

STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL –SEPTEMBER 24, 2002

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A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2002, 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 – Mr. Duncan, Mr. Mendoza, Mr. Polite,  
Mr. Stoltzfus, President Diamantoni – 5

Absent – Mr. Graupera, Ms Dickson – 2

Ms. Dickson arrived during the meeting, but after votes were taken under new business.

Minutes for August 27, 2002 were approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

READING OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS & MEMORIALS – The City Clerk read a proclamation of the Mayor honoring the Shelter for Abused Women celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the City of Lancaster. The Clerk further read a letter of commendation from the Lancaster County Commissioners honoring the Shelter for Abused Women. Representative Sturla read a citation of commendation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Ms. Bonnie Glover of the Shelter accepted the commendations on behalf of the residents and staff of the Lancaster Shelter for Abused Women.

Dr. Charles Stewart accepted the commendations on behalf of the volunteers to express their appreciation to the City, County and the State for their support.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Chairman Mendoza stated that the Committee met on the 18<sup>th</sup> after the Finance Committee meeting. The City Clerk read the minutes from that meeting which dealt with amending the noise ordinance by increasing the fines for violations of the ordinance. The future of the Fire Bureau headquarters was addressed.

Councilman Mendoza stated that the Traffic Commission minutes that were revised and updated, he stated that he would like to talk to the Mayor about why they were not taken back to the Traffic Commission which is the process that we discussed before. He stated that he would be setting up a meeting to discuss the College Avenue angle parking proposal. He hopes that by that time he will have an answer from the City Solicitor about whether the City could use the Constables to help with law enforcement.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Chairman Duncan stated that the Committee met last week and discussed three items. He went through a list of questions that came about from the audit report and he felt they were satisfactorily addressed. Also discussed was a resolution on the agenda tonight regarding an application of a Redevelopment Capital

Grant in the amount of \$15,000,000 for the construction of a Convention Center. We will also be considering a resolution to engage a financial consultant to help us investigate the financial needs, particularly how we will finance the Police Station. We held a meeting this evening where Mr. Mark Lundquest, the financial consultant met with Council and gave us a report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Chairman Polite read letters that the City Clerk drafted to the selected members of the Human Relations Commission and the Board of Directors of the Human Relations.

Considered the following applications and (Historical Commission recommendation(s) for construction & demolition within the heritage Conservation District.

1. Susquehanna Association for the Blind and Vision Impaired, to revise the previously approved application to construct a three-story addition to the existing building at 244 North Queen Street.

Councilman Duncan made the motion to approve and Councilman Mendoza seconded. City Council approved the recommendation of the Historical Commission by a unanimous roll call vote.

Considered the following applications & (HARB recommendation(s) for improvements to properties within the Historic District.

1. Garden Spot Leasing Corporation to install an exterior sign at 216 North Mulberry Street.

2. Patricia Ulmer to install an exterior sign at 5 North Duke Street.

3. David DiSavino & Cynthia Haynes, to install three (3) one-light storm windows with screens on three (3) second-floor windows at 441 West Chestnut Street.

4. Lime Street Studios, to install three (3) carved wooden signs at 44 North lime Street.

5. Church of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to install sign, 3'x5' in size, at front porch on Queen Street side, and to install sign 3'x5' in size over Howard Avenue doorway, at 321-323 South Queen Street.

6. Nancy W. Morris, to erect a six (6) foot privacy fence to surround the patio and flower beds, to include a gate for exterior access to the area at 434 Chestnut Street.

7. Joseph Battaglia, to install 30"x30" asphalt, two-car parking pad at rear, from existing fence line to East Grant Street at 342 East Orange Street, rear.

8. Heritage Center of Lancaster County, to revise previously approved design for heating, ventilating, air-conditioning (HVAC) enclosure/screen at 3 West King Street, rear.

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

City Council approved the recommendations of the Historical Architectural Review Board by a unanimous roll call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 46-2002, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE RETENTION OF FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS, INC. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH FINANCING FOR THE NEW POLICE STATION.**

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

Councilman Duncan stated that this engages us with Mr. Mark Lundquest to investigate our options on how to finance the remaining portions of the new Police Station. We will be looking at a total bond issuance, combination bond issuance and taking a portions of the \$10,000,000 from the sale of the sewer capacity fund. He will give us advice on how the numbers play out in the long run. Carol Roland, Chief Financial Officer stated that in addition to the tasks that Councilman Duncan mentioned, if the City ultimately decides to issue debt, this advisor would be instrumental in preparing the documents required to float that debt, working with bankers, bond counsel, bond insurers, etc.

Council approved Administration Resolution No. 46-2002 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 52-2002, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION FOR A REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15 MILLION TO THE OFFICE OF THE BUDGET OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING A CONVENTION CENTER IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF LANCASTER.**

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

Councilman Duncan stated that this is asking the State to release the \$15,000,000 for the new Lancaster County Convention Center. This needs to be done through the City and the County in order to receive these funds.

City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 52-2002 by a unanimous roll

call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Pat Coller, 334 West Orange Street, inquired about the pedestrian signal that has been out on the corner of Prince and Orange Street. The intersection is dangerous for the pedestrians. The Mayor stated that it might take several months.

Barry Winterstein, 437 West James Street, discussed the recent article in the newspaper, which cited an article by an organization that rates cities that are on the rise or those that are beyond the point of no return. In that particular article, there were two or three measurements that this city meets. Mr. Polite brought out the fact that there are a lot of homeless people and support agencies in the City. He sees where the Water Street Rescue Mission wants to expand their facilities. This is a tax burden on the City and a tax burden on the School District and no one else in the County will except these people and it is not fair. The article also referred to population of poor people in the City.

Mr. Winterstein further asked if the expansion of the Water Street Rescue Mission would come before Council before final plans are made. President Diamantoni stated that he is sure it will.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR - Mayor Smithgall stated that he was interviewed by the Associated Press on the article and he said that one of the criteria that got us on the list is that we lost population, but according to the census, we gained population, so he thinks we are probably on the way to recovery. But we have a lot of homeless shelters, low income housing and everything else and it is something that must be looked at on a comprehensive plan, which is coming up for review.

He distributed a brochure of nuisance abatement that has been made up about problem bars and other bothersome issues in the City.

He reported on the activities that occurred on September 11, 2002. On Thursday, the 12<sup>th</sup> there was a breakfast meeting at the North Museum, for an advisory group for where the North Museum is heading in the future. An evening meeting at Rodney Park with the Crystal Street neighbors. On Friday September 13<sup>th</sup> there was a meeting at Bethel AME for the Inter-racism task force. He went to Harrisburg for the Hispanic Heritage Month kickoff. On the 16<sup>th</sup> we swore in a new police cadet. On the 19<sup>th</sup> there was a Convention Center design meeting. On the 20<sup>th</sup> he went to Washington DC to meet with Sen. Santorum, Specter and members of Rep. Pitts office to see if we could get money for the membrane filtration upgrade. On Monday, there was an evaluation meeting of Weed 'n' Seed. The Pennsylvania Chamber Dinner was last night at Hershey. Today at the Fulton Bank the DID goals were discussed and the downtown goals for the future. There was a Crime Commission hearing here at Southern Market. There was a Crime Stoppers award presentation at Andy's Catering honoring the Kiwanis Club, from the DCED. The Crime Stoppers gave an award to honor the Lancaster Newspapers for helping with the promotion. Since the Lancaster Newspapers have come on board, the amount of Crime Stopper calls are up 4 times what they were before. There was over \$16,000 given out as rewards for

information which does help to solve crimes. Kiwanis Club has been doing this project for 15 years.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT – Council President Diamantoni stated that he was offended by the report cited by Mr. Winterstein tonight and he wanted to say that he finds no evidence of their findings in the City.

COUNCIL COMMENTS – Councilman Mendoza stated that today at this meeting the Traffic Commission minutes that were read at the last meeting would be approved. There was a change that he requested to Traffic Commission minutes last year and he was told that they had to be changed by the Traffic Commission. He asked why the minutes from this last meeting were changed without going back to the Traffic Commission.

In the Traffic Commission meeting he requested a copy of the Traffic Study that was done on Hershey Avenue and he has not received that study and it is not in these minutes. He asked why he had not received them.

President Diamantoni adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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Stephen G. Diamantoni, President

Attest:

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City Clerk