

1. 2026-02-02 City Council Meeting

Documents:

[AGENDA - 02-02-26.PDF](#)



CITY OF LA VERNE

COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tim Hepburn, Mayor

Wendy Lau, Council Member
Steven Frank Johnson, Council Member

Rick Crosby, Council Member
Meshal "Kash" Kashifalghita, Mayor Pro Tem

Monday, February 2, 2026
Study Session at 5:30 PM
Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM
La Verne City Hall - Council Chambers,
3660 D Street, La Verne, CA 91750

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act, any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation to participate in a meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (909) 596-8726 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Regular Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month.

Individuals can email their comments to the City Clerk's Office at cityclerk@LaVerneCA.gov up to noon on the day of the meeting. Those comments will be shared with City Council in advance of the City Council meeting and included as part of the permanent record. **Please be advised that public comments submitted by email or any other format to the City are public records that will be made available for public viewing.**

Individuals who wish to share their comments with Council during the meeting may do so in a variety of ways:

- Attend the City Council Meeting in person and fill out a comment card or raise your hand to request to comment on the current agenda item(s).
- Participate via Zoom, by visiting www.LaVerneCA.gov/zoom where you will be automatically redirected to the meeting or call into the meeting via phone **1-669-900-6833** and enter **ID 812 9529 3991** when prompted. Public comments via Zoom may be accepted for the agenda items listed within the **Consent Calendar, Public Hearing** and **Discussion Calendar** sections of the agenda. Zoom participants who violate decorum protocols will be called to order by the presiding officer and if a violation continues, will be muted by direction of the presiding officer.
- Once items are considered by the City Council, no further public comment on that matter will be accepted. A time limit of 3-minutes is set for all public comments.

Council Meeting Decorum: Per the City's Rules for Decorum, all Speakers and Members of the Audience are to conduct themselves with decorum and not engage in willful conduct which interrupts the meeting or with the orderly conduct of the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION AGENDA - 5:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

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.

CLOSED SESSION TOPIC(S)

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 Middle Management Association, La Verne Police Middle Management Association, and all Unrepresented Employees.

Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation pursuant to California Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1) – Five (5) cases:

Guerrero v. City of La Verne, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 2:23-cv-00644-JAK-E

Ramirez v. City of La Verne, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24PSCV00767

Ruiz v. City of La Verne, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23PSCV02495

Smith v. City of La Verne, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 2:23-cv-00644-JAK-2

Gonzales v. City of La Verne, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STCV34625

The City Council will recess and reconvene at 6:30 PM for the regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 6:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - DANIELLE LEWIS ARMY SERGEANT (E-5)

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.

PRESENTATIONS

University of La Verne Women's Volleyball - The 2025 University of La Verne women’s volleyball team delivered one of the most remarkable seasons in program history, finishing 30–3 overall and 15–1 in SCIAC while earning the No. 1 national ranking for seven consecutive weeks and remaining in the Top 10 all season. The Leopards captured the SCIAC Regular Season Championship and were led by Head Coach Jeff Hendershot, who surpassed 100 career wins and was honored, along with his staff, as SCIAC Coaching Staff of the Year. National accolades followed, highlighted by Mya Ray being named NCAA Division III National Player of the Year and becoming the program’s first 2,000-kill athlete, alongside multiple All-American and All-Region selections. In the postseason, La Verne claimed the Regional Championship, advanced through the Elite Eight and Final Four, and returned to the NCAA National Championship match for the first time since 2008, finishing as the 2025 National Runner-Up. With 30 wins, record-breaking performances, and a return to the national stage, the Leopards didn’t just make history — they launched a new era of La Verne volleyball.

Players:	Kimi Watanabe-Mayhew	America Reynaga	Mortan Watkins
Vanessa Marquez	Emma Yogan	Tova Craig	Zacky Coaston

Lauren Gott	Valerie Gallegos	Lexi Giacobbe	Kaitlyn Bloomer
Bella Hargrave	Mariah Ray	Malia Capistrano	Abigail Montana
Keilani Mumolo	Kamea Vongfak	Mya Ray	Alanna Jones
Brisa Necochea	Isabella Emanuele	Sophia-Allessandra Nunez	

Coaches:	Jeff Hendershot	Randi Taylor-Toomay	Mario Meza
Jack Coberly	Ayana Mier		

Support Staff:	Kaitlyn Patterson	Josh Davis	
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Fire Chief Swearing In - City Council will conduct the ceremonial oath of office for Fire Chief Coatney.

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.)

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.)

1. City Council Minutes of the Closed Session & Regular meeting of January 20, 2026.

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the minutes.

2. City Council Special Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2025.

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the minutes of the special meeting.

3. Register of Audited Demands in the amount of \$1,244,095.25 dated 01/07/26, and in the amount of \$2,570,761.26 dated 01/14/26, and in the amount of \$382,493.02 dated 01/21/26.

Recommendation: That the City Council approved the audited demands.

4. Quarterly Treasurers Report Ending December 31, 2025. The Quarterly Treasurer’s Report provides an overview of the City’s cash and investment holdings as of December 31, 2025. The report confirms compliance with the City’s investment policy as set forth in Administrative Regulation Number 215, the Statement of Investment Policy, and the State of California’s Government Code (GC) Section 53646.

Recommendation: That the City Council receive and file the Quarterly Treasurer’s Report for the period ending December 31, 2025.

5. Declaration of Intention to Provide Weed Abatement on Specific Properties. Each year, the

County of Los Angeles Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures conducts inspection for weeds, brush, rubbish, and refuse on public and private property that may be considered a seasonal and recurrent nuisance. A list of properties is provided the City for review. City Council is then required to declare its intention to provide for this abatement and set a public hearing for affected property owners to register objections to said abatement.

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt a Resolution titled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNE, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING THAT WEEDS, BRUSH, RUBBISH AND REFUSE UPON OR IN FRONT OF SPECIFIED PROPERTY IN THE CITY ARE A SEASONAL AND RECURRENT PUBLIC NUISANCE AND DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE ABATEMENT THEREOF" declaring the intention to provide for the abatement of weeds, brush, rubbish and refuse and setting a public hearing for Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

6. **Making Determination of Exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act Pursuant to the Common Sense Exemption of CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (B) (3) and Second Reading and Adoption of "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE OLD TOWN LA VERNE SPECIFIC PLAN TO REVISE THE MINIMUM DENSITY REQUIREMENT IN THE MIXED-USE 1 LAND USE DISTRICT FROM 38 TO 20 DWELLING UNITS/ACRE."** Second Reading and Adoption of an Ordinance Amending the Old Town La Verne Specific Plan for a minimum density of 20 dwelling units to the acre in the Mixed Use 1 District and making California Environmental Quality Act determinations.

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt an Ordinance, entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE OLD TOWN LA VERNE SPECIFIC PLAN TO REVISE THE MINIMUM DENSITY REQUIREMENT IN THE MIXED-USE 1 LAND USE DISTRICT FROM 38 TO 20 DWELLING UNITS/ACRE" and find that the adoption is exempt from the California Environment Quality Act pursuant to the common sense exemption of CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3).

PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

7. **Update and Discussion on Increased Wireless/Cellular Coverage in North La Verne.** The City Council requested an update on the efforts to increase wireless/cellular coverage in the North La Verne area due to service holes and concerns over public safety.

Recommendation: That the City Council receive and file this report and provide Staff appropriate direction to encourage greater wireless coverage in North La Verne.

8. **Tri-City Mental Health Authority Governing Board Representative Appointment.** Tri-City Mental Health Authority is seeking to fill a Governing Board vacancy following the November 2025 resignation of Carolyn Cockrell. Tri-City Mental Health Authority Liaisons Councilmembers Lau and Johnson reviewed the applications and recommend appointing Trent West to the Governing Board.

Recommendation: That the City Council appoint Trent West to serve on as La Verne's Tri-City Mental Health Authority Governing Board representative.

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. 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.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment in Honor of Lupe Gaeta Estrella - Lupe was born and raised in La Verne, where she built both her life and her legacy. In 1979, she began her career with the City of La Verne as a Clerk Typist and over the next four decades, Lupe served the City in numerous roles in the City Clerk's Office, primarily as the Assistant City Clerk, ending her career officially as the City Clerk. Her more than 40 years of service reflected a deep commitment to public service and to the community she loved.

Lupe's relationship with the City of La Verne extended far beyond her professional roles. Her career was truly a testament to love, family, and community, as several members of her family also served the City, including her sons Gilbert Jr. and Sean, her sister Amelia, and her brothers John and Eddie. Lupe was the light in every room. She had a generous spirit, always ready to help anyone who crossed her path.

Above all else, Lupe cherished her family. She was a devoted wife to Gilbert Sr. and a loving mother to Sean and Gilbert Jr. She was also a proud grandmother to Joseph, Zachary, and Zoey, whom she adored. In her free time, she enjoyed going to the movies and shopping, and she was often seen driving around town on her way to her favorite local theater or clothing store.

Lupe passed away peacefully on January 18, 2026, at the age of 66. Lupe Gaeta Estrella leaves behind a lasting legacy of service, compassion, and community that will endure in the City of La Verne. Those who worked with her and were fortunate to know her will carry forward her generosity, dedication, and love for this community.

DUE TO THE PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY, THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE LA VERNE CITY COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026, WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026, AT 5:30 PM

Posting Statement: A true copy of this Agenda was posted on January 27, 2026, on the bulletin board at La Verne City Hall, 3660 D Street, La Verne, and on the City's website at www.LaVerneCA.gov.

RESIDENT INFORMATION

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 3 - Development Review committee, City Hall, 9:00 am

Saturday, February 7 - Strategic Planning Session, City Hall, 9:00 am

Monday, February 9 - Senior Movie Matinee, LV Community Center, 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Wednesday, February 11 - Planning Commission meeting, City Hall, 6:30 pm

Friday, February 13 - Dance for Those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, LV Community Center, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Tuesday, February 17 - City Council meeting, City Hall Council Chamber, 5:30 pm

Wednesday, February 18 - State of the City, ULV Abraham Campus Center, 2000 2nd Street, La Verne, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Wednesday, February 18 - Senior Advisory Committee meeting, LV Community Center, 10:00 am

Wednesday, February 18 - Finance Commission meeting, City Hall, 6:30 pm