

Claremont City Council
League of Women Voters of Mt. Baldy Area
Report by Observer Penny Vienna
June 2018 to May 23, 2019

Purpose of the Claremont City Council

Responsible as the legislative policy makers for the City, the City Council enacts the ordinances, adopts resolutions, approves city budget, provides direction to staff, authorizes contracts, and acts as the final approval body on the rulings of commissions. It also appoints the City Manager and City Attorney as well as members of commissions and certain committees.

As of January 1, 2019, elected officials:

Mayor: Corey Calaycay

Mayor Pro Tem: Larry Schroder

Councilmembers: Jed Leano, Jennifer Stark, and Ed Reece

Appointed officials:

City Manager: Tara Schultz

City Attorney: Alisha Patterson

Finance Director: Adam Pirrie

Meetings are held twice a month for 11 months except for December. I was able to attend 13 of the 21 meetings, with substitutes covering for me in my absence.

Accomplishments

Local Government - Will be moving from at large to five districts for elections, to avoid legal costs and fines.

Natural Resources

Land Use

Creating an Urban Forest Management Plan with a survey available to citizens and a committee to formulate the plan.

Foothill Blvd. Master Plan Improvement Projects: in progress.

Planting 120 new trees.

Council approved Micro Brewery and Fitness Center added to SE Claremont.

Adoption of Revised guiding principles of Village South Specific Plan, June 2018.

Transportation

Foothill Gold Line will not stop in Claremont as originally proposed but will end in La Verne due to budget restrictions.

Solid Waste Management

Council approved moving to LA Sanitation use for the city.

Social Policy

Housing- Achieved more than goal required by state on Mid Income level housing but still short of goal for Low Income housing. Issue associated with Low Income housing being addressed by Council by sending letter with options and concerns to the State related to SB 50 which, if approved, takes zoning from the city and gives it to the developers to build low income multi-unit housing next to transportation centers. Note: Update as of 5/23, This Senate Bill has been delayed now for 2 Years.

2019 Resolution adopted declaring an Emergency Shelter Crisis.

April 2019 Study being conducted on ADU Accessory Dwelling Units.

Library

The LA County Library System completed the renovation of the Claremont Library at the end of November 2018. Amy Crow, Library Manager, provides updates to the Council at each meeting.

Observations

I have noticed more interaction from the new councilmembers with the public who attend the meetings both before the meeting begins and on the break. The new Mayor also adheres strictly to the schedule and does so diplomatically.

Issues Pending

Financial measures to increase revenue.

Sales and Use Tax Measure considered on November 2019 Ballot – Council appears to be in favor.

Future Financial Opportunities Committee recommended the top three options: 1) Sales and Use Tax, 2) Regulation of short-term rentals by Council (approved April 2019) , and 3) applying Student Fees.

Issues that attracted the largest public representation.

2018 - Police Department will have no new station; retrofitting is still under survey/analysis after measure for \$500K General Obligation Bond issue was not approved by the voters. 150 people attended multiple meetings.

Revised guiding principles of Village South Specific Plan. 100 people attended.

2019 – Changing to Districts for Elections from At Large. Public generally not in favor. 150 people attended.

Final Comment

The City Council is following good government standards. It operates responsibly and welcomes public input. Members are well prepared.