Question – Will there be any construction needed for the bike lanes or will it only be painting. County Answer – These bike lanes will only need painting and few signs in the area. Community comment – Some of the streets in the community are so bad, that I think some of the money being proposed would be better served making our roads drivable. **Councilmember comments/questions** – I'm not seeing the need for two bulb-outs within a few blocks on a La Crescenta; Traffic isn't nearly what it will be, and I think it will cause traffic issues with two bulb-outs so close together; Not seeing the need for bulb-outs at Mountain Pine, there isn't much traffic or walkers in that area; I appreciate the option of continental crosswalks instead of bulb-outs. I think that is a good option, and it would be a cheaper option; Look into the drainage issues at these proposed areas, as it get really bad when it rains. One proposed continental sidewalk leads pedestrians to a dirt patch on the other side, with no sidewalk; There are examples of bulb-outs that have been implemented in our community and have worked fine. An example is at Pennsylvania and Orange, it works great. That doesn't mean it will work everywhere, but it has worked. President Leon comments – Thank you Mr. Ross and Miss Ahmed for their hard work on this project, and coming to present their information to the community. I'd also like to thank Shirley (from Public Works) for all her work on this project as well.

14. Public Comments

Public Comments and Community Announcements: This is for non-agenda items only. Please submit a speaker card to the President or Vice President. Speakers are allowed 2 minutes. Council may ask questions or respond to the speaker but there will be no debate or decision. The President may refer the matter to the appropriate committee for investigation and report.

a.

15. Council Business

- a. Treasurer's Report: Donna reads the Treasury report (distributed to the Council).
Motion to approve the December's treasury report by Councilmember Lewin.
Seconded by Councilmember Kilpatrick. Approved Unanimously. President Leon comments – We have to set up the Audit Committee to go over the 2021 expenses. Aram has helped out the last few years, and can help out again.
- b. Correspondence: One letter received from the Supervisor's office, which was in response to our letter In Re: SB9.
- c. Outdoor fitness center at Two Strike Park – No update given
- d. Election Committee report – Update given above
- e. Scholarship Committee – No update given
- f. Outreach Committee – No update given

16. Adjourn: the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.