



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes

August 16, 2022 7:01 p.m. – 9:10 pm (Virtual Meeting)

Watch on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/MNSiUUs5NfU>

1.0 CALL TO ORDER 7:03pm

1.1 Flag Salute was led by 2022-24 Marshall ASB President Christian Lim.

1.2 Councilmember Wong called role. Attending - Victoria Knapp, Amy Lyford, Nic Arnzen, Billy Malone, Dorothy Wong, Veronica Jones, Darrell Aranda, Chris O'Malley, Doug Colliflower, Reginald Wilkins, Sylvia Vega. Councilmembers Amy Lyford, Hannah Petrie, Dr. Sandra Thomas, Diane Marcussen were excused. Moved forward with a quorum.

1.3 Vice Chair Knapp made motion to approve August 16th, 2022 meeting Agenda with the following changes; Adjusting Community Reports order.

2.0 OFFICERS' REPORTS

2.1 Chair Veronica Jones yielded time.

2.2 Vice Chair Victoria Knapp yielded time.

2.3 Recording Secretary Nic Arnzen motioned to approve July 19th, 2022 Minutes. Approved with one abstention by Councilmember Reginald Wilkins.

2.4 Treasurer Chris O'Malley reported the July/August bank balance was \$1427.28. \$309 deposits for Madalyn Barber Memorial Fund, \$43.73 bank fee returned to account, \$50 reimbursement for name tags. Deducted expenses of \$13.99 deduction for website fee with GoDaddy.com, \$375 for Madalyn Barber Memorial, \$200 reimbursed to Councilmember Doug Colliflower for open house expenses, \$158.67 reimbursement to Councilmember Chris O'Malley for 2021 election expenses. The current balance is \$924.55. Executive Committee has discussed moving forward with switching account from Bank of America to a new bank, potentially Chase. Bank of America has minimum balance fee we would like to avoid.

2.5 Corresponding Secretary Wong made special announcements that can be seen on the ATC website. Bear encounter in the Meadows, Living with Wildlife zoom meeting found on ATC website, Devil's Gate open house August 17th 6-7 zoom meeting.

3.0 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

3.1 27th Congressional District update by Congresswoman Judy Chu. Full transcript included below.

3.2 Altadena road maintenance update given by Steven Gutierrez and Yonah Halpern.

3.3 Foothill Municipal Water update given by Nina Jazmadarian and Michael Le.

4.0 PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

4.1 California Highway Patrol Officer Bay reported 28 collisions, 8 hit and run, 7 injuries, 1 DUI.

School is back, be careful with jaywalking, watch out for pedestrians. Speed trailer radar placed on Loma Alta, trying for Calavares, Marengo, Fair Oaks.

4.2 Altadena Sheriff's Station Captain Jabari Williams reported crime down in general, up in assault, 70% increase in vehicle thefts on hiking trails. Peak between 7am and 1pm. Catalytic Converter event successfully etching 105 cars in 5 hours. Aiming for bigger program expanding area will include cages for a cost

4.3 L.A. County Fire Altadena spokesperson Maria Grycan reported 329 incidents, 272 medical, 196 transports, 10 traffic collisions, 4 fires. Safety tip of the month is water safety, keep eye on children, remove toys, inflatable devices are not safety devices, learn CPR

5.0 COMMUNITY REPORTS

6.1 Nikki Winslow spoke of Design development documents being presented to Library Board. All 85 pages are posted on library website for community to provide feedback. Also highlighted upcoming events.

6.2 Chamber of Commerce report by Doug Colliflower

6.3 ACCAB report by Doug Colliflower.

6.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Safe Streets Committee Chair Dorothy Wong gave an update on committee meetings and work. Meetings are 4th Thursdays at 7:00pm.

7.2 Election Chair Sylvia Vega reported on both September Special Election and General Election coming in November. Call for candidates for general election deadline October 7th at 5pm. Information on both elections can be found on Town Council website

7.0 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Seriina Cavarubis spoke on street safety on Calavares.

Dr. Deborah Powell gave public thanks to Council for helping with street safety at Aveson Global Leadership Academy. Thanks to Councilmember Wong for being on top of this.

Janet Castro wrote on issues with SCE tree trimming.

Councilmember Wong read submitted public comments: Joy Walters of CHA CHA Clean Air Day and week in October, Meadows resident commented on increased bear presence, Macheke Lynch on Bear issues, Sarah Wolfe on street safety around Loma Alta Park, Depah Joseph about a traffic incident on Midlothian/New York Drive, Tina Tipperan Mandaly Cosette wrote about trail use of bikers and lack of trail upkeep is dangerous for horse riders and pedestrians.

8.0 CENSUS TRACT REPORTS

8.1 4601 Councilmember Knapp reported the Mount Lowe Median has reopened. Councilmember Lyford reported that her request made to Regional Planning enforcement section concerning a newly installed fence blocking entry to trails was turned down as the fencing is within private property and therefore not in the enforcement of their dept.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jones called for adjournment at 9:00 pm

Altadena Town Council Meeting
Rep. Judy Chu Remarks
August 16, 2022

Hello! Thank you so much for the opportunity to join you for the Town Council meeting this evening. One of my favorite parts about serving in Congress is having the opportunity to share the incredible work we are doing that directly impacts people all across our district. We've been busy in Congress this year and I am excited to update you on far-reaching legislation truly benefitting the American people that we've been able to pass in Congress this year!

Inflation Reduction Act

Just a few days ago, I was in Washington, D.C. to vote in support of the historic *Inflation Reduction Act*. This landmark legislation, which is soon to head to the President's desk to be signed into law, upholds a promise made to invest in the American people and our collective future. And, as a Member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over health and tax legislation, I am proud to have a seat at the table as Congress wrote and negotiated this bill over the past year.

This legislation will lower the cost of prescription drugs for our seniors by finally allowing Medicare to negotiate for the price of prescription drugs. It also ensures that Medicare beneficiaries do not pay more than \$2,000 per year on prescription drugs, and limits out-of-pocket spending on insulin, a drug that I know so many rely on, to no more than \$35/month! Finally, it extends subsidies for working class families to afford health insurance through the Affordable Care Act, so that no one has to choose between having lifesaving health insurance and putting food on the table.

What's more, this legislation represents our nation's **largest investment ever** in fighting climate change and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. It extends and expands tax credits for both commercial and consumer renewable energy, gives consumers tax rebates for installing energy efficient appliances, and extends tax credits for electric and hydrogen powered vehicles. And, to help alleviate inflation and reduce the risk of future price shocks, we also included provisions to provide more than \$60 billion for clean energy manufacturing in the U.S. To make the deal even sweeter, this bill accomplishes all of these goals while also reducing emissions by 40-percent by 2030 – making historic progress toward our climate goals and ensuring we are prepared to tackle and circumvent the worst effects of the climate crisis.

The *Inflation Reduction Act* does all of this while also reducing our deficit and lowering inflationary pressures across the entire economy! By establishing a minimum 15-percent tax on the largest corporations making over \$1 billion in profits – which only impacts 150 firms – we are able to create a fairer tax system. Even better, this will not raise taxes on small business and working families! We also secured \$80 billion to better fund and support the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which help to close the tax gap, hold wealthy tax evaders accountable and improve customer service nationwide. The Inflation Reduction Act represents progress in so many areas, and I look forward to President Biden signing it into law in the coming days!

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

And then, there's our boost to fixing our failing infrastructure. Last November, President Biden and Democrats fulfilled their promise to the American people by signing into law the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – a \$1.2 trillion investment to rebuild our American infrastructure, bolster high-speed internet, expand access to clean drinking water, advance environmental justice and invest in communities that far too often are left behind. And, to top it off, this legislation will create an estimated two million new, good-paying jobs per year over the next 10 years! I was proud to vote for this legislation because I knew that this historic funding would directly benefit Southern California—from our public transit systems, to our ports, to our many highways and freight rail lines crisscrossing the region. And, by making more federal funds available, the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* frees up additional state and local funding for critical infrastructure projects in our region.

I'm excited to say that this law is already delivering results for California! To date, \$9.2 billion in infrastructure funding has already been announced for our state, including \$8 billion for infrastructure, nearly \$300 million to combat extreme weather and climate change effects, and over \$600 million for clean water. Already, we have seen more than 1.6 million households across California receive access to affordable internet as a result of this law.

CHIPS

But even as we are seeing the success of the infrastructure law, we knew there were industries which had been left out. The pandemic exposed the fragility of the semiconductor chip supply chain and disrupted the many critical sectors – like national security, transportation, and health care – that rely on chips to operate. So, Congress sought to shore up our supply chains and domestic manufacturing in order to increase American global competitiveness. After months of hard work and bipartisan negotiations, President Biden signed into law the *CHIPS and Science Act* at the beginning of August. This bold new law will bolster domestic manufacturing, invest in research and development, improve our supply chains and create high-paying jobs right here at home. This law will also ensure America remains a global leader in science and technology with the nation's largest five-year investment in public research and development to strengthen research capacity and security, support innovation and further modernize technology and infrastructure. And with world-class research institutions like Cal Tech in our district, I was proud to have voted for a bill that not only bolsters America's leading role in scientific development but allows California to play a role at the forefront of this innovation revolution.

Gun Violence

For years, we have all witnessed the devastating impact of gun violence across the country. This year alone, we have already had over 300 mass shootings – there has not been a single week in 2022 without a mass shooting – from Buffalo to Laguna Woods to Uvalde to Tulsa and more, it is unacceptable we have allowed this epidemic of gun violence to continue.

But this summer, Congress was able to take the first steps toward protecting our families and communities when President Biden signed into **law the first major gun safety legislation passed by Congress in nearly 30 years** – the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act*. This bill will fund crisis intervention activities such as red-flag laws to keep guns out of the hands of people who are a danger to themselves and to others and closes what is known as the “boyfriend loophole.” It requires young people ages 18 to 21 to undergo enhanced background checks, and includes the first-ever federal law that makes gun trafficking and straw purchases distinct federal crimes. I was proud to cast my vote for this historic bill, and I will continue fighting to keep our children, families and communities safe from needless violence.

San Gabriel Mountains/Wildfires

I'd also like to tell you a bit about some of the issues I have been working on for quite some time, and which have seen real progress this year. We in the San Gabriel Valley understand firsthand how important it is to protect the treasured public lands right here in our backyard. That is why I have worked for years to increase protections in the mountains and to give more people the chance to experience and enjoy the recreation opportunities they provide. And I am proud to say that my legislation, the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Act, has passed the House of Representatives three separate times this Congress, and has received a hearing in the Senate thanks to my partnership with our Senator Alex Padilla. Our legislation would expand the National Monument, designate 30,000 acres of new and expanded wilderness, and create a new National Recreation Area in the foothills and along the river corridor.

And, while I work to bring these new resources and protections to the mountains and the San Gabriel Valley, I am also working to address the growing risk of wildfire in our communities. The Bobcat Fire, which burned 115,000 acres of our forestland in 2020, was a sober reminder of the rising fire risk we face due to climate change, especially in severe drought conditions. But I am pleased that Congress has taken steps to mitigate these risks. For instance, the Infrastructure and Jobs Act I just talked about provided more than \$5 billion for wildfire risk reduction and rehabilitation, and a further \$5 billion to protect our critical infrastructure from natural disaster. And in the newly passed Inflation Reduction Act, we will see more federal dollars flowing into our district to help combat the uptick in natural disasters due to the climate crisis.

Charles White Park Community Project Funding

And, before I conclude, I want to update you on the work I have been doing through Congress' annual appropriations process to bring federal funding directly to Altadena and communities across the San Gabriel Valley. I fought hard to secure funding to rehabilitate and renovate Charles White Park right here in Altadena in the Community Project Funding (CPF) process. And I am thrilled the House Appropriations Committee included \$750,000 for this project in our bill for next year! These funds will go toward park-wide infrastructure improvements, walking paths, a pickleball court, and improvements to lighting and site furnishings. The project will also feature Civic Art honoring the park's namesake, Charles White, a renowned artist who lived in Altadena and whose work received national recognition for chronicling the African American experience. I look forward to seeing these funds signed into law and helping make Charles White Park an even better recreational and gathering place for all in Altadena to enjoy.

Conclusion

It has been a productive season in Congress in the past two years, and many of these developments directly impacts the lives and livelihoods of each of us back here in the San Gabriel Valley. Again, thank you so much for the opportunity to join you here this evening – and I look forward to sharing more updates on the work we're doing in the future!