

Diamond Bar City Council
League of Woman Voters of the Claremont Area Observer Report
By Kathleen O. Bresnan
May 11, 2017
Covering June 7, 2016 – May 2, 2017

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

City Staff: James De Stefano, City Manager; David DeBerry, City Attorney, Tommye Cribbins, City Clerk

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

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 improvements, and parks and recreation improvements. Council highlights follow.

In June, the Council approved the 2016 – 2017 Capital Improvement Budget. The new projects included street improvements, two traffic management projects, street enhancement projects, trail enhancements and improvements at the Diamond Bar Center.

The Council approved a two-year agreement with Inland Valley Humane society SPCA to provide animal care and control services from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018.

The State requires that every city and county have a General Plan to guide future planning decisions on variety of matters including land development, capital improvements and resource conservation. In June, the Council authorized hiring the firm of Dyett & Bhatia to prepare the plan. In September, the Council approved creating the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) and established the rules and procedures for the Committee. The Council approved the appointments for the GPAC members. The City held community workshops to get input from citizens. The GPAC will forward its recommendations to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will conduct hearings and make formal recommendations to the City Council. The City Council will make the final decisions on the General Plan in first quarter of 2019.

The city was awarded the Excellence in Information Technology Practices Award in November by the Municipal Information Systems Association of California.

The City adopted ordinances to license massage establishments and to prohibit the operation and establishment of marijuana dispensaries.

In December, the L.A. County Sheriff's Department Chief announced that the Department will begin training deputies on how to de-escalate crisis situations with anyone having a mental crisis. The Diamond Bar First Response team will receive training.

Council Member Lin was elected to serve as Mayor of the City of Diamond Bar and Council Member Low was elected to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Mr. DeStefano announced that he was going to retire in July 2017.

In March, the Council voted to move the City Council elections to statewide general election dates in November in even numbered years to comply with the SB415 Mandate.

In May, the Mayor appointed a committee to review the Staff Comprehensive Fee Study and the proposed administrative service fee schedule.

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 responds to Council and citizen questions during the Council meetings and study sessions.

Mayor Jimmy Lin is diligent about soliciting public comments during the Public Comments time. Agendas are posted 72 hours before on DB City website.