

**La Verne City Council**  
League of Women Voters Claremont Area Observer Report  
May 24, 2018  
By Observer Gwen Carr

Currently serving: Don Kendrick, Mayor; Muir Davis, Mayor Pro Tem;  
Robin Carter, Charlie Rosales, and Tim Hepburn, Members

Meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 6:30 p.m. The meetings start on time, and members attend regularly, and they appear to have done their homework.

Even though the Council has a relatively new audio system, it is difficult to hear because they do not speak into their microphones.

This has been called to their attention.

The Brown Act is followed. Many residents are not aware of Council procedures, and do not know when they are to speak, or how many times they can speak. The meetings are, at times, argumentative. Some speakers bring supporters who applaud their comments, and this adds to the contention. There is no time limit for speakers.

Council meetings are no longer covered on a regular basis by the local newspaper.

The City has been in a dispute with the fire department for the past year which caused two lawsuits against the city. For a while, firemen attended Council meetings and remained standing in the back of the room.

As with many cities, La Verne is faced with a gap between the current retirement costs for past employees, and the amount the Retirement system has/or expects to cover the pensions. As recently as Monday night of this week, a study session was held to discuss budget strategies. Staff will spend the first part of June finalizing the budget.

The City engaged the De Novo Planning Group to oversee their General Plan. Their website is up and groups meet regularly with updates to Council. The City decided to include ways to improve "bike safety" within the borders of the La Verne General Plan.

The members of the City's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) have completed their training and are in full operation. Slightly over one hundred residents have completed training.

I have attended all but two Council meetings.

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