

City of La Cañada Flintridge
City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting



Tuesday, March 18, 2025
City Council Chambers
One Civic Center Drive
La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Davitt called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Councilmember Keith Eich, Jeanne K. Hobson, Stephanie Fossan, Mayor Pro Tem Kim Bowman, and Mayor Michael T. Davitt.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Jordan, City Attorney Guerra, Director of Administrative Services Parseghian, Director of Community Development Koleda, Director of Finance Kim, Director of Public Works El-Rabaa, Senior Management Analyst II Klein, and City Clerk Garcia.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: La Cañada Flintridge Sister Cities Association Student Exchange Participant led the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the City Council reordered the agenda. Presentation A was conducted before the Public Comments section, and the rest of the agenda followed the original order.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Pat Anderson, President and CEO of the LCF Chamber of Commerce, announced a mixer at House America Financial, 52nd Fiesta Days celebrations with Grand Marshal veteran Ivan Kreger, and a free shredding event at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital.

David Haxton, resident, commented that the City had not yet hired consultants for the Eaton Fire after-action review and requested a status update at each City Council meeting. He urged the City Council not to approve the proposed one-hour parking restriction near the car wash. He suggested alternatives like marking parking spaces or prohibiting big rig parking citywide. He noted that the proposed restriction would negatively impact nearby businesses and their employees.

Ryan Chamales, resident, requested an update to the Municipal Code to allow the sale of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in the City. He shared that he is renting an ADU and wants to purchase it, but current regulation prevent sales. He noted that allowing ADU sales would not negatively impact the community, as property owners would only sell to tenants they are comfortable with.

Garret Weyand, resident, commented on the City's handling of the 600 Foothill appeal, disputing the City's statement that they attempted to communicate with the property owners. He also raised concerns about the lack of transparency regarding litigation costs. He said that through Freedom of Information Act requests, he calculated the City had been billed over 4,000 hours of litigation and spent \$1.8 million. He highlighted expenses, such as subpoenaing a loan officer who knew nothing about the property.

Javier Caltenco, Small Business Administration (SBA) Public Information Officer, presented disaster assistance options for those affected by recent wildfires. The SBA offers low-interest

federal disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses, and nonprofits, with up to \$500,000 available for home repairs and \$100,000 for personal property. Loans feature zero percent interest, no initial payments, and a March 31 application deadline. He noted that interested parties can apply at lending.sba.gov.

Mayor Davitt asked Mr. Caltenco to contact the LCF Chamber of Commerce.

PRESENTATIONS:

a) Recognition of the La Cañada Flintridge Sister Cities Association Student Exchange Participants

Co-president of LCF Sister Cities Tamar Tujian thanked the City Council for their support. They presented a short video regarding the student exchange program.

On behalf of the exchange students from Spain, a student read a statement of appreciation to the City, community, and La Cañada Flintridge Sister Cities Association for their support and hospitality during their stay.

Mayor Davitt presented certificates of recognition to the exchange students and teachers.

b) Presentation by the La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association

Ernest Koeppen, La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association outgoing president, presented a video of the last three years' floats and awards. He introduced the Association's incoming president and presented the 2025 float design.

Mayor Davitt thanked Mr. Koeppen and the Association for their hard work.

c) Public Safety Update

Chief Sprengel provided the fire activity report for February. He announced that on March 24 the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection would release the updated local fire hazard severity zone maps. The maps were last updated in 2011. Residents can check their zones online, though no significant changes are expected as the City remains in very high fire hazard zone. In response to questions from the City Council, he noted that the hearings are intended for residents to question whether they belong in a zone.

California Highway Patrol Officer Bay reported 11 crashes and 430 traffic citations in March. He highlighted safety initiatives and emphasized upcoming distracted driving awareness efforts, e-bike safety education campaign, and teen driving education. He noted that the CHP is hiring and will continue their enforcement efforts and public education to maintain road safety.

Mayor Davitt noted that e-bike safety education would be excellent for the City.

Councilmember Hobson encouraged the California Highway Patrol to consider attending Council meetings once a month to provide a report.

Captain Hahnlein provided a quarterly report for the months of October through December 2024.

The City Council thanked the Captain for the quarterly report.

Captain Hahnlein provided the public safety report for February. The report emphasized ongoing crime prevention through patrols and camera surveillance, warning residents about potential "gypsy thefts" and the importance of personal vigilance. In response to the City Council, he noted that they will try to separate attempted and successful burglaries in the report.

d) City Treasurer's Report

City Treasurer LeBlanc provided the City Treasurer's report for February. She noted that she is in the process of redoing the report and only included a one-page summary. She also said that the Investment and Financing Advisory Committee will meet next month. She noted that she had a discussion with the City's investment advisor, and he is steering towards corporate debt with higher yields.

e) Staff Update on Pending Projects

Director of Public Works El-Rabaa provided the highlights of the capital improvement projects.

REORDERING OF AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

CONSENT CALENDAR:

In response to Councilmember Fossan, Director of Administrative Services Parseghian explained that the City has successfully received a grant for goat vegetation management. The project is currently in the California Environmental Quality Act phase (CEQA), with the Los Angeles County Fire Department conducting site visits in April. Once CEQA is complete, the City will bid for professional goat services and extensive marketing to educate the public.

Mayor Pro Tem Bowman highlighted Consent Calendar Item Eight the Annual Progress Report and commended staff for their hundreds of hours of dedicated work.

Councilmember Eich said he would abstain from Consent Calendar Item Twelve per City policy.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Fossan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bowman, and carried (5 – 0) to approve Consent Calendar Items One through Fourteen. Councilmember Eich abstained from Item Twelve.

1. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Meetings:

- a) Special and Regular City Council Meetings of March 4, 2025
(Approved 5 – 0, as recommended)

- 2. Approval of Warrant Resolution No. 25-05, Dated March 18, 2025, for \$1,925,193.07
(Approved 5 – 0, as recommended)**
- 3. Receive and File Commission Meeting Action Agendas:**
 - a) Planning Commission Action Agenda for February 27, 2025
 - b) Public Safety Commission Action Agenda for February 24, 2025**(Approved 5 – 0, as recommended)**
- 4. Receive and File the Public Safety Reports for February 2025
(Approved 5 – 0, as recommended)**
- 5. Receive and File the Capital Improvement Project Status Update
(Approved 5 – 0, as recommended)**
- 6. Adoption of a Resolution for the Installation of a 1-Hour Parking Restriction at 2355 Foothill Boulevard
(Approved 5 – 0, as recommended)**
- 7. Adoption of a Resolution for the Installation of Red Curb on Northbound Commonwealth Ave Immediately North of the Crosswalk at Foothill Blvd
(Approved 5 – 0, as recommended)**
- 8. Receive and File the Annual Progress Report on the Implementation of the General Plan for 2024
(Approved 5 – 0, as recommended)**
- 9. Approve a Three-Year Agreement for Services with Global Sanitation Services in an Amount not to Exceed \$11,034 for Portable Restroom Services for the 2025, 2026, and 2027 Music in the Park Concert Series
(Approved 5 – 0, as recommended)**
- 10. Adoption of a Resolution for the Installation of a 2-Hour Parking Restriction and Shifted Location of Existing Parking Area on Georgian Road Across from Fire Station 82
(Approved 5 – 0, as recommended)**
- 11. Adoption of a Resolution Approving Change to the Authorized Signatory for the California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grants Program
(Approved 5 – 0, as recommended)**
- 12. Adoption of a Resolution Issuing Warning Letter to Council Member Keith Eich
(Approved 4 – 0 - 1, Councilmember Eich abstained)**
- 13. Receive and File Monthly Report of Investments for February 2025
(Approved 5 – 0, as recommended)**
- 14. Receive and File the Revised “2024-25 Mayor’s Assignments” List
(Approved 5 – 0, as recommended)**

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

ORDINANCES: None

OTHER BUSINESS:

15. Appointment to Fill an Unscheduled Vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission

Mayor Davitt opened the public comment period at 7:11 p.m. and, seeing no one interested in addressing the City Council, closed it.

Seeing no questions or comments from the City Council, City Clerk Garcia continued with the ballot process. She announced an unscheduled vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission, with a term expiring on May 31, 2027. The names that appeared on the ballot were Ashley Grace and Michelle Jaross. Ms. Jaross received majority of the votes and was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The City Council congratulated Ms. Jaross.

16. Selection of Clean Power Alliance Board Representatives and Primary Energy Option

Senior Management Analyst II Klein presented the Clean Power Alliance (CPA) transition plan report. She highlighted the City's move from Southern California Edison (SCE) to CPA for electricity generation in October 2025. The transition offers three energy tier options: Green (100 percent renewable), Clean (50 percent clean), and Lean (40 percent clean), with SCE continuing delivery services. The outreach plan includes a dedicated website, town halls, and community presentations to inform residents about the change and available energy choices. She introduced Ted Bardacke, the Chief Executive Officer of CPA.

Mayor Davitt opened the public comment period at 7:18 p.m.

Julie-Kane Ritsch, resident, spoke in support of the 100 percent renewable energy option and emphasized the environmental benefits. She noted that this could reduce the City's greenhouse gas emissions by 103.23 million pounds annually. She noted that the cost is minimal and aligns with the City's Climate Action Plan. She highlighted that the city of Claremont had 93 percent of residents remain on 100 percent renewable after implementation and urged the City to lead by example by selecting the 100 percent renewable default.

Anne Tryba, resident, recommended CPA representatives based on their commitment to the Climate Action Plan. She proposed Mayor Pro Tem Bowman as the primary representative, Councilmember Fossan as the first alternate, and Councilmember Hobson as the second alternate. She emphasized selecting representatives who have demonstrated genuine enthusiasm for reducing the City's carbon footprint and supporting environmental initiatives.

Garrett Weyand, resident, asked about SCE current base rate. He sought clarification on whether the proposed CPA 100 percent renewable option would significantly increase SCE's current rate and whether residents could choose between different energy tiers.

Mr. Bardacke explained that SCE's current base rate is about 37 percent renewable, with 40-45 percent carbon-free energy. He noted that the 100 percent renewable option through CPA would provide 60-55 percent more carbon-free and renewable energy. In response to the City Council, he explained that SCE's previous green energy options were subsidized by other customers and sold out, with some customers waiting years to access those plans.

Mayor Davitt closed the public comment period at 7:28 p.m.

In response to Mayor Davitt, Senior Management Analyst II Klein explained the default selection and opt-out process available to all customers each billing cycle.

Councilmember Eich shared his enthusiasm for joining the CPA, primarily because of the separation of generation from transmission services. He highlighted his personal experience as an SCE customer who had been on a waiting list for the green energy plan for years and was unable to access it despite multiple attempts. He emphasized the importance of the default rate selection and expressed hope that the City would consider the 50 percent renewable option.

Mayor Davitt noted that they would first consider and decide on the power selection and then nominate the CAP representatives.

The City Council discussed setting the default energy option for the community and City. Mayor Pro Tem Bowman motioned to default the entire community to the 100 percent renewable energy category.

Councilmember Eich raised questions about the potential cost burden, estimating it could be around \$360 per household annually.

Mr. Bardacke clarified that the actual cost for an average household would likely be closer to \$15 per month.

Councilmember Fossan supported the motion, emphasizing the importance of default settings and the ease of opting out. She noted that the 100 percent option would help the City reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55.8 metric tons, nearly half of their 2030 goal. She highlighted the ease of changing energy levels through CPA.

Councilmember Hobson supported the 100 percent renewable energy option, referencing the previously approved Climate Action Plan. She stressed the importance of education, wanting residents to feel they have a choice and are not being forced into the option. She supported setting the default at 100 percent renewable for the community and the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Bowman advocated setting the default at 100 percent renewable energy. He believed this was the right policy choice, emphasizing the importance of giving people the option

to choose while setting a proactive default. He motioned to set it at 100 percent renewable energy for the community.

Mayor Davitt supported the 100 percent renewable energy option but cautioned that this decision does not address the City's broader power reliability issues. He emphasized the need to be sensitive to residents' concerns about potential rate increases. He stressed the importance of clearly communicating the opt-out option and ensuring residents understand they are not being forced into a more expensive plan. He suggested that the City and CPA should make a significant effort to explain the choices and potential impacts on the community.

Councilmember Eich explained his vote against the 100 percent renewable energy default. He supported CPA and the ability for residents to choose green energy options. Still, he opposed the 100 percent default because it would require residents to take action and potentially incur an additional \$200-\$300 annual cost. He preferred a 50 percent option that would provide green energy choices without imposing additional financial burden on households. He emphasized giving residents a choice while minimizing mandatory work and cost implications.

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bowman, seconded by Councilmember Fossan, and carried (4 – 1, Councilmember Eich voted no) to set the default energy rate option for the community at Green - 100 percent renewable.

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bowman, seconded by Councilmember Fossan, and carried (5 – 0) to set the default energy rate option for the City electricity accounts at Green - 100 percent renewable.

Mayor Davitt explained that the third representative traditionally has been the City Manager. The City Council concurred to appoint the City Manager as the third representative.

Mayor Davitt opened the nomination for the primary representative position on the Clean Power Alliance Board of Directors. Councilmember Eich nominated Councilmember Fossan, and Councilmember Hobson supported the nomination. Seeing no other nominations, the Mayor announced that Councilmember Fossan would be the primary representative.

Mayor Davitt opened the nomination for the secondary representative position on the Clean Power Alliance Board of Directors. He nominated Councilmember Eich. Councilmember Fossan nominated Mayor Pro Tem Bowman and Councilmember Hobson supported the nomination. Councilmember Eich asked that his name be withdrawn from the nomination. Mayor Davitt announced that Mayor Pro Tem Bowman would be the secondary representative.

Mr. Bardacke noted that the City is one of the three cities that joined the CPA this year.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS:

Meetings attended at the expense of the local agency

Councilmember Fossan reported attending the National League of Cities conference in Washington, DC. She thanked staff for the agenda item on the Angeles Crest Highway.

Regional and local representation

Councilmember Hobson reported attending a Kiwanis event supporting La Cañada Flintridge Sister Cities Association and a public safety forum.

Mayor Pro Tem Bowman reported attending a Council of Governments Transportation Committee meeting.

Mayor Davitt reported attending a Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund meeting.

Subcommittee updates

Councilmember Eich provided an update on the LCF Community Center lease negotiations. They are out of the original lease agreement and are working on a renewal strategy.

Request for future agenda items

Mayor Pro Tem Bowman proposed adding a regular update regarding the after-action report to future agendas, which Councilmember Fossan supported. The City Council concurred that it could be an oral update rather than a written report.

Councilmembers' questions and suggestions

In response to Councilmember Fossan, City Manager Jordan announced an upcoming meeting with Southern California Edison's CEO and senior executives the next morning. The meeting aims to discuss power reliability issues. He hopes this pre-meeting will lead to a public town hall where residents can directly address the CEO and hear plans for improving power delivery services. Mayor Davitt added that he would be at the meeting and that they would report back to the City Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Bowman requested a report on City Commission governance documents, which Councilmember Hobson seconded.

City Attorney Guerra acknowledged current inconsistencies across City Commissions, while the City Manager recognized potential staffing challenges. They agreed to prepare the report as soon as possible understanding the staff's current workload.

The City Council recognized the current workload and agreed to a flexible date.

Mayor Davitt announced the state of the City on March 19.

City Manager closing comments

City Manager Jordan announced the Strategic Planning workshop on March 24.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Mayor Davitt adjourned the Regular City Council meeting at 8:10 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

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Tania Garcia, City Clerk

Minutes approved by the City Council on April 15, 2025.