

Diamond Bar City Council
League of Woman Voters of the Claremont Area Observer Report
By Observer Kathleen O. Bresnan
Covering June 6, 2017 – May 2, 2018

The City of Diamond Bar is a general law city incorporated on April 18, 1989. It is governed by the city council/city manager form of government. The City Council worked to achieve the city goals pertaining to traffic mitigation, fiscal responsibility, economic development, communication with residents, and capital improvement projects. The capital projects focused on street maintenance, traffic management and safety, transportation, infrastructure, public works improvement, and parks and recreation improvements.

City Council Members: Ruth M. Low, Mayor; Carol Herrera, Mayor Pro Tem; Jimmy Lin, Nancy Lyons, and Steve Tye.

City Staff: Dan Fox, City Manager; David DeBerry, City Attorney; Tommye Cribbins, City Clerk.

Regular Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesday every month at 6:30 p.m. I attended 16 meetings.

Council highlights follow. The Council approved an employment contract for Daniel Fox to serve as the next city manager beginning July 10, 2017.

The Council adopted a fiscally balanced and conservative budget. The Finance Director Dianna Honeywell and her team's budget report book received a Special Recognition from the www.opengov.com July 2017 customer newsletter. It is available on the City's website.

City Manager Fox provided an update on the status of Sycamore Canyon Park slope erosion and trail repair project. Staff continues to work to repair site and qualify for reimbursement by FEMA.

On December 5, 2017, Councilmember Ruth Low was elected Mayor and Councilmember Herrera was elected Mayor Pro Tem.

The City is in the process of updating its general plan to guide future planning decisions for development, housing, transportation, environment quality, public services, parks, and open spaces. The City has held community workshops and surveys to get community input. At the January 30, 2018, joint session, the City Council and Planning Commission selected Alternative 1 as the preferred land use: the **New Town Center would be at Diamond Bar Boulevard and Golden Springs Drive.**

The Council approved on September 19 the hiring of the law firm of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton to look into the City of Industry proposed purchase of the Tres Hermanos property. The City has filed two lawsuits. The City is concerned that the City of Industry is building a large solar farm, which will border the city.

On 2/16/18 the Council authorized the Mayor to send a Letter of Opposition to PR 1410 to the South Coast Air Quality Management District. The proposed Rule 1410 is currently evaluating the use of Hydrofluoric Acid and its Alkylation (chemical) process. The Council was opposed to new replacement technologies that would place significant financial burdens on companies. Those in support of PR 1410 contend that the current technology impacts air quality and by extension, public health.

The Council approved agreements with the City of Industry for the construction of a new freeway interchange at Lemon Avenue on State Route 60. Half of the new Lemon Avenue Interchange at the SR60 is now opened with a brand new eastbound off- ramp and a new westbound on-ramp. The Brea Canyon eastbound off- ramp is now permanently closed.

The City Council meetings start on time in the spacious and comfortable AQMD building with usually all the Council members in attendance. The Council members are attentive, informed and involved. When the members disagree on issues, the tone remains professional. The staff provides reports, recommendations, and responses to Council and citizen questions and concerns during the Council meetings and study sessions. The Council is following good governmental standards. It operates transparently and welcomes public input. Twenty to a hundred persons attend the meetings depending upon the agenda topics and City recognition items.

Mayor Ruth Low is diligent about soliciting public comments during the Public Comments time. Agendas are posted 72 hours before the meetings on the Diamond Bar City website.