

## **STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL – JUNE 14, 2016**

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 in Council Chambers, 120 North Duke Street, (Rear Annex) Lancaster, PA, at 7:30 p.m., with President Graupera presiding.

The Council led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present – Mr. Reichenbach, Mr. Roschel, Ms. Williams, Ms. Wilson and President Graupera – 5

Excused – Ms. Sorace, Mr. Soto - 2

The minutes of the meeting of Council for May 24, 2016 were approved by a roll-call vote.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peter Scudner, owner of Triode Media, 631 South Water Street, and chairman of the Board of USA Table Tennis, invited Council members to meet the U.S. Olympic Table Tennis Team on Friday, June 20, from 1-2 p.m., at Triode Media. The team of six Olympians will be meeting with children of the Lancaster Rec Commission for an Olympic Day event at that time. He also encouraged all people of Lancaster to embrace the Olympic ideals of fair play, perseverance, respect and sportsmanship.

Mr. Reichenbach commended Mr. Scudner for his investment in South Water Street and noted the transformation the area has experienced in recent years.

### **REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** – Ms. Williams said her committee reviewed two resolutions at the June 6 committee meeting. Resolution No. 25-2016 authorizes an agreement for the purchase of a fire engine. Resolution No. 28-2016 authorizes the submission of a grant application to the Bryne Justice Assistance Grant program. That grant would be used for the purchase of mobile data terminals for police patrol cars and other items. Both resolutions are on the agenda tonight.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE** – Mr. Roschel said his committee met on June 6 and discussed Resolution No. 26-2016, a federal reimbursement agreement, and Resolutions No. 29-2016 and No. 30-2016, both of which are grant applications to fund improvements to Long's Park.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION** – Mr. Reichenbach said his committee also met June 6 to discuss an ordinance proposal that would establish a land bank authority. A land bank in Lancaster would be used to acquire properties in foreclosure which have not yet been condemned. Those properties often are acquired by speculative real estate investors. A land bank would also be used to assemble tracks for redevelopment projects, he explained. A land bank could not seize properties through eminent domain. A land bank ordinance is expected to come before Council for consideration in August or September.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mr. Roschel, reporting for Ms. Sorace, said the committee met June 6 and discussed Resolution No. 27-2016, which authorizes an agreement which would allow the Lancaster Parking Authority to enforce parking regulations in the City. That resolution is also on this evening’s agenda.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE – Mr. Reichenbach, reporting for Mr. Soto, said the committee met June 6 and discussed a resolution for the establishment of an Elm Street grant program area in the southeast section of the City. The designation of the area as an Elm Street community would allow for state grant funding for existing initiatives in the southeast. Such grants will be funneled through Lancaster City government to the Spanish American Civic Association, which will coordinate the program. That resolution is slated to come before Council in two weeks.

Additionally, the committee also discussed Bill No. 8-2016, which would include new in-home daycare centers under the City’s lead hazard program. That measure will come before Council for a first reading on June 28.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Ms. Wilson said that Wendy Tippetts and herself had been nominated for appointment to the Public Art Advisory Board. Their terms would each begin July 31, 2016 and continue until July 31, 2018.

Mr. Roschel made a motion to approve the nominations. Ms. Williams seconded the motion.

Council approved the motion by a unanimous roll-call vote.

#### LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

City Council considered the following applications and recommendations from the Historical Architectural Review Board for improvements to properties within the Historic District:

1. Wesley Farmer & Hilda Shirk, owners of 231 Lancaster Avenue, request construction of a new door hood above the front entry door.
2. Lancaster Lebanon Habitat for Humanity, owner of 314 & 316 South Christian Street, request in two applications the removal of front entry steps, construction of new concrete steps, installation of new exterior light fixtures, and replacement of the columns and railings on the side porches of both properties.

The three applications were recommended for approval by the Historical Architectural Review Board.

Mr. Reichenbach moved to accept the recommendations. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion.

City Council voted to approve the applications by a unanimous roll-call vote.

#### RESOLUTIONS

Administration Resolution No. 25-2016, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A resolution of the Council of the City of Lancaster authorizing the proper officers of the City to execute a government obligation contract and all related documents with K.S. State Bank for the acquisition of a new fire engine.**

Mr. Reichenbach made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Roschel seconded the motion.

Ms. Williams said the resolution authorizes City officials to complete a purchase agreement for a new fire engine, with a total cost of \$568,056.

Fire Chief Tim Gregg explained the purchase will allow the Fire Bureau to replace its oldest front-line apparatus. The existing, 15-year-old engine will be placed in reserve. It will replace a 30-year-old engine now in reserve.

The purchase contract is for a seven-year period, with an initial down payment of \$56,800 and annual payments of \$82,804 beginning in 2017. The interest rate on the fixed-rate loan is 3.24 percent.

City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 25-2016 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 26-2016, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A resolution of the Council of the City of Lancaster authorizing the execution of two reimbursement agreements with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) utilizing funding through the Smart Growth Transportation Funding Program.**

Mr. Roschel made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Reichenbach seconded the motion.

Mr. Roschel explained the City has been awarded a \$48,000 grant to complete a comprehensive bicycle transportation plan for the City. The Lancaster Intermunicipal Committee has also been awarded a \$48,000 grant to complete a non-motorized transportation study. The City and LIMC have entered into an agreement to hire a single consultant to complete the related studies cooperatively. This resolution authorizes the various agreements related to those grants and studies, including a \$12,000 reimbursement from the LIMC to the City, and fulfills a federal requirement.

City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 26-2016 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 27-2016, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A resolution of the Council of the City of Lancaster approving an agreement by and between the City of Lancaster and the Lancaster Parking Authority pursuant to which the parking authority shall assume responsibility for enforcement of the parking regulations of the City of Lancaster and the administration of residential parking permits for the City of Lancaster.**

Mr. Reichenbach made a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion.

Mr. Roschel said City Administrative Services Director Patrick Hopkins and Lancaster Parking Authority Executive Director Larry Cohen made a presentation to City Council members at the June 6 meeting about the benefits of the parking authority assuming responsibility for parking enforcement.

Mr. Hopkins said the resolution authorizes the drafting of an agreement in which the Lancaster Parking Authority will take responsibility for the vast majority of parking enforcement. In addition to meter enforcement, the authority will also enforce parking regulations related to street cleaning, residential permit parking enforcement, handicapped parking violations and other aspects of parking regulations.

He stated the emphasis of the move is to increase customer service and efficiency. Lancaster is the only city in Pennsylvania with a parking authority in which the parking authority does not do parking enforcement. At present, the parking authority is responsible for parking meters and garages and City police are responsible for enforcement. Moving parking enforcement to the parking authority will create a one-stop-shop for all things parking in the City, he said.

The agreement being drafted is a three-year agreement, with the ability to renew. After 18-months, the financial model will be studied to ensure anticipated revenue for both entities is being met. The agreement would go into effect January 1, 2017. In the next six months, the parking authority will open new offices to the public, hire staff and acquire hardware and software for use with ticketing and enforcement.

Mr. Hopkins reiterated the City's commitment that none of the current City parking enforcement aides will lose their jobs or see a reduction in pay. The City now has eight parking enforcement positions, of which one is vacant. Plans call for that number to be reduced to four positions through attrition, such as when an aide retires, transfers to another City position or leaves City employment. That commitment was made to representatives of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union and will be honored, he said.

Mr. Hopkins further said that an ordinance will soon be presented to Council that will allow the parking authority to take all necessary action related to parking enforcement, with the exception of booting and towing. Under the state vehicle code, booting and towing must be done by police. He noted that police officers will still have the authority to write parking tickets if they see a violation.

Mr. Cohen said he appreciated the faith shown by the members of Council, the mayor and administration in the parking authority's ability to bring a higher level of customer service to parking enforcement in the City. He pledged to implement industry best practices for

enforcement, ticketing and appeals. He also said the parking authority will seek public input as it develops implementation plans.

Pastor Kevin Brown, of Kingdom of Life International Assembly, asked how the public will be apprised of the proposed changes in parking enforcement and whether there will be any changes to parking rules.

President Graupera responded that, essentially, nothing is changing with the transfer of enforcement powers. Parking meters will remain in place, but it will be parking authority employees writing the tickets, he said.

In response to a follow-up question from Pastor Brown, Mr. Hopkins said the ordinance that will come before Council in July or August will likely include increases in fines for street-sweeping parking violations and meter enforcement. The volume of tickets written for those violations show the current fine amounts do not provide a financial disincentive for violating the ordinance. The setting of fine amounts will remain under City Council control.

Teresa Wilson, who does street cleaning for the City, said she was unaware of the prior public meetings in which this proposal was discussed. She asked what the financial benefit will be to the City of making these changes. She said parking enforcement now provides the City with more than \$1 million annually. She said she has been told that no one will lose their job, but she had just heard that only four parking aides are being retained. So, where are the other three people going, she asked.

Mr. Hopkins repeated that three parking aides will be eliminated gradually through attrition and said that will happen over a long term. He said that may take two years, four years or longer.

Financially, he said the City estimates it will still receive about \$1 million annually in parking revenue and will reduce expenses by not buying new vehicles and not investing in new computer equipment for parking enforcement.

Sandra Rodriguez, another parking enforcement aide, expressed concern that she will be made to work different or longer hours than those she now works. That would be impossible for her due to her care of her young children.

President Graupera responded that Mr. Hopkins had stated that police officials want parking enforcement aides to continue working at regular day shifts. They will enforce residential permit parking, fill in for absent crossing guards and assume other duties as needed.

Mr. Hopkins offered to meet with parking enforcement aides and AFSCME representatives to discuss the job changes.

Mr. Reichenbach restated that this will be a three-year agreement, with a financial review after 18 months. Therefore, the City is only committing itself to a 36 month term, unless it chooses to renew the agreement.

City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 27-2016 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 28-2016, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A resolution of the Council of the City of Lancaster authorizing the submission of an application seeking funding from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for the FY 2016 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program.**

Mr. Reichenbach made a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion.

Ms. Williams explained the resolution authorizes the mayor to submit an application for \$45,040 to the Byrne grant program. The funding will be used for purchase of mobile data terminals and video cameras to be used in police patrol cars.

City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 28-2016 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 29-2016, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A resolution of the Council of the City of Lancaster requesting a Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP) grant of \$300,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the construction of a wetland at Long's Park.**

Mr. Roschel made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Reichenbach seconded the motion.

Mr. Roschel said this proposal is part of the City's ongoing efforts to adopt green infrastructure to reduce water pollution and improve water quality. If the City receives the grant, the funds will be used to construct a submerged gravel wetland at Long's Park that would accommodate stormwater runoff from five acres of impervious surface. The wetland will prevent that stormwater from running into the Little Conestoga Creek.

City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 29-2016 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 30-2016, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A resolution of the Council of the City of Lancaster requesting a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) grant of \$250,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for Long's Park renovations.**

Ms. Wilson made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Roschel seconded the motion.

Mr. Roschel explained this grant would fund replacement of the wooden castle play structure at Long's Park. The castle is not handicapped accessible and, due to its age, requires significant maintenance. The Lancaster SERTOMA Club will supply the matching \$250,000 for the grant, if the City receives the grant, he said.

Anthony Dastra, 113 North Plum Street, voiced his support for the grant, but he asked that City officials also support smaller, community parks. He said neighborhood parks help community development and public safety. He asked that grants be sought for those parks too.

Mr. Roschel responded that the City has an Urban Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. Under that plan, the City has renovated several parks in recent years, including Brandon, Sixth Ward, Rodney and Crystal parks. And, Mr. Roschel agreed, those parks are a tremendous benefit to the community.

City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 30-2016 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Evelina Parra, 346 North Franklin Street, told Council members that several months ago she had submitted a request that the North Franklin and Lehigh streets intersection be made a four-way stop. She said she sees auto accidents at the intersection on at least a monthly basis. She expressed concern about children crossing the intersection on their way to the nearby McCaskey school campus. She said there are no speed limit signs on North Franklin Street. She rarely sees police officers in the area and motorist routinely travel at an excessive rate of speed on the street.

Ms. Williams asked if Ms. Parra had made her request to the Traffic Commission, which would approve the additional stop signs. She told Ms. Parra that all such requests would be directed to the Traffic Commission, rather than City Council.

President Graupera asked the City Clerk to check on the status of Ms. Parra's application.

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Reichenbach encouraged people to come to the Lancaster Pride Festival in Binns Park on Sunday afternoon. He anticipated the annual gay pride event will have a more somber tone this year in light of last weekend's mass shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. People he has spoken to in recent days have been filled with sadness, frustration and anger following the mass shooting. Attendance at the Pride Festival is an opportunity for all people to stand together in response to the hate shown in Florida.

Ms. Wilson conveyed her condolences to the families of all the people killed and wounded in the Orlando shooting. Additionally, she called for stronger gun control measures. She said there is no reason that anyone needs to be able to buy an assault rifle. It's easier to get a

gun than it is to get mental health care in this country and there is something fundamentally wrong with that, she said.

She called on people to scrutinize candidates for public office to ensure candidates are not beholden to the National Rifle Association.

President Graupera adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

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John E. Graupera, President

Attest:

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Bernard W. Harris Jr., City Clerk