

APPROVED MINUTES - FINAL DRAFT



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

**Altadena Community Center
730 East Altadena Drive
Altadena, California 91001**

**Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2019**

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:03 PM

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance _____ Seventh Day Adventist Pathfinders
Councilmember Veronica Jones

1.2 Roll Call _____ Recording Secretary, Veronica Jones

Present: Antonio Becerra, Okorie Ezieme, Veronica Jones, Patricia Sutherlen, Dorothy Wong, Sylvia Vega, Jeff Simmonds, Arron Tschida, Gloria Sanyika, Justin Robertson, Dr.

Sandra Thomas, Victoria Knapp, Billy Malone, Dr. Reginald Wilkins, Jennifer Lee, Diane Marcussen. (15 present) Jeff Simmonds (1 excused absence)

1.3 Approve May 21, 2019 Meeting Agenda _____ Vice Chair, Patricia Sutherlen

The May 21, 2019 agenda was voted on and accepted with the addition of the 9.1 Census Tract Report for 4611.

2. OFFICERS' REPORTS

2.1 Chairman _____ Okorie Ezieme

Chairman Ezieme thanked the community for being supported of the Town Council by attending the council meetings. He wished all veterans a Happy Veteran's Day. The Chairman also shared his thoughts on power. "Leaders have no more power than the power people give them. Everyone was reminder of the Town Council election being held on June 4th and June 8th and encouraged to vote.

2.2 Vice Chairman _____ Patricia Sutherlen

Councilmember Sutherlen instructed the audience on how to participate in public comment. Councilmember Sutherlen pointed out that Public Comment is item 7 on the agenda.

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2.3. Recording Secretary _____ Veronica Jones

A motion was made that the April 16, 2019 minutes be approved with as presented. The motion was approved with the abstention of Councilmembers Sanyika.

2.4. Treasurer _____ Jennifer Lee

Council member Lee reported that the checking account is in good standing with \$2,091.98. Donations are used to fund this account.

2.5. Corresponding Secretary _____ Dorothy Wong

Councilmember Wong reported that the web-site is currently being revamped and volunteers to help with the process were needed and welcomed.

3. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

3.1. California Highway Patrol _____ Officer Stephanie Norton

Officer Norton reported there were 26 car crashes for the month of April including 6 DUIs and 10 minor injuries. Tip-A-Cop will be Thursday, May 23, 2019 at California Pizza Kitchen from 6:00-9:00- pm,

Information on traffic collision is available at the web site: <https://www.chp.ca.gov/traffic>

3.2. Altadena Sheriff's Station _____ Lt. Alex Canchola

Lt. Canchola reported there has been an increase in the number of assaults among individuals during the month of April and vehicles burglaries are on the rise. Lt. Canchola stressed that prevention is the key to lower crime. Locking your car, parking off the street and not leaving belongings on the car seats will help to discourage crime. The Altadena Sheriff is holding a "Altadena Safety Summit" on June 10th at the Altadena Center from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Internet safety, safety while hiking, elderly abuse and wildflowers will be discussed at the summit. The Altadena Sheriff will be hosting a car show on June 8th. Summer crime enforcement has begun with the addition of two new teams. The teams will be in operating from May-September.

3.3. County Fire _____ Mary Grycan

Ms. Grycan reported that there were 340 responses with 261 of those calls were medical responses by the fire department for the month. Full report can be found at: www.fire.lacounty.gov

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3.4 MAP Your Neighborhood _____ Karen Gibson

Ms. Gibson reported that ten percent of Altadena residents have participated in MAP Your Neighborhood's disaster's preparedness. MAP Neighborhood and the fire department have partner to teach Altadena residents the proper way to use fire extinguishers. MAP Your Neighbor continues to educate residents of the need for disaster preparedness.

4. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

4.1 Alexia Saigh _____ Okorie Ezieme

Chairman Ezieme introduced Alexia Saigh, the winner of the 10th Annual Judy Chu Artist Competition. Ms. Saigh is a 11th grader from Altadena. Her winning photograph will be displayed at the U.S. Capital for one year. She received \$1,000 for being the winner in the category of photography. Chairman Ezieme presented Ms. Saigh with certificate of recognition for her accomplishmen from the Altadena Town Council.

4.2 Balian Family _____ Victoria Knapp

Councilmember Knapp paid tribute to the Balian Family for George Balian's contribution to the Altadena community with the Balian annual "Holiday Lights" display for over 60 years. This display of lights have been enjoyed by people from all over the world to during the Christmas holiday season. The family was presented with certificates from the Altadena Town Council, Senator Anthony Portantio's, Assmeblymenber Chris Holden's Office, Supervisor's Barger's office and the Altadena Town Council.

4.3 In Memory of Marine Lance Corporal Dion Whitney _____ Veronica Jones
Antonio Bercerra

The family of Marine Lance Corporal Dion Whitney was honored for his service in the United States Marines. Marine Lance Corporal Dion Whitney, an Altadena native, lost his life while serving in Iraq. The family was presented with certificates from the Altadena Town Council, Senator Anthony Portantio's, Assmeblymenber Chris Holden's Office, Supervisor's Barger's office and the Altadena Town Council.

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5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 Land Use Committee _____ Diane Marcussen

Councilmember Marcussen reported: Due to lack of building activity Land Use Committee was cancelled for the month of May. The New York Drive Public Works project is progressing. It is in the second phase of the projects.

5.2 Safe Streets Mobility Committee _____ Dorothy Wong

Councilmember Wong reported the follow:

The next meeting of the Safe Streets Committee is June 13th. The Devils Gate Reservoir, Restoration Project will start their summer haul route beginning in June and ending in August. More information can be found: dpw.lacounty.gov/devilsgate

5.3 Election Committee _____ Jennifer Lee

Councilmember Lee reported:

There will be two days for voting for Altadena Town Council, June 4 and June 8. Each census tract has one councilmember up for re-election. Census Tracts 4601, 4611 and 4613 have open seats. Volunteers will be needed at the polls. Times and locations will be on the Town Council's web-site.

5.3.1 Introduction of Candidates:

The following candidates made statements: Veronica Jones, Victoria Knapp Reginald Wilkins, Billy Malone, Sylvia Vega and Dorothy Wong.

6. ALTADENA COMMUNITY REPORTS

6.1 Altadena Library _____ Terry Andrues
Library Board Member

Library Board member Terry Andrues reported on the library's upcoming events. The Summer Reading Programs begins June 1st, there will be Studio Tours in June, and the last Second Saturday until October will be held on June 8th. The library's book sale raised over \$6,000.00. The library has issued an RFP for an architect. Mr. Andrues solicited asked for the community help in finding a qualified architect. More information can be found at: www.altadenalibrary.org

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6.3 LA County Dept. of Parks and Rec _____ Sam Estrada
Parks Director

Parks Director, Sam Estrada highlighted upcoming community spring and summer events at Altadena parks. Parks After Dark will continue. Loma Alta park will be having parent orientation for the summer camp on June 5th. The summer program at Loma Alta Park includes a STEM program.

More information on parks can be found at: parks.lacounty.gov

6.4 Chamber of Commerce _____ Billy Malone

Councilmember Malone stated the Chamber was able to give \$4,000 in scholarships with money from the Business of the Year and Citizen of the Year fund raiser. The Chamber meets every first Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. and membership is open to everyone.

More details can be found at: www.altadenachamber.org

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The following residents gave comments:

Karen Gibson – NBBA Candidate Forum on May 29th at the Altadena Center
Michael Thacker – Altadena Neighbors’ Magazine
Sandra Uzzardi – Paving private streets
Medicine and Earth Day – April 20th
Gina Chamberlain – Private street paving
David Mader(sp) – regulations on vacation rentals in Altadena
Vickie Thommpson – Big Dig – Devil’s Gate Dam Clean-up

8. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

8.1. Update Fences/Hedges Registration _____ Alex Garcia
_____ reported the County has extended the deadline for registering Altadena fences and hedges to July 1, 2019 to allow more residents to take advantage of the advance registration.

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9. Census Tract Reports

4611 _____ Justin Robertson
Councilmember

Councilmember Robertson shared information on the Los Angeles County Program of free trees. The County will plant trees free of charge for residents that would want trees in front of their walkway. More information can be found at: dpw.la.county.gov

All business completed motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:12 p.m.

Received and filed