

STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL –JUNE 28, 2011

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A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 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 June 14, 2011 by a 6-1 vote with Mr. Morales abstaining. He was absent from the June 14th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Dwayne London, Dave Kinsey, William S. White, Darlene Byrd, Cobbie Burns, Louis Butcher, Willie Morant, spoke to Council about their objection to the recycling bins the City is planning to place at the former National Guard facility when the Public Works move into the site. Their concerns covered high traffic, safety and their objections to putting the bins in that part of the City where their neighborhoods are.

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

1. Betty Riley proposes construction of a new front deck or stoop to provide handicap access at 618 First Street.

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

Administration Bill No. 6-2011, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER CHAPTER 198 – NOISE, SECTION 198-6 – EXEMPTIONS, BY DELETING SUBPART C (AN EXEMPTION FOR BAND CONCERTS AND BLOCK PARTIES) AND MODIFYING SECTION 198-7 – VARIANCES AND NOISE CONTROL BOARD, APPLICATION AND FEE, SUBPART B SPECIAL VARIANCES TO ALLOW FOR VARIANCES TO BE ISSUED FOR CONCERTS, BLOCK PARTIES, AND SIMILAR EVENTS; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY OF THE ORDINANCE; AND PROVIDING THAT THE ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT AS PROVIDED BY PENNSYLVANIA LAW.

Councilman Polite made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Collier seconded.

Darlene Byrd, South Ann Street, questioned the Noise Control Board as the Zoning Hearing Board and Mayor Gray stated that the Administration is reviewing the Noise Ordinance and it will be coming back to Council before the end of the year. They are looking at it thoroughly and hoping to be able to change it so it is easier to understand and work with, possibly setting up a Noise Control Board separately.

Jack Tracy, Hamilton Street, questioned why permits are being given out to bands without the neighborhood being notified. He also questioned why permits are given for people to use the park at the exclusion of the neighborhood children. He hopes that Council will look over the noise permits and consider the neighborhood and the parking problems that these permits are creating.

Mike Geesey, owner of Marion Courtroom, Marion Street, addressed City Council of his concerns and made some suggestions to improve the ordinance.

City Council approved Administration Bill No. 6-2011 by a unanimous roll call vote and shall hereinafter be known as Administration Ordinance No. 6-2011.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Randolph Carney, Sherman Street, suggested using the current City Garage for the recycling bins. Pastor Brown, South Ann Area, spoke against the placing of the recycling bins in the new City facility. Brian Frailey, owner of Dogstar Books on W. Chestnut and Pine Street stated that he is moving his bookstore to the old Fillings building on Lemon Street and he has discovered that the permit fees are much higher than when he worked on the building that houses his bookstore now. He thinks it is unfair that he must pay the same amount of fees that someone that has a much bigger project. President Williams asked him to speak to Ms. Brogan the Mayor's Chief of Staff. He further stated that the mosquitoes are very bad in his neighborhood and asked if something can be done about that.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR – Mayor Gray gave his report to City Council and it can be read in its entirety on the City's website. www.cityoflancasterpa.com

COUNCIL COMMENT- Councilman Morales cited a study that was done back in 1987 on this idea of environmental racism: the idea that folks in low-income areas of this country lived in places that were chosen as locations for toxic waste dumps and other chemical disposal. He doesn't think this situation rises to that extreme, but he urged the Administration to try to find another spot for the recycling bins if at all possible.

Councilman Polite stated that he agrees with the neighbors that came here tonight and he asked the Administration to further look into finding another spot for the bins.

Councilman Smith stated that he concurred with the other councilmen and thought it was at least possible for the Administration to find another place for the containers.

Councilman Urdaneta stated that he believes neighbors should be listened to and whether that means taking the recycling containers out or explaining better to the neighborhood the impact to the neighborhood and coming to a sense of agreement as to what should happen to that location. Regarding some of the comments, he doesn't think that there is a single area in the City where someone can say that there is not something in their neighborhood that they wish was not there. He cautioned against thinking that it was decided to put the bins there, because no one cares about that part of the City. Before he moved into the city he lived on North President Ave. which is a stone's throw away from Waste Management and that is not a low-income neighborhood.

President Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Louise B. Williams, President

Attest:

City Clerk