

# CITY OF LA VERNE

## MINUTES OF THE CLOSED SESSION & REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2026

### ACTION MINUTES "SEE ITALICS"

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#### CLOSED SESSION AGENDA - 5:30 PM

**CALL TO ORDER** - *meeting called to order at 5:30 PM*

**ROLL CALL** Council Member Steven F. Johnson, Council Member Wendy Lau, Council Member Rick Crosby, Mayor Pro Tem Meshal "Kash" Kashifalghita, and Mayor Tim Hepburn.

*Council Members Present: Crosby, Johnson, Lau, and Hepburn.*

*Council Members Absent: Kashifalghita*

*Advisory Staff Present: City Manager Domer, Assistant City Manager Ranells, and City Attorney Hall Barlow.*

#### CLOSED SESSION TOPIC

*City Attorney Hall Barlow read the closed session items for the record. It is anticipated there will be no report out. The City Attorney asked that the Council vote to add an item to the closed session agenda, which is Anticipated Litigation Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2). No report out is expected.*

*It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Lau, and approved by a vote of 4-0 with Kashifalghita being absent, due to an excused absence.*

*Mayor Hepburn called for public comment: There was none.*

#### **Conference with Labor Negotiators, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6:**

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

Employee Organization(s): La Verne City Employees Association, La Verne Fire Association, La Verne Fire Middle Management Association, La Verne Police Middle Management Association, and all Unrepresented Employees.

*The City Council recessed to Closed Session at 5:32 PM and will reconvene at 6:30 PM for the regularly scheduled City Council meeting.*

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 6:30 PM – meeting called to order at 6:32 PM.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - AIR FORCE, TECHNICAL SERGEANT (E-6) ALBERTO JIMENEZ**

*Mayor Hepburn, on behalf of the City Council, presented Alberto with a Pride of La Verne certificate.*

**ROLL CALL** Council Member Steven F. Johnson, Council Member Wendy Lau, Council Member Rick Crosby, Mayor Pro Tem Meshal "Kash" Kashifalghita, and Mayor Tim Hepburn.

*Council Members Present: Crosby, Johnson, Lau, and Hepburn. Kashifalghita arrived at 7:11 PM.*

*Advisory Staff Present: City Manager Domer, Assistant City Manager Ranells, and City Attorney Hall Barlow*

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Women's History Month Proclamation** - Women's History Month is an annual observance to highlight the contribution of women to events in history and contemporary society.

*Council presented the proclamation to the Mount Baldy Area League of Women Voters Board Member and La Verne resident Gwen Carr.*

**Irish American History Month Proclamation** - Irish American Heritage Month is a celebration every March that highlights the rich culture and historical contributions of Irish Americans throughout the United States.

*Council presented the proclamation to Richard Bowen, from LV3C, who then took a moment to remember LV3C member, Lois "Jo" Wetton who passed recently. LV3C members present were Kathy Newlon, Cynthia Tiner, and family members Erin Van de Veer (Jo's daughter) and John Van de Veer, Erin's husband.*

*Prior to public Announcements, the Mayor commented on the recent passing of Lois "Jo" Wetton, a long-time La Verne resident and community volunteer.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS**

(Any person who wishes to make a brief announcement of a future community event that is open to the public may do so at this time.)

Announcements were received from: *Sam Gonzalez Police Chief, Adrian Romero LV Library Manager, Maria McKinney VFW Commander, Kathy Kalousek LV Historical Society, and Tim Hepburn Mayor.*

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

(All items on the Consent Calendar are routine and will be enacted by one motion unless a member of the Council or member of the audience requests separate discussion.)

*No items were pulled, it was then moved by Crosby, seconded by Lau, and approved by a vote of 4-0, with Kashifalghita absent.*

1. **City Council Minutes of the Closed Session & Regular meeting of 02/17/26.**

**Recommendation:** That the City Council approve the minutes. *Approved*

2. **Register of Audited Demands in the amount of \$732,705.23, dated 02/04/26, and in the amount of \$1,680,970.67, dated 02/11/26, and in the amount of \$546,692.38, dated 02/18/26.**

**Recommendation:** That the City Council approve the audited demands. *Approved*

3. **Quarterly Status Update - Pilot Project Adding Three Firefighter Positions.** This report provides a quarterly update on the two-year pilot project authorizing the addition of three full-time Firefighter/EMT positions to serve as shift-based floaters and evaluates early performance against the goals outlined in the original staff report.

**Recommendation:** That the City Council receive and file this quarterly status update on the Fire Department's two-year pilot project adding three firefighter positions to improve staffing efficiency and reduce overtime requirements. *Approved*

4. **Approval of an Amendment to the Professional Service Agreement with LSA for Environmental Services and First Amendment to Agreement with Lewis Management Corp. for Reimbursement of Environmental Services Relating to 3960 Fruit Street (Villages at Legacy Green Project).** LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA) is under contract with the City of La Verne to prepare technical environmental studies for a proposed residential project on the former Lutheran High School site. As preparation of the technical studies progressed, it was determined that a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. As a result of this change, LSA has submitted a contract amendment for additional costs and staff is also proposing an amendment to the Reimbursement Agreement with Lewis Management Corp.

**Recommendation:** That the City Council:

1. Approve Contract Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Service Agreement with LSA Associates, Inc., to perform CEQA services related to the Villages at Legacy Green development project; and
2. Approve the First Amendment to the Reimbursement Agreement with Lewis Management Corp. for full reimbursement.

*Approved the recommendations listed above.*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE**

**DISCUSSION CALENDAR**

5. **Consideration of a Resolution Opposing the Los Angeles County Healthcare Funding Restoration Act and Sales Tax Increase.** Los Angeles County has placed a proposed ½-cent general sales tax measure on the June Primary ballot to support healthcare services, and the City of La Verne has formally opposed the measure, listing concerns about increased tax burdens on residents and businesses, reduced local fiscal flexibility, lack of guaranteed

proportional return of funds, potential economic impacts, and questions regarding transparency and oversight.

**Recommendation:** That the City Council approve a Resolution titled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNE, CALIFORNIA, OPPOSING THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY "HEALTHCARE FUNDING RESTORATION ACT" COUNTYWIDE SALES TAX MEASURE."

*City Manager Domer reported on this item.*

*Public Comments: None*

*Council Discussion/Comments: Council expressed support for the resolution.*

*It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Crosby, and approved 4-0, with Kashifalghita absent.*

6. **Consideration of Historical Civic Engagement Opportunities - Route 66 Centennial and United States Semiquincentennial.** 2026 marks a significant milestone in United States history, commemorating the nation's Semiquincentennial, or 250th Anniversary, and the celebration of the centennial of Route 66. To maximize opportunities associated with these historic celebrations, City staff is seeking direction from the City Council regarding potential programs, events, and initiatives to recognize and celebrate these milestones.

**Recommendation:** That the City Council provide direction to City staff regarding potential programs, events, and initiatives to celebrate and recognize the nation's Semiquincentennial and the centennial of Route 66.

*Management Analyst Blockinger reported on this item. Mayor Pro Tem Kashifalghita joined the meeting after attending the BUSD State of the School District meeting.*

*Public Comments: Maria Mc Kinney*

*Council Discussion/Comments: Council provided direction to look at ways to participate in a cost effective fashion for both of these events.*

*No action, but direction provided by Council.*

7. **Review and Approval of Revisions to Administrative Regulation No. 215 (Investment Policy) and Receive and File Administrative Regulation – Fund Loan Policy.** Consideration of approval of revisions to Administrative Regulation No. 215 (Investment Policy) pursuant to California Government Code Section 53646 and receive and file of the Administrative Regulation – Fund Loan Policy, with direction to the City Manager to finalize and implement the Administrative Regulation.

**Recommendation:** That the City Council:

1. Review and approve revisions to Administrative Regulation No. 215 (Investment Policy) pursuant to California Government Code Section 53646; and

2. Receive and file the Administrative Regulation – Fund Loan Policy and direct the City Manager to finalize and implement the Administrative Regulation.

*Finance Director Lopez reported on this item.*

*Public Comments: None*

*Council Discussion/Comments: Council was all very appreciative of the Finance team's work and stewardship of our finances.*

*It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Lau, and approved 5-0.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

This is the time set aside for anyone wishing to address the City Council on items not listed in any other place on the agenda and within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council. Under the provisions of the Brown Act, the legislative body is prohibited from talking or engaging in discussion on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. However, your concerns may be referred to staff or set for discussion later. Please email your public comment to the City Clerk's Office at [cityclerk@LaVerneCA.gov](mailto:cityclerk@LaVerneCA.gov). Your public comment will be shared with the City Council and included as part of the permanent record. There is a 3-minute time limit on public comments.

*Public Comments received from: Jay Bernard, Raymond Swain, and Cynthia Tiner.*

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS AND CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORTS**

Each Council Member may address the Council and public on matters of general information and/or concern. This is also the time for Council Members to report on conferences and/or meetings they have attended per Assembly Bill 1234.

*Council Comments: Council Member Lau commented on the recent changes to the Mental Health Services Act, and the two upcoming community forums, hosted by Tri City Mental Health, one will be virtual. The bill hopes to strengthen the behavioral health system by expanding the scope of services, increasing accountability, transparency and outcomes. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration is on Saturday this year, we are encouraging people to participate in the parade, attend the fireworks show, and please consider sponsoring your business or organization. May 2<sup>nd</sup> is the ULV Gala, it's being held at the Fairplex Sheraton this year, and will be honoring the ULV Women's Volleyball Team.*

*Mayor Pro Tem Kashifalghita is happy to report that the City has another California Distinguished School within the Bonita Unified School District, it's amazing to see our education system thriving and growing. Be cognizant that it's mosquito season so start spraying now. Also, the Annual Police Officers Association Golf Tournament is coming up and will support the K-9 Foundation, donations are needed, and sponsorships are available.*

*Council Member Crosby thanked Mayor Pro Tem Kashifalghita for attending the School District State of the City meeting, which coincided with tonight's Council meeting. Spring signups are happening for T-Ball and Basketball with the Autism Spectrum Athletics Sports League, which plays at Wheeler Park, signups close on March 15<sup>th</sup>, you can sign up on the website at [www.autismspectrumathletics.org](http://www.autismspectrumathletics.org), cost is \$140.00. Our City is very diverse, and I propose that our proclamations be presented to people who have never been represented before, and remembering Jo, who was an amazing resident.*

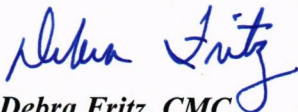
*Council Member Johnson thanked Public Works Director Wu for the correction to the traffic light at 8<sup>th</sup> street.*

*Mayor Hepburn reminded everyone the fire season is upon us, make sure you check your smoke detectors, test them now, clear brush around your home, clear your gutters, take care of your home. We had a softball game last week against San Dimas, La Verne was victorious, final score 13-7, it was a lot of fun.*

*Council, staff and residents all sang Happy Birthday to Mayor Pro Tem Kashifalghita.*

**ADJOURNMENT - meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.**

*Respectfully submitted,*



**Debra Fritz, CMC**  
**Deputy City Clerk**