

STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL – JUNE 28, 2005

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A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, June 28, 2005, in Council Chambers, Southern Market Center, 100 South Queen Street, Lancaster, Pa., at 7:30 p.m., with President Diamantoni presiding.

City Council led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present – Ms. Dickson, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Graupera, Mr. Mendoza,
Mr. Polite, Mr. Stoltzfus, President Diamantoni – 7

City Council approved the minutes of May 10, 2005, May 24, 2005 & June 14, 2005 by a unanimous roll call vote.

READING OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS & MEMORIALS – The City Clerk read two Proclamations of the Mayor. The first was to commemorate Firefighter Appreciation Days August 1-31, 2005.

The second was to commemorate Sweet Adelines International Week, July 11-18, 2005 and Sweet Adelines International Day, July 13, 2005 in the City of Lancaster.

The Lancaster Red Rose City Chorus, Sweet Adelines, were in attendance and sang three songs for City Council and the audience.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Chairman Duncan stated that we met this evening and started talking about the Entertainment District parking. We found that there are several things to be addressed a little further on this, things like the fines, the signs enforcement and also the fact that it goes from here to Traffic Commission. The earliest the Commission can hear it would be September, so we decided to send it back to the City Solicitor, Police Department, the Neighbors and City Council and have something ready for the September Traffic Commission meeting. A few weeks ago he met with the Fire Department and we discussed the fact that I would be bringing you some updates to highlight some things that have happened every month within the Fire Department. The first set from the Chief has highlighted things like child car safety seat checks, high rise training for personnel, the rescue of several ducklings from a storm sewer, a two alarm fire in the 300 block of East King Street, and a general alarm fire that destroyed 4 homes on Fairview Avenue.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chairman Stoltzfus stated the Committee met two times concerning Resolution No. 36-2005.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Chairman Polite made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Ben Gorman to the Lancaster City Parking Authority and Ms. Amy Fields to the Lancaster Redevelopment Authority. Councilman Mendoza seconded. City Council approved the re-

appointments by a unanimous roll call vote.

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

1. Lancaster Museum of Art to install a wooden structure for use as a parking attendant booth at 201& 211 North Queen Street.
2. Molly's Operating Corp. to expand the existing rear kitchen wing at 253 East Chestnut Street.
3. Liberty Property Holdings, L.P. proposes demolition of portions of three industrial structures (Buildings 151, 151½ & 150A) at 1000 Block of North Charlotte Street.
4. Richard and Judith Berg, to demolish a screened side porch and construct a one-story addition at 936 Marietta Avenue.
5. SACA Development Corporation to modify a previously approved design for new townhouses by substituting materials in the 500 block of South Plum Street.

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

Administration Bill No. 16-2005, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, CHAPTER 121, CURFEW; SECTION 121-9 PENALTIES, AMENDING THE FINES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

Councilman Duncan made the motion to approve and Councilman Mendoza seconded. City Council approved Administration Bill No. 16-2005 by a unanimous roll call vote and it will hereinafter be known as Administration Ordinance No. 13-2005.

Administration Resolution No. 36-2005, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF A LEASE FOR CERTAIN REAL ESTATE LOCATED IN LANCASTER CITY, LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AT 37-41 NORTH MARKET STREET, BETWEEN

THE HERITAGE CENTER OF LANCASTER COUNTY AND THE CITY OF LANCASTER, TO PROVIDE A 6 MONTH PERIOD FROM THE DATE OF THIS RESOLUTION TO EXERCISE THE PURCHASE OPTION GRANTED IN THE LEASE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS AND AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE TO CONVEY THE REAL ESTATE TO THE HERITAGE CENTER OF LANCASTER COUNTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE AMENDED PURCHASE OPTION.

Councilman Polite made the motion to approve and Councilman Mendoza seconded.

Councilman Stoltzfus stated that the Trust Building was taken off the market by the City several years ago and the Heritage of Lancaster County put its quilt museum there. There was an option to purchase and this amendment to the Lease Agreement gives a 6 month window for the option to purchase. There are three appraisals, two appraisals by the Heritage Center and one by the City that has been worked out by lawyers in detail. The low appraisal, if it comes below \$600,000, the City has the option not to sell and if the appraisal goes over \$750,000 the Heritage Center has the option not to buy.

Mr. Peter Siebert, Director of the Heritage Center, thanked City Council for considering this and for putting the Center in the position to be here this evening in terms of making this lease available to us a year and a half ago. We were lucky enough to receive \$1 million from the Governor out of the latest release of funding and we looked at a lot of properties and we felt that we have a wonderful place where Central Market sits between this and our existing museum. It is a building that we want to keep and we want to continue to grow and to expand and to offer services and to utilize these funds to make a permanent part of the Heritage Centers Organization.

Council President stated that he is thrilled that the Quilt Museum occupies the Trust Building. It would be hard to find a more perfect place to display the world's finest collection of Amish Quilts than that venue. Having said that, he was involved in the initial vote when the City chose to buy the building. One of the reasons we chose to buy it, was to protect it. We wanted to make sure that the façade of the building was protected, we appreciated the intricacies of the magnificent ceiling and we wanted to make sure that that building was put to good public use. He is enthusiastic about the Quilt Museum to continue to operate there. The only concern he has is that that building continues to be utilized for that public purpose. He would not consider selling it at the appraised cost unless he knew for sure that a project like the quilt museum would continue and that that building would continue to be available for public use. He asked for the record before he agrees that that is the direction that the Museum is going to go. There is no chance that a year or two years from now the building will sell for far more in order to relocate the quilts.

Mr. Siebert stated that the key thing that Mr. Diamantoni said is “the building that we hold” because it is a collective hold and the institution recognizes that. In 1974, your predecessors on Council actually almost did the same thing with the building that is now 1- through 21 West King Street, which is our main museum and we held that and have no intention to considering disposing of that. The Quilt and Textile Museum is equally an important part of who we are and we have spent a half million dollars to be open. We couldn’t conceive of blowing that kind of investment either. The Governor’s money is committed to Lancaster Quilt and Textile Museum and when he signs the contract with the Governor, it is for that space and that is the commitment that the administration will hold him to. We very much want to see that building stay as the Museum.

City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 36-2005 by a unanimous roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ken Hartzell, Union Street, would like to know why the Housing Authority does not have the authority to fine someone who does not mow yards, trim weeds, or anything else. The Mayor asked for the address and he will get on it. April Koppenhaver, Mulberry Arts Studios, asked about the parking permits that her business is allowed. She has several businesses in her buildings and the owners are denied permits. Mr. Duncan will stop by and see her about the issue. Gary Fickes, Chairman of the Law Enforcement Community Policing Sub-committee of the Federal Weed and Seed initiative and behalf of his committee he said thank you for passing the Curfew amendment. Mark Herbert, 224 West Liberty Street, spoke about Bill 17-2005, but he would like Council to be aware that there are about 30 vehicles that live on that street there where the parking is for the Baseball Stadium. We have 23 spaces available to us and it is difficult to park on the street, when we can’t park on the lot when there is entertainment going on. He asked for permit parking for the 100 block and the 200 block. President Diamantoni asked Mr. Herbert to come to the Committee meetings that will be held and also come to the City Council meetings when it is discussed.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR – June 15th he went to the Brightside Opportunity Center for legacy breakfast and he noted for the record that Russ Howell and Ted Darcus were both honored along with 4 other people. That evening was a Flag Day Ceremony at Clipper Magazine Stadium. He commended the East King Street Improvement District and all the neighbors for the Lion rededication ceremony in that park on June 18th.

COUNCIL COMMENT – Councilman Mendoza stated that there was an article in the paper related with the Mayor and Cable services. Again, the Mayor and his campaign manager misled an entire community by indicating that the person pressing charges against him was Mr. Mendoza’s campaign manager and it was not.

President Diamantoni adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Stephen G. Diamantoni, President

Attest:

City Clerk