

## STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL – MARCH 11, 2014

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 in Council Chambers, Southern Market Center, 100 South Queen Street, Lancaster, PA, at 7:30 p.m., with President Graupera presiding.

Council led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present – Mr. Reichenbach, Mr. Roschel, Ms. Sorace,  
Mr. Soto, Ms. Williams, President Graupera – 6

Excused – Ms. Wilson – 1

The minutes of the meeting of Council for February 25, 2014 were approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Mr. Michael Ervin, North Plum Street, addressed Council complimenting them for the good work that has been done by the utilities, adding that the excavations have sunk making it difficult to navigate the street. He brought other issues to City Council such as the need to address the properties that fail to remove snow and ice from their sidewalks. Mayor Gray asked him to stay to the end of the meeting to talk to Charlotte Katzenmoyer, Public Works Director and him.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE** – Chairman Roschel stated that his committee met on March 4. We discussed a resolution authorizing the City to declare official intent to reimburse funds for a potential PENNVEST loan for construction improvements to the North Pumping Station Preliminary Treatment Facility. That resolution is on tonight's agenda.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE** – Chairman Reichenbach reminded everyone that the next CRIZ meeting will be taking place at 4:00 p.m., March 25, 2014 right here in Council Chambers.

He further stated that he will be meeting with Mr. Patterson on a monthly basis beginning this month and reporting back to Council to help Council be more involved in economic development.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE** – Chairman Soto stated that the Committee met on the 4<sup>th</sup> of this month and there is a resolution that we will discuss when it comes up on the agenda.

City Council considered the following application(s) & (HARB) recommendation(s) for improvements to properties within the Historic District:

1. Lynn Liddell requests installation of a canopy over the side entry door of a modern garage

at 118 South Duke Street.

Councilman Reichenbach made the motion to approve and Councilman Soto seconded. City Council approved the recommendation of the HARB by a unanimous roll call vote.

Councilman Soto made the motion to add Item No. 2 which was tabled in January to the agenda. Councilman Reichenbach seconded. City Council approved the addition of the tabled agenda item to the agenda by a unanimous roll call vote.

2. Consider the Denial of the HARB to allow 4 blocks in Cabbage Hill to be removed from the Historic District.

Councilman Reichenbach made the motion to accept the HARB's decision and Councilman Soto seconded.

Councilman Soto stated that this has gone on for several months now. We have had several meetings, we have met with the public; we have had comments from the residents and neighbors of the petitioners. The bottom line is that there are other options out there. We need to support the HARB and make a decision this evening.

Councilman Roschel stated that he cannot support the Denial. When it came to us in December, there were over 70% of the residents had signed off on leaving the Historic District, we were told that they need time for more information. We tabled it and now it is March and I asked last week if anyone who had signed that petition had changed their mind and the answer was no. He supports Historic Preservation, but he supports the desire of the people that live there.

Councilwoman Sorace stated that she has read the ordinance again today and she is dismayed how all of this went down. She thinks that there is a lack of understanding of what the Historical Architectural Review Board does and does not do. There remains in the ordinance, a clause which allows for a financial hardship for a property owner that lives in a HARB neighborhood to come before City Council. She thinks that that is an important aspect of the ordinance which has not been talked about very much in this process. In addition to there being other alternatives, it has certainly brought to light, the need for us to take a closer look at that ordinance. At the March meeting there were several recommendations that were made to improve that ordinance, which she wholeheartedly supports and would want to move on to the conclusion of this particular issue and this discussion.

Mayor Gray asked is this the residents that have been polled here or is it the property owners? Mr. Patterson stated that the process requires the property owners to be polled. He further asked if we know how many of the 70% signers were residents or absentee property owners. Mr. Patterson stated that there are 113 properties, 45 of those owners live outside the City of Lancaster or outside of the County. The reason he is asking these questions is that 70% residents petitioned to bring the properties in; HARB has reviewed it and said that these are historic properties, they should be in. Does that mean if the neighborhood changes and the owners change that might not even live in the district, that they come and say, "Well, we want to get out." So it's out this year.

Three years from now, the ownerships change, they want to come back in. This is not something you just raise your hand and vote on. And we heard at the Committee meetings, what shocked him is that people are still putting formstone on buildings. The block of Poplar Street across from St. Joseph Church one of the most beautiful rows in the City, if you put formstone in the middle of that you have depreciated the value of the block. Not only the historic value, but the economic value. If there is some kind of polling, it ought to be done by somebody who doesn't have any interest in the game at all, that isn't interested, that would go in and explain, what the HARB is. We have been lax in educating people of the value of the HARB, and what the HARB does. Keeping property owners on top of it and what it means to be in the historic district. It's effect, not only in that district, but the historic nature of the whole City.

Mr. Reichenbach stated that where he came down on this issue, he thinks that his responsibility as a Councilman is to be a good steward of the City's resources and ultimately that is what people expect him to do. He stated that one of the most basic and important resource is the architecture that we have. If it goes away, we aren't Lancaster anymore. He struggled back and forth with this and he sees Councilman Roschel's point, but he views it through a slightly different lens and that lens was that he does believe the information that was given to the residents was flawed or incomplete. He doesn't blame anyone for that. He does believe that if that information was more impartial when it was initially given, he believes there may have been a different result.

President Graupera thanked the City staff, HARB staff for their outreach to the residents of these four blocks. He thanked the residents for taking a stand, doing what they thought was correct. Usually when there are an overwhelming percentage of people who sign a petition, they come back out and reinforce their will. There wasn't any of that. He keeps going back to the trash hauler issue. Those folks, who were against it, stormed the castle, basically. They were here in force trying to tell us their wishes. He wished that the folks that signed the petition would have come out and those who wanted to keep the Historic District intact would have come out.

City Council approved the decision of the Historical Architectural Review Board to deny the petition to allow 4 blocks in Cabbage Hill to be removed from the Historic District by a 5-1 vote. Aye – Reichenbach, Sorace, Soto, Williams, President Graupera – 5. No – Roschel – 1.

Administration Resolution No. 12-2014,(the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER WHICH AUTHORIZES THE CITY'S DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE SEWER FUNDS USED TO CONSTRUCT IMPROVEMENTS TO ITS COMBINED SEWER SYSTEM WITH FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AUTHORITY.**

Councilman Roschel made the motion to approve and Councilman Reichenbach seconded. Councilman Roschel stated that the City is seeking a \$5.5 million dollar loan from PENNVEST which is the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority to make improvements to the North Pumping Station Preliminary Treatment Facility. Specifically, the grit and screening facility. The

loan would be for 20 years and financed through the Sewer Fund. In other words, it would not add to the City's debt. Interest for the loan would 1% for the first 5 years and 1.74% for the next 15 years. This resolution authorizes the City to proceed to loan closing should we be awarded the loan.

City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 12-2014 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 13-2014 (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER AMENDING THE PROMULGATED RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY WITHIN THE CITY OF LANCASTER BUREAU OF FIRE.**

Councilman Reichenbach made the motion to approve and Councilman Soto seconded. City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 13-2014 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Council Resolution No. 14-2014 was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER DESIGNATING MARCH 2014 AS "WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH" IN THE CITY OF LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA.**

**WHEREAS**, Women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

**WHEREAS**, Women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural and social role in every sphere of life of this City by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; and

**WHEREAS**, Women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic and cultural institutions across our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Women of every race, class and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement; and

**WHEREAS**, Women have been leaders not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, the peace movement and other movements which create a more fair and just society for all.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Lancaster designates the month of March as “Women’s History Month” and encourage the citizens of this City to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

Councilman Roschel made the motion to approve and Councilman Soto seconded. Councilman Roschel stated that Women’s History celebrations began in 1981 as Women’s History Week. In 1988 the entire month of March was designated as Women’s History Month and it continues to grow. The group that got it started was the National Women’s History Project and every year they pick a theme. This year the theme is Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment, which honors the extraordinary and often unrecognized determination and tenacity of women. Against social convention and often legal constraints, women have created a legacy that spans the frontiers of possibility for generations to come. They have demonstrated their character, courage and commitment as mothers, educators, institution builders, business, labor, political and community leaders, relief workers and CEOs, This year they have twelve honorees, and he mentioned 2 of them; one was Anna J. Cooper, born in 1858, was an author, educator, speaker, and among the leading intellectuals for her time. She was born into slavery and she wrote “A Voice from the South” which is widely considered one of the first articulations of Black Feminism. Throughout her life, Cooper worked for the betterment of African American women’s lives, which she saw as the foundation for a more just society for everyone.

Another person I picked out was Roxcy O’Neal Bolton, who was born 1926; she’s a lifelong advocate for women’s rights; she was the founder of Florida’s first battered women’s shelter; and the nation’s first hospital based rape treatment center. Her extensive work also includes convincing National Airlines to offer maternity leave instead of firing pregnant flight attendances. She lobbied for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and persuaded the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to name hurricanes after both men and women.

Councilwoman Williams thanked Councilman Roschel for his insight and comments for Women’s rights. He puts a lot of heart into it because he really believes in the worth of women and their contribution.

City Council approved Council Resolution No. 14-2014 by a unanimous roll call vote.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR - Mayor Gray made his report to City Council and it can be seen on the City’s website. [www.cityoflancasterpa.com](http://www.cityoflancasterpa.com)

Before he made his report to the Council, he stated that he visited McCaskey High School and Mr. Reece’s Civics Class. He was impressed with the questions that the students asked, they were thoughtful and in some cases difficult to answer.

COUNCIL COMMENT – Councilman Reichenbach commended the MOOSE and the merchants who have taken the lead and planned some exciting activities downtown, citing the party planned for Saturday, March 15, 2014. The party is sold out.

President Graupera adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

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John E. Graupera, President

Attest:

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City Clerk