



General Council Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2024

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1. Call to Order & Welcome: President Kilpatrick, 7:03p.m.
2. Flag Salute: Led by: Councilmember Libra
3. Invocation: Led by: John Carn
4. Roll Call: Recording Secretary: Jeffrey Rodriguez - Present: Kilpatrick, Ahlers, Leon, Rodriguez, Lewin, Baghdassarian, Libra, Ordubegian, Mueller, and Kim Not Present:
5. Approval of November Meeting Minutes, **Motion** to approve by Councilmember Baghdassarian, Seconded by Councilmember Ordubegian. Approved Unanimously.
6. Approval of the Amended January General Meeting Agenda (1. Youth council will not have an update today. 2. Make agenda item 10 the swearing in of the CV Youth Town Council and CV Town Council Members) **Motion** to approve by Councilmember Lewin, Seconded by Councilmember Baghdassarian. Approved Unanimously.
7. 2023 Recap by President Kilpatrick– We have it very good here in La Crescenta because of our County Supervisor, Kathryn Barger. Thank you so much for all your support throughout the years. We have all accomplished a lot this past year. I say all, because it's not just about what we/I have accomplished as a Town Council, but it's about we all have accomplished as a community. It's the relationship between the community and council that gets things done, not one person or entity. Therefore, I would like to discuss a few things we were able to do together: Traffic safety – This has been a focus of ours this past year, and I am proud to say that we have made inroads and progress on that front. We assisted in that process by bringing together all the major relevant players when it comes to this issue. We brought the Sheriff's Department, CHP, Fire, Principals of our Schools, and various county agencies together and created a task force dedicated to traffic safety. I am proud to say, the numbers and the general feeling around the community, is that things have improved. Our youth council is a gem in this community and something we are very proud of. I would like to thank all the Youth Council

Members for volunteering their time to assist the community and learn about public service. President Kilpatrick thanks councilmember Baghdassarian for all her hard work with the Youth Council. Our Youth Scholarship program is one of the things we are most proud of. Again, we were able to award scholarships to some very deserving students of the community. Another important part of what we do is disseminating information to the public. We do that by posting on social media and by our website. I am happy to say that we try and be very diligent in posting information, but by also inviting people to our general meetings or having townhalls about specific subjects. The subjects can range from meetings about development in our area, brush clearing, U-Matter, fentanyl, and traffic safety, to presentation by CV Cert and Vector Control. In that regard, a big part of putting together these presentations has been our Outreach Committee. Therefore, I would like to thank Councilmembers Lewin and Baghdassarian for all their efforts in putting together informative presentation for the community. We also had another Coffee with the Council event that went well. We stand outside of Ralph's and try to engage the community and let them know what are working on and find out what is important to them. I am also proud to report that our meeting attendance has gone way up. This is so important because we get our direction from the pulse of the community. The more people at our meetings means we are more informed on what the community would like. Finally, I would like to, again, thank the Supervisor's office and the community for all your support throughout the last year. La Crescenta is a great place to live, and I/we are proud to serve the community.

8. Recognition of outgoing Councilmember Ted Yu by President Kilpatrick. Thank you, Ted, for all your hard work these last 3 years on the council. From your work with the Youth Council and the Scholarship Committee to all your efforts to get the Council on zoom during the pandemic. It has been a pleasure to work with you and we all thank you for your service to the community. Supervisor Barger presents Mr. Yu with an award for all his service to the community.
9. Election Update – Councilmember Mueller gives the election committee's update – The 3 regular members and alternate as voted on by the community are: Regular members – Kerri Lewin, Chris Kilpatrick and Jeffrey Rodriguez. Alternate – Daniel Kim.
10. Swearing of the newly elected CV Youth Council (Ashley Kim, Chloe Baghdassarian, Caden Kim, Christopher Baghdassarian and Sabrina Ordubegian) and CV Town Council (Kerri Lewin, Chris Kilpatrick, Jeffrey Rodriguez and Daniel Kim) by Supervisor Kathryn Barger
11. CVTC Officer Election – Officer elections happen once a year. All regular members can vote. The Officers Ballots are handed out, and the voting was tabulated by Councilmember Daniel Kim. The results are as follows: President – Harry Leon, Vice President – Frida Baghdassarian, Treasurer – Donna Libra and Corresponding Secretary – Kerri Lewin. Being that there was no one elected to Recording Secretary, a motion by the council to elect Jeffrey Rodriguez is put forth by Councilmember Ordubegian, seconded by Councilmember Libra. Approved Unanimously.

12. Swearing in of the CVTC Officers by Supervisor Kathryn Barger

13. Community Reports (3 min and questions)

- a. Youth Council – No update given.

14. Community Reports (Continued):

- b. Sheriff – Cpt. Rob Hahnlein gave the following updates – Statistics for November - 1 robbery (stole drugs from the pharmacy location), 1 assault (son attacking his mother) 4 larcenies, 2 GTAs, 2 identify theft incidents. We issued 102 citations and 50 warnings. No CC thefts. We did an operation with the Public Health department regarding the food vendor near Ralph's. Public Health cited them for violations, and we cited them for an ADA violation. They come back right away and will likely be there tomorrow. Council/Community Questions and Comments – What is the issue with the vendor outside of Ralph's. Why are they not allowed to be there. Answer – For health code violation. There is no cold storage. There is no place to wash your hands. Mosquitos are all over etc.
- c. CHP – No update given.
- d. Los Angeles County Fire – Ms. Marie Grycan gave the following updates – Thank you, Chris Kilpatrick, for all your work last year. You did a great job. For the month of December – We had no fires which is great. We had 65 responses to calls. 50 were medical calls and we transported 37 people to the hospital. Total responses for the year are 851, and of those, 13 were fire related. Council/Community Questions and Comments – What is a good intent call. Answer – A good intent call is, in many cases, a false alarm or an accidental call. More often than not, we show up and it's just a BBQ and not an actual fire.
- e. CV Chamber – Mr. Dwight Sityar gave the following updates – I was recently appointment Mayor of the CV Chamber. We have two events coming up: On Jan 27th we are having Bingo Night at Memorial Hall. It will be from 6 to 9 p.m. The CV Weekly will be giving out tickets and so will Steve Pierce from the Chamber/VFW. Tickets are \$25 for 10 games. We will be at the LA Smile Co. Ribbon Cutting event in Glendale (on Colorado Blvd.) on Feb 10th from 1 – 4 p.m.
- f. CV Cert – No update given.
- g. CV Ready - Fire Council – no update given.
- h. CV Water – Ms. Amaria gave the following updates - Thank you to all those who attended our last meeting. The next meeting will be on April 19th, and it will be another Q and A session. Please read our latest newsletter to see what we have done over the last year. Metro Water District is going to have a planned shutdown from Feb. 5th to the 14th. Please cut down on your water usage during that time.

Council/Community Questions and Comments. Question - Are you going to have this information on your website and will some of the questions at the last Q and A session be on your website. Answer – Both should be.

- i. CVCA – No update given.
- j. GUSD – Dr. Chris Coulter (Director of Secondary Education) gave the following updates - The Sagebrush issue went before the State Board, and they decided to not grant our appeal. The main question after that, was who would vote on this in the La Canada community. The State Board decided that only the residents of SageBrush will vote on this. Our Clark Magnet School had a ribbon cutting event for the opening of our Robotics and Engineering building. The Robotics and Engineering team will now have the ability to take on more projects thanks to this building. We are at the tail end of our Holocaust speaking series. We have survivors come talk at our schools. Students from elementary school to high school can access the video recordings. We then have Black History Month coming up in Feb.

Council/Community Questions and Comments – I have heard about delays with the new stadium seating. Can you expand on that a bit. Answer – There are always expected delay. When they did the demolition, they ran into issues. But the delay should not be too long. Question – Can you clarify if there stands or stadium seating all around the field. Answer – The seating is just on one side. Not around the entire field. Question – How many students are we talking about in the Sagebrush area. Answer - We have about 165 students in the Sagebrush area. Property owners vote not just if they have students. One additional comment - We had a ransomware attack on our school system and are 95 % through all that.

- k. Land Use Committee – Councilmember Kilpatrick gave the following updates. The LUC looks at various issues in our community, developing being a key one. The developer at the Briggs Motel location is asking for various exception to the building code and CSD. The LUC sent a letter to the County asking not to agree with all the exception. We have not heard back from them in re: our letter but will provide an update when we have one. There is another parking ordinance issue that has come up again, and we will stay on top of that. Council/Community Questions and Comments - Do we have an update on where they are at in re: the Briggs Foothill location. Answer - They completed an initial submittal of their plans. It's still in the plan check phase. The project is allowed to go forward by right.

15. Community Announcements (2 minutes)

- a. Library: Ms. Martha Wiggins gave the following updates – This is my 14th year as library manager in La Crescenta. We were the 10th highest circulating library in the system and now we are the 3rd highest. We have a book club here at the library that has been going strong for 14 years now. We have a Story Time program going on right now, and we will have a Valentine's Day event for children, teens and adults coming up in February. We will also be having a solar eclipse event coming up where we will be handing out eclipse viewing glasses and treats.

- b. Park & Rec – No update given.
- c. American Legion – No updates given.
- d. PromPlus/Firehouse – Update given on behalf of Mary O’Keefe – Firehouse is looking for volunteers. Please let us know if you are interested. PromPlus is also looking for parents who have kids currently in school who would like to take on a leadership role in the PromPlus program. PromPlus will also be having a dine-out event coming up soon.

13. 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. Patrick M. – I am speaking on behalf of the Verdugo Wash Neighborhood Coalition in re: Bicycle Path proposal – We did not receive an agenda that this would be discussed at the Glendale City Council meeting. Therefore, there were limited people from the coalition there but many people from the Bicycle coalition. The bike path is a bad idea for a variety of reasons, and the coalition is against it.
- b. Question in re: U-Matter – Please provide details on the response the Council received in regard to the letter sent to Supervisor Barger. President Leon Answers – We did not get a response yet but will follow up and provide an update when we have one.
- c. Nanor in re: U-Matter – I would like to express my concerns over this particular business being in our community. The owners have been intentionally deceitful and unresponsive. They claim to not be open for business, yet you can still book a room. We have no idea what is going on behind closed doors over there. I contacted Public Works about their building encroaching onto my property. They told me I needed to get my own surveyor. Why would the County not to do a final inspection to make sure the permit they issued is correct. I have sent two emails and have yet to get a response.
- d. Nick – in re: vendor at Ralph’s – I know 6 people that have gotten food poisoning from eating there. I have 25 years of experience dealing with issues regarding street vendors. Often times they need to work these stands in order to pay off a debt for getting them across the border. These vendors can bring bad elements along with

- them, including drugs being sold out of these locations. We should look into what La Canada is doing to prevent them and try to adopt that same thing.
- e. Paul H. - in re: street vendors – I am a recently retired Lt. with the LAPD and have a lot of experience in dealing with these vendors and the elements they bring to an area. Almost all of the vendors are run by the cartels. Up here we do not have gangs all over like other areas. But in other areas, they just go over to the vendor and collect right then and there. They are all working off their debt and live in atrocious conditions. There is a lot of human trafficking going on. Switching topics to Sagebrush, I would like to express my support of the recent vote that took place. I loved my kids going to GUSD but am also happy to now be able to send them to a La Canada school.
 - f. Deborah M. – in re: U matter – They say are not open for business but there has already been a Yelp review from someone who stayed there. The county is saying they can do nothing. We keep submitting evidence and we get no response from the County. We are doing their work for them and yet they do not respond.
 - g. Cheryl – in re: Bike Path - Building a bypass in the wash will bring a criminal element. I bought my house near the wash because of its safety. Nobody is listening to us, and nobody alerted us to the bike path even being put in. Please call Glendale City Council and express the concerns of the neighbors in and around the proposed bike path.

14. Council Business

- a. Treasurer’s Report: Councilmember Libra - **Motion** to approve the November and December Treasury report as received by Councilmember Ahlers, Seconded by Councilmember Baghdassarian. Approved unanimously. **Motion** to approve the Auditor’s Budget as circulated by the Auditors Committee by Councilmember Lewin, Seconded by Councilmember Baghdassarian. Approved Unanimously. President Leon notes – We will need to complete a final report for the Supervisor’s Grant. Please work on that.
- b. Election Update Provided by Vice President Leon –
- c. Corresponding Secretary – No update given.
- d. Committee Reports
 - a. Scholarship Committee – No update given.
 - b. Streets and Transportation update given by Councilmember Mueller – In regard to traffic safety, the County has plans drawn up for the Ramsdell and Altura intersections. The next thing we need to do is to meet with the task force and go over the proposed plans. As I have any more updates, I will pass them along.
 - c. Community Outreach – No update given.

12. Adjourn: the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.