

STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL – JANUARY 24, 2017

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 in Council Chambers, 120 North Duke Street, (Rear Annex) Lancaster, PA, at 7:30 p.m., with Vice President Wilson presiding.

The Council led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present – Mr. Reichenbach, Mr. Roschel, Ms. Sorace, Mr. Soto, Ms. Williams and Ms. Wilson – 6

Excused – President Graupera - 1

The minutes of the meeting of Council for January 10, 2017 were unanimously approved by a roll-call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tony Dastra, 113 North Plum Street, said he reviewed the minutes of the October 11, 2016 Council meeting. He noted there was no mention in the minutes of the severely flickering video projector or the power outage which occurred during the meeting. He said those occurrences during the public hearing made the hearing confusing. The intent of the hearing was to inform the public and promote acceptance of decisions made by Council members.

Mr. Dastra asked two questions: was the meeting successfully recorded and whether the power failure extended beyond City Hall.

Were he to have been a member of City Council, he would have felt uncomfortable making a decision about the redevelopment proposal presented for 14, 16 and 18 East King Street, due to the environmental conditions during the meeting. He stated his belief that making a decision with such conditions hampered the transparency of the process.

Vice President Wilson advised Mr. Dastra to submit his questions in writing to City Clerk Bernard Harris in order to receive answers.

REPORTS REQUESTED BY COUNCIL

Sue Suter, president and chief executive officer of the United Way of Lancaster County, and Randy Patterson, chairman of the United Way board of directors, presented information to Council members regarding the work of the United Way on behalf of local residents.

Mr. Patterson spoke of the United Way's process to shift its focus. Previously, the United Way had funded agency programs. With the change, the United Way now focuses on the impact of funded programs. The United Way began exploring this change nearly a decade ago.

The United Way asked for agencies to work collaboratively to address common goals and measure common outcomes. The board requested proposals, and selected 17 of 40 submitted. Collaborative partnerships were formed, which included business partners, to address issues. Funding provided to each collaborative group was allocated by the partners.

The United Way also undertook a strategic planning initiative. The result of that initiative was to set four “bold goals” to be achieved by 2025. Those are:

1. 100 percent of children will enter kindergarten ready to learn.
2. 100 percent of students and adults will have post-secondary credentials.
3. Decrease individuals and families living in poverty by 50 percent.
4. 100 percent of individuals, children and families will have a medical home.

Mr. Patterson said he and United Way board members believe the goals are achievable within 10 years. He cited the initiative to end chronic homelessness that was achieved in 10 years, as an example. Homelessness did not go away, but there are now programs and systems in place to address homelessness. Plans call for having systems and programs in place to address the four “bold goals,” as well.

Mr. Patterson noted that giving to the United Way has increased among City employees during the past two years.

Sue Suter stated that Lancaster is the first County in the United States to end chronic homelessness. That was due to a collaborative partnership created by the United Way 12 years ago. The County was also the first to fully move to the collaborative model.

She said most states in the nation use the 2-1-1 telephone number to connect people in need with social services. Pennsylvania is one of only three or four states not to have 2-1-1 statewide. Because it is not available statewide, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission will not allow 2-1-1 to be publicized. The telephone hotline is now available in about three-quarters of the state. She said organizers are determined to bring the service to the remaining counties by the end of this year and begin using 2-1-1 in Pennsylvania.

She also encouraged Council members to have constituents to use services provided by the United Way, such as the VITA tax service for eligible people.

INTERIM REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Ms. Wilson made a motion to reappoint Willie Morant Sr. and Lagena Wright to the Lancaster City Planning Commission; Kathy Peck, Lori Bishop Murphy and Gary Horning to the Historical Architectural Review Board; and Robert Fields to the Historical Commission. Ms. Williams seconded the motion.

Council members approved the motion to reappoint Mr. Morant, Ms. Wright, Ms. Peck, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Horning and Mr. Fields by a unanimous roll-call vote.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

City Council considered the following applications and recommendations from the Historical Commission for improvements to properties within the Heritage Conservation District:

1. George and Ekaterini Katsaros, owners of 64-66 North Queen Street, propose construction of a new rooftop deck and side balcony, including partial removal of a third-story brick wall.

2. Water Street Mission, owner of 210 South Prince Street, proposes demolition of brick warehouse buildings at the corner of Conestoga and South Water streets, retaining a brick wall section with a 10-to-12 foot height.
(Both applications were recommended for approval by the Historical Commission)

Mr. Reichenbach made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Historical Commission. Mr. Roschel seconded the motion.

Gary Efstration, attorney for George and Ekaterini Katsaros, explained to Council members that the subject property is Yorgo's Restaurant. The restaurant is now on the first floor, with a small meeting room in the basement. This plan would remove the third floor and roof of the section of the building along West Orange Street and create a small roof-top deck for outdoor dining.

Vice President Wilson called for separate votes on the applications.

City Council voted unanimously to accept the Historical Commission recommendation for 64-66 North Queen Street.

City Council then voted unanimously to accept the Historical Commission recommendation for 210 South Prince Street.

Ms. Sorace commented that the warehouse slated for demolition was one of the structures of the original cotton mill in the Water Street Mission complex. She stated that she hates to see buildings torn down, but said this structure was windowless and in poor condition. She praised the Historical Commission for crafting a plan that preserves the brick wall of the warehouse and retains some of the character of the mill, rather than simply approving a surface parking lot on the site.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Administration Bill No. 01-2017, (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.

Vice President Wilson stated no action will be taken on this bill. A new version of the bill is being drafted and is slated for presentation to Council next month.

Administration Bill No. 02-2017, (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 155, Article II, Heritage Conservation District, Section 155-22 Historical Commission Membership providing for the appointment of the Historical Commission, including qualifications of members; providing for the repeal of conflicting 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 approve the ordinance. Mr. Reichenbach seconded the motion.

Mr. Patterson, City Economic Development & Neighborhood Revitalization director, said this ordinance would amend the residency requirements for members serving on the Historical Commission. The amendment would allow residents and property owners within the City's Historic District to serve on the Historical Commission. The Historic District is within the Heritage Conservation District, administered by the Historical Commission. The amendment allows residents and property owners in the City's National Register Historic District to serve on the Historical Commission. The National Register District encompasses both the Historic District and Heritage Conservation District. The change allows residents of the Historic District to serve on the Historical Commission.

City Council approved Administration Bill No. 02-2017 by a unanimous roll-call vote. It will hereafter be known as Administrative Ordinance No. 01-2017.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Sorace invited everyone in attendance to join her the following evening at a fund-raising event at 551 West to benefit the Fulton Elementary School PTO.

Ms. Wilson invited everyone to the opening of the Black History Month historical exhibit in the City Hall Gallery, on Friday, February 3, from 5-8 p.m. The exhibit will showcase the contributions and achievements of African Americans in Lancaster City. The exhibit will be on display through the end of March. Ms. Wilson stated that she hope the exhibit will become an annual event.

Mr. Reichenbach thanked members of the public who gathered in Penn Square the previous Saturday to express their concerns about direction of national leadership. He noted that the event was a peaceful protest involving hundreds of men, women and children. He noted that another such event was being held that evening outside U.S. Rep. Smucker's Lancaster office.

Mr. Reichenbach stated that he believes peaceful protest is fundamental to American democracy and he encourage people to express themselves.

Vice President Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Barbara J. Wilson, Vice President

Attest:

Bernard W. Harris Jr., City Clerk