

STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL – DECEMBER 20, 2016

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, December 20, 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, Ms. Sorace, Mr. Soto, Ms. Williams and Ms. Wilson and President Graupera – 6

Excused – Mr. Roschel - 1

The minutes of the meeting of Council for December 13, 2016 were approved by a roll-call vote. Mr. Soto abstained.

INTERIM REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Ms. Wilson made a motion to reappoint Thomas Baldrige and John Reed to the City Revitalization and Improvement Zone Authority board, and Cindia Gottshall to the Lancaster Industrial Development Authority board. Mr. Reichenbach seconded the motion.

Mayor Gray said that he and state Senator-elect Martin concur with the reappointments to the CRIZ Authority.

Mr. Reichenbach attested that Mr. Baldrige and Mr. Reed have made significant contributions to the CRIZ Authority board. They have brought financial and administrative expertise to the board. Mr. Reichenbach said he supports their reappointment.

Council members approved the motion to reappoint Mr. Baldrige, Mr. Reed and Ms. Gottshall by a unanimous roll-call vote.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – Ms. Sorace, reporting on Mr. Roschel's behalf, said the committee had met earlier in the evening to review Administration Resolution No. 56-2016. The resolutions approves the application for a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant for \$1,764,850 from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The grant will be used to partially fund construction of a tunnel under Walnut Street to be used by pedestrians and bicyclists. The tunnel will connect sections of the planned Northeast Trail. Grant funds will also be used to construct sidewalks along Ranck Avenue. The sidewalk will improve the safety of children walking to the McCaskey campus.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Ms. Williams said her committee met earlier in the evening to review Administration Resolution No. 55-2016, which approves the conditional appointment of three firefighters.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Administration Bill No. 15-2016, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

An ordinance of the Council of the City of Lancaster, County of Lancaster, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, appropriating the specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the City government, hereinafter set forth during the year 2017; allowing for a severance provision; providing for the repeal of inconsistent ordinances; and providing for an effective date.

Ms. Sorace made a motion to approve the ordinance. Mr. Reichenbach seconded the motion.

Ms. Sorace introduced three amendments to the proposed General Fund budget:

1. Tax Revenues: Earned Income Tax, increase of \$40,000, from \$5.8 million in the anticipated tax revenue of the proposed 2017 budget to \$5.84 million in the 2017 amended budget.
2. General Fund Expenses: City Clerk, increase of \$10,000, from \$10,000 in the Ordinance Codification line item of the proposed 2017 budget to \$20,000 in the 2017 amended budget.
3. General Fund Expenses: Administrative Services – Community Involvement, increase of \$30,000, from \$120,000 in the LEMSA Contribution line item of the proposed 2017 budget to \$150,000 in the 2017 amended budget.

Ms. Sorace noted the spending increases are possible with an increase in the anticipated earned income tax revenue for 2017.

Further, she introduced an amendment to the Water Fund budget:

1. Water Fund Expenses: Susquehanna Treatment Plant Expense, increase of \$39,046, from \$2,974,458 in the vehicles line item in the proposed 2017 budget to \$3,013,633 in the 2017 amended budget.

Mayor Gray stated that based on the discussion at the December 10 budget meeting, the increase in the LEMSA contribution is conditioned on LEMSA allowing a City representative on the LEMSA board. Further, the mayor said his understanding is that he is authorized to negotiate on that point on behalf of the City, releasing the funds to LEMSA if successful and reporting back to Council.

Ms. Sorace concurred with the mayor's recollection.

City Council approved the motion to amend the budget by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Sorace stated that the proposed 2017 budget was presented to Council on November 22. That was followed by budget hearing on Saturday, December 10, in which directors of each of the five departments presented their accomplishments of the past year, their priorities for the coming year and any significant changes to their budgets. Those discussions lead to this evening's vote.

This total \$103,413,774 budget represents the General Fund and four enterprise funds. It includes a real estate tax increase of approximately \$32 for the owner of the average home. That is a 3 percent increase, taking the millage rate from 14.02 mills to 14.44 mills. That increase will generate about \$780,000 in revenue for the City. The justification for the increase is rising pension costs. In 2017, pension costs will increase \$620,000. Expenses have increased 1.1 percent over this year's amended budget and it is below the average of 2.1 percent increase over the last decade. City expenses have been relatively flat.

The budget also includes a proposed sewer rate increase of \$6.60 per quarter for the average sewer customer within the City. The increase will help fund improvements to the old system.

She noted that the City becoming self-insured for medical costs has saved \$2.2 million. Refinancing debt at lower interest rates has saved the City \$11 million.

By passage of the budget, City Council is accepting that these projections of expenses and income are reasonable, but also commits to deliver a certain level of service for its residents. She described the budget as "holding steady." It maintains the level of services which residents have come to expect. It does not include additional costs or programs. Ms. Sorace said that doing so is frustrating, because just holding steady comes at additional cost. She said increased costs for taxpayers is taken very seriously.

City Council approved Administration Bill No. 15-2016 by a unanimous roll-call vote. It will hereafter be known as Administrative Ordinance No. 16-2016.

Administration Bill No. 16-2016, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

An ordinance amending the Code of the City of Lancaster, Chapter 270 – Taxation, Article IV – Property and Residence Tax, Section 270-26 – Levy and Rate, by fixing the tax rate at 14.44 mills on property in the City of Lancaster for general revenue purposes; allowing for a severance provision; providing for the repeal of inconsistent ordinances; and providing for an effective date.

Mr. Reichenbach made a motion to approve the ordinance. Ms. Sorace seconded the motion.

Ms. Sorace said this bill sets forth the proposed millage rate for the collection of taxes for 2017.

City Council approved Administration Bill No. 16-2016 by a unanimous roll-call vote. It will hereafter be known as Administrative Ordinance No. 17-2016.

Administration Bill No. 17-2016, (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 Section 249-27 of the Code of the City of Lancaster to change quarter annual sewer rentals for customers within the City limits; providing for the repeal

of inconsistent ordinances; providing for the severability of the ordinance; and providing that the ordinance shall take effect on the first day of January 2017.

Ms. Sorace made a motion to approve the ordinance. Mr. Soto seconded the motion.

Ms. Sorace said this proposal will increase sewer rates by \$6.60 per quarter for the average residential customer within City limits. The additional revenue will allow the City to continue making investments in the City's infrastructure.

Responding to a question from Ms. Wilson, Ms. Sorace said sewer rates are currently \$66.09 annually. That would increase to \$72.70 for the average customer who uses 12,000 gallons of sewer annually. Further, Ms. Sorace noted those rates are significantly lower than other sewer charges in the county.

City Council approved Administration Bill No. 17-2016 by a unanimous roll-call vote. It will hereafter be known as Administrative Ordinance No. 18-2016.

Administration Bill No. 18-2016, (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 Chapter 285 of the Code of the City of Lancaster – Vehicles and Traffic, Section 285-6 to increase the fine for violating parking signs on specified streets around the Central Market to \$100.00, changing the title of Article V of Chapter 285 of the Code of the City of Lancaster to Residential and General Market District Parking Permits, amending Article V of Chapter 285 of the Code of the City of Lancaster to add Section 285-51 for the establishment of market district parking permits, creating two permits for that area known as a General Market District Parking Permit and a Market Vendor Permit, designating when parking will be allowed on North Market Street from West King Street to West Grant Street, West Grant Street east of North Market Street, William Henry Place and Penn Way; 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.

Ms. Sorace made a motion to table the ordinance until Council's January 24 meeting. Mr. Reichenbach seconded the motion.

Ms. Sorace said there were still some issues that need to be resolved, which were brought forth in a previous Council meeting.

City Council approved the motion to table the bill until January 24 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Resolution No. 55-2016, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A resolution of the Council of the City of Lancaster authorizing the conditional appointment of Alec Fassnacht, Michael Zalewski and Austin Peters as firefighters with the Bureau of Fire of the City of Lancaster.

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

Ms. Williams said the resolution authorizes the conditional appointment of Alec Fassnacht, Michael Zalewski and Austin Peters as firefighters. They will remain conditional appointments until successful completion of the Fire Training Academy.

Fire Chief Tim Gregg said the hirings follow the retirements of three veteran firefighters. The three were selected from a group of six. They must still undergo screening before beginning the 14-week training academy next month. He expressed confidence they will successfully complete the training.

City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 55-2016 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Council Resolution No. 56-2016, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A resolution of the Council of the City of Lancaster requesting a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant of \$1,764,850 from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to be used for non-motorized transportation improvements.

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

Ms. Sorace stated that if the City receives the grant, the funds will be used for the extension of the trail around the McCaskey campus, increased pedestrian safety from the addition of sidewalks and some improvements near the new Public Works Operations Center.

City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 56-2016 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Gray stated that it has been a pleasure working with Council this year. He wished Council members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

President Graupera also stated that he enjoyed working with everyone this year. He wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

President Graupera adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

John E. Graupera, President

Attest:

Bernard W. Harris Jr., City Clerk