



General Council Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2023

Via Zoom Call

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1. Call to Order & Welcome: President Leon, 7:03 p.m.
2. Flag Salute: Led by: Mr. Mike Baldwin
3. Invocation: Led by: Randy Foster – Christian Life Church in La Crescenta
4. Roll Call: Recording Secretary Jeffrey Rodriguez - Present: Leon, Rodriguez, Mueller, Kilpatrick, Yu, Baghdassarian, Ordubegian, Libra Not Present: Suh and Lewin.
5. Approval of January Meeting Minutes, **Motion** to approve by Councilmember Baghdassarian, Seconded by Councilmember Leon. Approved unanimously.
6. Approval of February Meeting Agenda, **Motion** to approve by Councilmember Baghdassarian. Seconded by Councilmember Libra. Approved Unanimously.
7. Swearing in of Council Members and Officers - Councilmember Mueller reads the names of all the newly elected Council Members: Leon, Ordubegian, Libra, Yu and Suh. **Cpt. Hahnlein swears in** the newly elected councilmembers. Councilmember Mueller reads the names of the newly elected Town Council Officers: President – Kilpatrick, Vice President – Leon, Recording Secretary – Jeffrey Rodriguez, Treasurer – Donna Libra and Recording Secretary – Kerry Lewin. **Cpt. Hahnlein swears in** the new elected Town Council Officers.
8. Community Reports (3 min and questions)
 - a. Youth Council Liaison Chloe Baghdassarian gave the following updates – We had our last meeting on Feb 9th and discussed a variety of events coming up, such as: A Bake

Sale Event on the 25th of this month and a Teen Career Event will be on March 5th at the Library.

- b. Sheriff – Cpt. Rob Hahnlein gave the following updates – Part One Crimes - 1 assault (party got out of hand), 1 residential and 1 commercial burglary, 21 larceny incidents (mainly catalytic converter thefts) and 1 GTA. On February 18th we're having an etching event at the Highlands Church. Part Two Crimes - 1 vandalism. 1 narcotic incident and 5 fraud identity theft incidents. We issued 88 citations and 40 warnings. We had 13 catalytic converter thefts in January compared to 1 in December. These thefts are concentrated near on-ramps. We had an event at the HS where a suspicious individual came on the campus with a large duffle bag. He was supposed to check in but never did. The SRO did a cursory search of the campus, and we went into a shelter in place mode. Once all the various departments arrived to assist, we did a major search and went into a full lockdown mode. He ended up not being on campus anymore and was eventually located at a local Starbucks. Kids were great. Teachers were great. Everybody followed the rules. Questions by Community/Council answered by Cpt. Hahnlein – Thank you for all you did to take care of that situation at the HS. What time does the etching event start. Answer - Starts at 7 in the morning till about noon. Question – Will they have a high powered machine to do the etching quicker. Answer – Yes. We borrow the one we have in Altadena. Question – Isn't there a cage you can put over the CC so they can't be stolen. Answer – Yes. Those are sold. Something to note, Prius seem to be the no. 1 target for CC thefts.
- c. Fire Department – Miss Grycan gave the following updates – Passes out maps. Todd Denerson is here with me this evening. For the month of January we had 74 responses. 57 of those were medical calls and we transported 36 of those patients. Only one fire (vehicle). We had 12 good intent calls. Safety Tip – Be aware of carbon monoxide poisoning. It is called the silent killer. As things get colder people are using systems/devices to warm things up. As an example, make sure your furnace is running properly. May 1st is when usually start brush inspections. We sent out a letter to all people who are located in the fire zones. CA Public Resource Code 4291 states that all homes that are in our fire zones are subject to brush inspections. In the past we've used discretion on where we inspect and used visual cues. We then acquired mapping software to target and capture every single home in the fire zone. We previously averaged around 250 brush inspections a year. Last year we increased that number to 375. Brush inspection will increase to around 2,700 this year. Therefore, there are many people who are receiving this brush inspection letter for the 1st time. New legislation, AB3074, has recently gone into effect. This states that there are now new requirements, called Zone Zero, which states that everything within 5ft of your structure must be cleared of all flammable material. This won't go into effect this year but will likely be implemented next year. There will be education on what is required next year to all those who receive a brush inspection notice.

Another legislation went into effect in 2021, AB38, which states – if you sell a home that is in the fire zone, you must show proof of a Compliant Defensible Space Inspection before the close of escrow. If you received a compliant space inspection 6 months prior to the sale of that home... that will qualify as being in compliance. We used to not charge for this type of inspection, but because we're doing so many now, we can't do that anymore. The fee will now be around \$150. We'll be phasing in that fee. Last year it was \$50. This year it goes up to \$100. The next year it will go to \$150. Council/Community questions answered by Ms. Grycan - How are the residents contacted. Answer – All the residents who are in the impacted zone should have already received the letter. Question - Do I have to cut down all my trees. Answer - No. The letter wasn't as clear as it could have been. The trees just need to be manicured and managed. Question – I know a few residents have prized Camilla bushes against the house. They are beautiful. Will they have to go. Answer – Once AB3074 goes into effect and becomes enforceable... Yes. Those will have to be removed. Question - Who does the inspections. Answer – The local fire department did them previously, and they still will do the majority of them, but now that we have so many more inspection to conduct, we'll likely need help from other agencies. Forestry for example. Question – Can you explain the process if you don't comply. Answer – You'll have 30 days to bring your home under compliance. If after 30 days you don't remedy the situation, you'll get a notice saying exactly what you need to do to be in compliance. You'll then have 30 days to be in compliance. If not, and made no effort to communicate with us, you may receive an additional 30-days to be in compliance, but you may not. We want to work with the community. Talk with us, and we can see if there can be an extension to the compliance period. If not, you'll be turned over to our brush clearance unit for enforcement. You'll then receive a bill for \$500 for not being in compliance. Then, you'll still have to pay the fine, but you can still bring your home into compliance within a period of time. If not, you'll be turned over to County Agriculture. They will then hire a vendor to come out and do the work for you, and you'll be assessed a further Admin fee of \$987 dollars, plus the costs of the work done to bring your home into compliance. This will go on your property tax bill. Question - Do you know if your Fire Insurance can be impacted by not being in compliance. Answer – I'm not sure how those two will work together and if one will impact the other. Question – Will the boxes and other none-vegetation items also be inspected and need to be cleared. Answer - No we can only enforce the vegetation aspect. Other things like that aren't enforceable by us. Code enforcement deal with hoarders but not the fire department. - We can contact social services and they can escalate things from there, but we have no way to do so.

- d. CHP – Officer Bay gave the following updates – We had 4 traffic collisions for the months of January. 2 of those had injuries. We also had 1 DUI incident. January was a wet month. There were a lot of incidents on the freeway, especially East bound on

- the 210 near Oceanview. We had our Commercial Enforcement Day yesterday, where we also collaborated with the LA division and San Bernardino divisions. Altadena CHP has an IG account. We received 7 new officers at our station. We also added another COPS officer. We'd liked to introduce him to the public at an upcoming meeting. Community/Council questions answered by Officer Bay – What are the total no. of officers in our area. Answer – I'm not sure what that no. is, but I'll look into getting an exact no. for you.
- e. CV Chamber – Mr. Mike Baldwin gave the following updates – He introduces Steve Pierce and brings him and Harry Leon up to the podium. Both are members of the VFW post and are presented with a Thank you coin for their military service. Harry Leon is also presented with a certificate recognizing his service in the military. Steve Pierce is stepping down as Executive Director. Rachel Miller will be the new Executive Director at the Chamber. Steve Pierce will mostly be working on memberships and talking with people in our community. April 29th is the date of our Hometown Country Fair. We had a great time last year. The Legion will have a bingo even on February 25th at the La Canada Community Center. It will benefit various schools in the area. First game starts at 6.
 - f. CV Cert – No updated given
 - g. CV Ready - Fire Council - No update given.
 - h. CV Water – No update given.
 - i. CVCA – No updated given.
 - j. GUSD – Miss King gave the following updates – Dr. Etchian is currently at Disneyland for a dinner celebrating the recognition of 5 of our schools that were identified as California Distinguished Schools. We are very proud of those 5 schools, and really all of our schools. The incident at CV High School - We recently had a 2 hour meeting where we answered questions from the community about the incident. This is available on our website. We learned a lot of lessons from the incident. We take pride in CVHS being an open and welcoming campus, but maybe it's too open. We'll be having listening sessions with various organizations in the community to talk about possibly tightening things up more. We have already limited the no. of entrances to the school. There are only a few ways into the school currently. There is now somebody from our end who will be monitoring each entrance into the school. We are asking all our staff to wear badges as well as any visitors to the campus. We have a visitor identification system called Raptor. It scans a driver's license and prints out a picture ID saying who you are and why you're there. That system also scans websites to make sure the visitor should be there. It can also look for custody disputes, restraining orders and other things that would eliminate them from being an authorized visitor. We need to work on how we re-unite our students with their family. That was something this incident clearly showed. More information and safety tips on our website. Council/Community questions answered by Ms. King - The elementary school students are required to be under a desk during

- a lockdown and that is a long time for them to be under there. It was causing them a bit of stress and anxiety. Answer – There was a shelter in place where class could go on and they didn't have to be under their desk, but that wasn't communicated as clearly as it could've been and so there was some confusion. We're working on that. Question – Is it true that the individual was only asked to sign in and not escorted to the sign in place. Answer – The staff member who did inform him of where to go had students with them and didn't want to leave them. However, that is something we clearly identified as an issue, and we are working on implementing new procedures when a faculty member notices someone who shouldn't be there.
- k. Land Use Committee – Ms. Ines Chessum gave the following updates – We did meet in February. We drafted a letter in re: parking ordinance that was approved and sent off by the CVTC. Thank you for expediting the process to finalize the letter and getting it sent out. The County has also prepared a draft of their new Residential Design Standards. Department of Regional Planning has decided they are going to modify Title 22, which dictates the rules and procedures for development. This one is for residential. They are adding a lot more requirements/rules for development. Please look at the document if you can. It's very elaborate. The LUC approved a motion to write a little expressing our concerns about the changes to Title 22. Once complete, we'll send it over to the CVTC for approval. Our main concern is that there are already so many hoops to jump through to get a development done, and this will just complicate the process even more. Public comment on these changes will close on Feb 27th. We have 10 days to respond and get a letter to the Supervisor's Officer. Regarding the Multi-Family parking ordinance we've been talking about. There will be a meeting on March 1st and we feel like somebody from the CVTC should be there. A comment from a CVTC member in person would be a good idea. Recommendation from the LUC – Write a letter in opposition to more design standards for residential projects. **Motion** to accept the recommendation of the LUC by Vice President Leon, seconded by councilmember Libra. Approved unanimously. Area Plan updates – They won't do anything with our CSD until it is part of the Area Plan. They want us to put a list together on who will participate in this Area Plan. James Govner is heading the project and will be our main contact, Eh will attend our April meeting to explain the different groups that could be involved and who we should possibly reach out to. Once we put a list together, they will do the outreach to those groups about their willingness to participate in the Area Plan design.
- l. Streets and Transportation Committee – Councilmember Mueller gave the following updates – It has been quiet lately. Not much going on. We sent a letter to the County asking them to do more Outreach regarding the Foothill Blvd. Active Transportation Project. We have requested that the County contact all business and residents in the area to inform them about this project. We want them to reach out to as many people as possible.

9. Community Announcements (2 minutes)
 - a. Library: Miss Martha Wiggins gave the following updates – No major updates. We hope to have close to a full staff by the summer, but we'll just have to see. For now, we're just plugging along with what we have. My staff has all been great.
 - b. Park & Rec – No update given
 - c. American Legion – Updates for both the CV Chamber and American Legion are in section 8 b.
 - d. Promplus/Firehouse – No update given.

10. Los Angeles County Public Works Presentation – Shirley Lai and Sarah Ahmed from the County will be presenting an update for the Foothill Blvd. Active Transportation Project ("ATP") – They show a PowerPoint presentation titled: Foothill Blvd. Active Transportation Plan Community Outreach Workshop. Highlights – The Goals – Transform Foothill Blvd. into an Active Transportation friendly corridor, reduce reliance on motor vehicles, increase mobility options and reduce environmental pollutants. The ATP will cover approximately 6 miles, and traverse the cities of La Canada, Glendale and La Crescenta. It will start at Lowell Ave. and end at Oak Groove Park. Potential Improvement examples that we're planning on exploring. Please note, this isn't final, or an all-inclusive list, but just possible examples of what could be part of this project. Bike Lane improvements; Sidewalks – widening them in some areas, increasing visibility, and adding features like benches and areas to socialize; Bulb-outs; High visibility crosswalks; Raised medians with Landscaping; Wayfinding signs. You can find more information about this project on our website at <https://pw.lacounty.gov/tpp/foothillblvdatp>. You can also read a draft of the Existing Conditions Report there. Bike Audit Report – Challenges riders face: Vehicle speed, Lack of shade, Bumps and manholes, Drivers not paying attention and Low comfort levels. Recommendation – Swap placement of parking and bike lanes; high visibility crosswalks and signs in certain areas, Reflectors and rumble strips and More bikes racks. Walk Audit Report (conducted 3 walk audits in La Canada, Glendale and La Crescenta) – Challenges Walkers Face: Vehicle speeds, Lack of shade, bumpy/cracked pavement, Wheelchair/Stroller pinch points and Steep slopes at curb ramps. Recommendations: More tree canopy, High Visibility crosswalks and ADA ramps, pedestrian led intervals, mid-block crossings, Outdoor seating areas, Implement similar bus stop and lighting designs throughout corridor and Landscaped medians. For one of the walk audits we actually had a Wheelchair with us. Next Steps – Another Walk Audit in La Crescenta/Montrose on March 18, 9-11 a.m., Continue to gather feedback from the website submissions, host additional outreach events as the planning effort progresses. Finally, we are not planning to tear up the medians on Foothill. We all love them and think they are great. We are going to continue to do more outreach regarding this project. Community/Council questions answered by Ms. Lai and Ahmed – I went on the walk audit and most of the people there didn't live in the

area. I also found the proposed parklets to be dangerous being so close to traffic. Answer – We realize that in its current state speeds are very high. We have the data to support this. But part of our proposed plan would help mitigate speed, and thus making the options more user friendly. But again, some of those options may not be even in play no matter what. We haven't finalized any option, we are going to continue to get feedback to help guide any proposed plan. Question – I've seen more joggers in bike lanes than I see cyclists. Also, if we do put in trees for more shade, how is this going to get watered. Answer – That would fall under tree maintenance. I believe every jurisdiction is responsible for their own trees. Question – If we can add another walk audit besides the March 18 that would be great and are you willing to be a part of a special meeting for the community to attend and hear about this project. Answer – Yes. We love to be a part of any meeting that involves the community hearing more about this project. Also, we will look at having another walk audit besides the one on the 18th. Question – Why is the County looking to reduce the flow of traffic. Why do we need traffic calming. Answer – It's not supposed to reduce the flow of traffic or reduce lanes. We are looking at medians and beautification measures. Things that help people become more aware of their environment. We know vehicles won't go away, but we want to provide a way for people and cars to interact safely together, and promote more active transportation. Question – The no. 1 concern from the audits seems to be speed. How does someone during the audit, who is walking on the sidewalk, have vehicle speed be a no. 1 concern. Answer – That concern seemed to be when people are crossing streets or intersections. It wasn't really when they were walking on the sidewalks in between intersections. Question – If you receive a lot of comments that people don't want it, what happens. Answer – We'd have to re-evaluate things further at that point. That isn't what we are seeing so far, but if we did, we would need to take a second look. Question – You're doing bike and walk audits but are you looking to do a drivers audit to see what drivers think of this. Answer – Yes. We want to hear from everybody. That includes drivers. Question – Slowing down traffic on foothill will increase the traffic on the side streets. I live there, and that would make them even more dangerous. Any thoughts about speed humps on side streets. Answer – We will look into that. We understand that may happen and we'll look at various options to mitigate speed in those areas around Foothill. Question – We just heard that we only had 4 accidents in all of La Crescenta. This isn't the picture of mass carnage from people going too fast. Have you done a speed survey, and if so what were the results. You need to do more Outreach as I just walked with a group of people who had no idea about this project. How about the fire department, and their response time to get to an emergency. Answer – Yes, we have speed data that I just don't have it in front of me. Again, we are going to do a lot more Outreach. We hear you on that.

11. 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. No Public Comments – CV Historical Society - This coming Monday, at our normal monthly meeting at the church, we are going to have a film by resident director John Newcombe. The Flintridge Writing Club will be the topic. He'll also be doing another film on two 20's era Flintridge mansions. We'll have a tour of Melody Ranch. Many westerns were filmed there. Around 750 films. Gene Autry had many films there. Gunsmoke was filmed there. It will be on March 12th at 10:00 a.m. Also, on Sunday Feb. 26th we'll be celebrating Montrose's 110 year anniversary.

12. Council Business

- a. Treasurer's Report: Councilmember Libra reads the January treasury report. **Motion** to approve January's treasury report by Councilmember Leon. Seconded by Councilmember Yu. Approved unanimously. Auditors report was distributed to all Council Members. **Motion** to approve 2022 Auditors Report by Councilmember Mueller. Seconded by Councilmember Ahlers. Approved unanimously. 2023 Budget was distributed to all Council Members. **Motion** to approve 2023 budget by Councilmember Leon. Seconded by Councilmember Ordubegian. Approved Unanimously.
- b. Outdoor fitness center at Two Strike Park – No update given.
- c. Corresponding Secretary – No update given
- d. By-laws Committee – No update given
- e. Scholarship Committee – No update given.
- f. Outreach Committee – No update given.
- g. Pancake Breakfast – No update given.

12. Adjourn: the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.