

## **STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL –MAY 25, 2010**

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 in Council Chambers, Southern Market Center, 100 South Queen Street, Lancaster, PA, at 7:30 p.m., with President Williams presiding.

City Council led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present – Ms. Coller, Mr. Morales, Mr. Polite, Mr. Roschel  
Mr. Smith, Mr. Urdaneta, President Williams – 7

City Council approved the minutes of May 11, 2010 by a unanimous vote.

**READING OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS & MEMORIALS** – Councilman Roschel stated that a few years ago Councilwoman Saunders thought we should honor students for their academic achievements. Mayor Gray and Councilman Roschel presented Academic Achievement Awards to 7 McCaskey High School students. They are as follows:

Anna Mamas – Arts and Humanities  
Mariah Preston – Health Careers  
Gilberto Vega – Honors/TB  
Tu Ha – McCaskey Institute of Technology  
Melinda Chhoun – Media Studies and Communication  
Sergio Vega-Tirado – Public Leadership and Service  
Kimberly Herbert – Technical and Business

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Terry Brown, Lancaster, came to Council to complain about his situation with his landlord. President Williams and the Mayor recommended that he speak to a lawyer. As long as he is in the middle of a landlord-tenant action there is nothing the Council can do.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** – Captain Skiles of the Police Bureau made two public announcements in reference to Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, one for 2007 and one for 2010. In 2007 the City was awarded a grant in the amount of \$59,604. These grants are awarded to municipalities based on population and crime statistics. A memo of understanding (MOU) was required between the City and the County that we would apply as a single application on behalf of the County and the City. He can find no signed MOU for 2007 and/or never made it to the Department of Justice. He has been working with the Department of Justice to address the issue and the recommendation was that he approach City Council, the Mayor and the County Commissioners to have a new MOU drafted and signed. He is here today to make the Public Announcement that funds will be used to purchase I-record digital recording systems for interview rooms. We have eight interview rooms in the Police Station and the funding from 2007 will help pay for that system.

The second issue is the same type of a grant. It would be for 2010 funding. We were notified that we stand to be awarded \$73,590. We are going to apply for the funding to purchase police cars which would defer funding from the 2011 budget. We will have a memo of understanding with the Mayor, Council and the County Commissioners.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE - Chairman Urdaneta stated that his committee met prior to this meeting and there are three resolutions on the agenda tonight and he will talk about them as they come up.

City Council considered the following application(s) & (Historic Commissions recommendation(s) for construction and demolition within the Heritage Conservation District:

1. Marion Properties proposes demolition of a brick structure to expand outdoor restaurant seating at 38 East Marion Street.

2. Kong Investment Group, LLC, proposes construction of a new one-story garage structure on an existing surface parking lot facing Lake Street at 720 Columbia Avenue.

Councilman Polite made the motion to approve and Councilman Urdaneta seconded. City Council approved the recommendations of the HARB by a unanimous roll call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 33-2010, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ABATING 2010 REAL ESTATE TAXES ON 629 NEW DORWART STREET, OWNED AND OPERATED BY GORMAN & SONS, LLC AND LOCATED IN THE KEYSTONE OPPORTUNITY ZONE.**

Councilman Urdaneta made the motion to approve and Councilman Polite seconded. Councilman Urdaneta explained that there was a glitch in the application that Mr. Gorman filled out for the abatement to the DCED and we are correcting that for him. City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 33-2010 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 34-2010, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING THE BASE VALUE FOR PURPOSES OF DEFINING THE INCREASED ASSESSED VALUE OF IMPROVEMENTS UNDER THE CITY'S LERTA PROGRAM FOR PROPERTIES REDEVELOPED BY THE SACA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AT 545, 549, 553, 557, 561 AND 565 PALM STREET.**

Councilman Urdaneta made the motion to approve and Councilman Smith seconded. This was discussed at our meeting this evening. These properties are on Palm Street where a non-profit

developer SACA Corporation came forward with a problem. 12 of these properties were developed and converted into 6 properties and sold to moderate to low income homeowners. These homeowners were under the impression that they were going to receive the same type of treatment in terms of the City Property Taxes as the properties that were completely demolished across the street. The properties across the street had a three year 100% property tax exemption. SACA has come forward to the City and the School District and asking for us to extend the exemption to them. City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 34-2010 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 35-2010, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER TO RECEIVE A DEED IN LIEU OF CONDEMNATION FOR THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 424 NORTH QUEEN STREET, LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA AND TO PAY JUST COMPENSATION FOR THE SAME.**

Councilman Urdaneta made the motion to approve and Councilman Morales seconded. Councilman Urdaneta stated that this resolution allows the City to receive a deed for the property in lieu of condemnation which saves the City and the seller up to about \$6,000 in costs. City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 35-2010 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 36-2010, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE ACT 537 OFFICIAL SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN FOR THE CITY OF LANCASTER.**

Councilman Roschel made the motion to approve and Councilman Urdaneta seconded. Councilman Roschel stated that this resolution refers to a document that serves as an amendment to the City of Lancaster's Act 537 Plan, or our Sewage Facilities Plan. That was approved by the PA Department of Environmental Protection in 2004, but since that time the City has proceeded with numerous planning activities at the advanced waste water treatment plant and several of its major pumping stations. The purpose of this amendment is to consolidate all the planning documents associated with these activities to a single comprehensive Act. 537 Plan Amendment. This is just Phase I which is an evaluation of existing treatment process and hydraulic capacity and the performance of the flow monitoring program in the upgraded expansions evaluations of the pumping stations. City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 36-2010 by a unanimous roll call vote.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR – The report of the Mayor can be seen in its entirety on the City's website: [www.cityoflancasterpa.com](http://www.cityoflancasterpa.com)

COUNCIL COMMENTS – President Williams welcomed the McCaskey students who

have been attending the Council meetings and hoped they have learned something during their visits. Councilman Urdaneta stated that he was pleased that there have been some great conventions held at the Convention Center, noting the Methodist Church, and the AME Church, but was disappointed that the McCaskey High School Prom was held at the Lancaster Host Resort because it was cheaper for the students. He mentioned about 5 or 6 things that were going on at the Host at one time and the Marriott was empty that weekend. Councilman Polite also agreed with Mr. Urdaneta and further spoke about the AME Church that was convening there this week. President Williams acknowledged the Mayor's Office of Special Events,(MOOSE) which did a great job on Music Friday and the program of Keys to the City.

President Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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Louise B. Williams, President

Attest:

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City Clerk