

STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL – MARCH 27, 2007

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A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, in Council Chambers, Southern Market Center, 100 South Queen Street, Lancaster, PA, at 7:30 p.m., with President Dickson presiding.

Present – Mr. Graupera, Mr. Polite, Mr. Roschel, Ms. Saunders
Mr. Urdaneta, & President Dickson - 6

Excused - Ms. Williams -1

City Council approved the minutes of March 13, 2007 by a unanimous roll call vote.

READING OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS & MEMORIALS - Chief of Fire, Tim Gregg and Mayor Gray honored Lt. Kenneth Wright and Firefighter Leander Toney with commendations, for the rescue of two adults and a child from a burning home on September 5, 2006. Battalion Chief Brian Klugh assisted in the citations.

Fire Chief Gregg also announced the promotion of four lieutenants, Lt. Sanchez, Lt. Pugliese, Lt. Hamrick, & Lt.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Mr. Robert Lowing, Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness, read a letter on behalf of his organization commending the City Council for introducing and approving Council Resolution No. 6-2007, urging the rejection of all immigration reform efforts that criminalize individuals because of their immigration status.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Chairwoman Saunders stated that the Committee will meet on Monday, April 2, 1007 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss a resolution authorizing a real estate tax exoneration for properties in SACA's Home Ownership Choice Program. We are also going to have a quarterly budget meeting on Tuesday, April 17.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE - Chairman Roschel stated that the Committee will meet on April 2, 2007 to discuss a resolution regarding adopting the LIMC Multi-municipal Comprehensive Plan. He attended the recent Lancaster City Planning Commission meeting as well as the Lancaster County Planning Commission meeting. Both bodies unanimously endorsed this resolution. We will have a public hearing on that on April 10, 2007.

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

1. LSC Properties LP, proposes to demolish a warehouse building at 1060 North Charlotte Street to allow for creation of a pedestrian courtyard and surface parking between two older existing buildings.

Councilman Roschel made the motion to approve and Councilman Urdaneta seconded. City Council approved the application by a unanimous roll call vote.

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Administration Bill No. 5-2007, (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 228 – PUBLIC MARKETS, BY AMENDING SECTION 228-2 – CENTRAL MARKET HOUSE REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE THAT THE CENTRAL MARKET TRUST SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LETTING OF STANDS IN THE MARKET HOUSE, TO AUTHORIZE THE CENTRAL MARKET TRUST TO ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CENTRAL MARKET HOUSE, ADOPTING A SERIES OF REGULATIONS REGARDING THE OPERATION OF THE CENTRAL MARKET HOUSE, BY REPEALING SECTION 228-3 – OTHER RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND BY AMENDING SECTION 228-4 REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS BY LESSEES OR AN ASSOCIATION OF LESSEES; REPEALING ANY AND ALL REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE OPERATION OF THE CENTRAL MARKET HOUSE PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND/OR CITY COUNCIL; 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 Roschel made the motion to approve and Councilman Urdaneta seconded. Councilman Graupera stated that this new ordinance turns over just about all control to the Central Market Trust. The new ordinance turns existing leases over to the Trust and the Central Market Standholders Association has the right to make recommendations concerning the maintenance and capital improvements to the market building, as well as suggestions for operations and promotions to the market.

City Council approved Administration Bill No. 5-2007 by a unanimous roll call vote and shall hereinafter be known as Administration Ordinance No. 7-2007.

Administration Bill No. 6-2007, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA APPROVING THE SIX-YEAR LANCASTER DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT DISTRICT AUTHORITY PLAN; 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 Urdaneta made the motion to approve and Councilman Graupera seconded. Councilman Urdaneta stated that this extends the DID for another 6 years. We now know that we will have some very positive changes also happening in the DID in the near future.

Randy Patterson, Director of Economic Development, stated that the process provides the opportunity for property owners within the Downtown Improvement District to object to the plan or not object to the plan. They did go through two voting processes. Through that first voting process, there were only three property owners, which is less than one half of one percent of the total property owners that objected. During the second process, there were no objections.

City Council approved Administration Bill No. 6-2007 by a unanimous roll call vote and it shall hereinafter be known as Administration Ordinance No. 8-2007.

Administration Resolution No. 15-2007, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT THE 2007 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN (YEAR TWO OF THE CITY'S FIVE-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN) TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD). THE SUBMISSION INCLUDES THE PROJECTED USE OF FUNDS FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM AND THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM FOR THE 2007 PROGRAM YEAR.

Councilman Roschel made the motion to approve and Councilman Urdaneta seconded. Councilman Roschel stated that Randy Patterson, Director of Economic Development & Neighborhood Revitalization, explained that his department has requested and was granted approval to change the program year for the CDBG and HOME Programs. The change will go from July to June program year to January to December year. Funding previously marked for the period from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 will not be affected. Our program year is now Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. By changing the program year to match the calendar year, the City is not in a position to go through a competitive process. Instead the remainder of the 2007 federal HUD resources will be used for ongoing CDBG and HOME funded housing, public improvements and public safety activities as outlined in the annual action plan. The 2008 program will return to the application and review process. The change will align the two grant programs with the County's Program year and the City's fiscal year. This will allow for a possible joint agreement with the County to administer a CDBG and HOME program that is Countywide in its scope. Other steps need to be taken before a joint program can occur, but if there is a future joint agreement, the City would not lose its ability to direct funds to the priorities that we deem appropriate. We could, in fact, increase the amount of available grant dollars and eliminate some of the administrative burden on City staff. The Action Plan for 2007 is: CDBG \$1,845,221, and the HOME funding part is \$623,021.

City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 15-2007 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Council Resolution No. 16-2007, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER DESIGNATING MARCH 2007 AS “WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH” IN THE CITY OF LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA.

Councilwoman Saunders made the motion to approve and Councilman Urdaneta seconded.

Councilwoman Saunders stated that this year's Women's History Month marks the 50th anniversary of the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas and the 30th anniversary of the first National Women's Conference. This is also the 20th anniversary of the recognition of the month of March as National Women's History Month. National Women's History Month has become an important vehicle to recognize women as a force in history. Women's work and accomplishments need to be recognized everyday along with men's work and accomplishments. Women can and do change the course of history for everyone and until such recognition becomes a reality, establishing Women's History Month to honor and celebrate women is essential. Women make up the majority of voters; the majority of those entering medical school this year, 15% of the armed forces and 61% of the master's degrees awarded this year. However, women, this year, still earned 77 cents to the dollar of their male counterparts in equivalent positions. She urged in celebration of Women's History Month, to take the time to honor a woman that you know makes a contribution in home, in the work place, in the community or in the military and commit yourself by fighting for a more just and prosperous world for women.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Kathleen Harrison, Columbia Avenue, asked the City to consider renting space for City Offices while City Hall is being renovated, referring to the proposal by the Administration to move City Hall or renovate.

Cassius Gantz, High Street, stated that he is surrounded by renters and he has had problems with harassment. He complained about slow response by the police when he calls them about vandalism to his property.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR - Mayor Gray gave his report to City Council and it can be viewed on the City of Lancaster's website.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL - President Dickson stated that the Council held an executive session to discuss the purchase of Real Estate. She further stated that on March 21, Councilmembers were invited to hear Governor Rendell's Transportation Plan. He is travelling throughout the state to explain his plan and enlist support for it. He was here at Southern Market. He stressed the urgency of taking action to find funding to fix the highways, bridges and mass transit in the state. The price tag comes to billions of dollars. According to the Governor about 8500 miles of state roads are in poor condition and almost 6000 bridges (163 of

them in Lancaster County) have structural deficiencies. Mass transit systems, like Red Rose, have been forced to increase fares and cut hours of operation. He presented three possible plans which involved tax increase to individuals and the plan he is promoting which taxes the oil companies profits and leases the turnpike to private companies. He addressed the question that many had, "But won't they just pass that on to the consumer, if you increase their taxes?" He stated that the law can be written so the Attorney's Office would have investigative powers that would make it illegal for them to pass it on to consumers and that there are models for this in other states. In regards to leasing the turnpike, it seems likely that that will be part of any plan and he stressed that part of the lease agreement would have the state maintaining control of fees. In her opinion, the other alternatives which included increasing license and registration fees, increasing realty transfer taxes and increasing sales tax and tolls on interstates, and especially, requiring local government contributions, are less desirable as they directly impact the taxpayer. She encouraged everyone to keep informed about this plan and, which ever proposal you support, that you will agree with the Governor, who has emphasized that "Doing nothing is not an option."

COUNCIL COMMENTS - Councilwoman Saunders stated that on St. Patrick's Day she went to the Dutchland Rollers Slam Rock Roller Derby at the Overlook Community Center. It's all female roller derby competition and it was a lot of fun. There were literally hundreds of people who paid over \$12.00 a ticket to see them. Many of them were the young and creative class that we are needing to attract in the City and she thinks we are missing out on an opportunity to have both the Dutchland Rollers and their audience coming into the City. At the Overlook Community Center there is nothing right nearby to go to, and a lot of people just leave afterwards, whereas if it was hosted in the City, they might go out to eat or a bar. She talked to the organizer of the Dutchland Rollers and she said that their contract with Overlook is up this fall, so if anyone has ideas of where we might be able to host them in the City, let her know. Councilman Polite suggested the Clipper Stadium.

Councilman Urdaneta thanked Mr. Lowing, and the Board members of the Lancaster Inter-Church Peace Witness for their letter of commendation regarding the resolution on immigration. This was the purpose that Councilman Graupera and he set forth when they proposed this resolution. He welcomes their offer for assistance and hopes that the Administration does the same, with the encouragement that this is an opportunity to take advantage of the tools and resources that we have within our community to solve the problems that our community faces.

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

Julianne Dickson, President

Attest:

City Clerk