

## STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL – JULY 14, 2015

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 in Council Chambers, 120 North Duke Street, (Rear Annex) Lancaster, PA, at 7:30 p.m., with Vice President Williams presiding.

The Council led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present – Mr. Reichenbach, Mr. Roschel, Ms. Sorace, Ms. Williams – 4

Excused - Mr. Soto, Ms. Wilson and President Graupera - 3

The minutes of the meeting of Council for June 23, 2015 were approved by a roll-call vote.

### PROCLAMATIONS, HONORS, AWARDS AND RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

Council Resolution 39-2015, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A resolution of the Council of the City of Lancaster recognizing Alcoa and its employees at Alcoa Mill Products for more an a decade of donating trees and labor to plant 280 trees in Lancaster City’s parks, along the City’s streets and in other public places for the beauty of the City and the health of its residents and the environment.**

Councilman Reichenbach made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilwoman Sorace seconded the motion.

Councilman Roschel introduced the resolution. He commented that since 2001, Alcoa and its employees have volunteered to plant trees in the City of Lancaster. Their annual planting of 20 trees has been done in conjunction with the United Way Day of Caring. The resolution is an initiative to thank Alcoa for that effort.

City Council approved Council Resolution 39-2015 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Mr. Carl Pike, chairman of the City Shade Tree Commission, presented the resolution to Mr. Stan Saunders of Alcoa. Mr. Pike took the opportunity to praise the company and its employees for their community involvement. Jim Bower, City arborist, helped with the presentation.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Stephen Walton, 757 High Street, asked for a handicapped parking space to be installed on his block for his use. There are already two handicapped parking spaces designated on his block, but those are at the opposite end of a long block. Two spaces per block are all that is allowed under city ordinance. Council may pass an ordinance to grant an exception to the rule and provide a third or more spaces for a specific block.

Mayor Gray suggested a City Police traffic officer be sent to look at the situation on the block. The officer will see if something can be done to accommodate Mr. Walton. The mayor

said he will report back to Council. Mr. Walton was asked to provide his contact information to the mayor's Chief of Staff Pat Brogan. She will contact him with the police officer's findings.

Mr. Antonio Cruz, 512 S. Shippen Street, told Council members that his block had recently been designated for permit parking. He came to ask the designation to be removed. Although he signed the petition to impose permit parking, Mr. Cruz said he and his neighbors were not aware of the rules governing the program. They have since learned of those rules, which allow only one permitted car per apartment and two per house. Many residents have more cars and the rules are burdensome. Further, he said, people don't have the money to pay the annual permit fee. A second petition was circulated asking for permit parking to be removed, but city ordinance requires a posted area to remain posted for at least six months before changes are made. He asked if there were any exception to the rules.

Mayor Gray, asked Mr. Cruz to provide his contact information to Ms. Brogan. She will advise him when the next Traffic Commission meeting will be held. The mayor advised Mr. Cruz to come to that meeting with his neighbors.

#### REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** – Ms. Williams said the committee had met July 6 and discussed Resolution 38-2015, which authorizes the destruction of outdated police records. That resolution is on the agenda this evening.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE** – Councilman Roschel said his committee met July 6. One item discussed was Resolution 39-2015, recognizing Alcoa, which has already been approved. Also discussed was Bill 9-2015, which revises the City's parking lot ordinance, which is also on the agenda.

Mr. Roschel reported on three other items also discussed at the July 6 meeting. The first of those were concerns of the Friends of Reservoir Park about the condition of the dek hockey rink and the appearance of a new, fenced communications facility at the base of the water tower. Representatives of Lancaster United Bike Polo asked that their organization be allowed to use the rink and stated that they would contribute to the maintenance of the facility. Mr. Roschel said he did not see the need for immediate Council action. Rather he would wait for the City public works director to respond.

Also before his committee, Ms. Julie DeWitt of Lehigh Avenue, came to express her concerns about the number of wild cats in her neighborhood. She believed the cats needed to be captured and euthanized to stem the population growth. Mr. Roschel said that since the meeting, he has been contacted by Lancaster County Cat Rescue about addressing the problem. He placed the leader of that group in contact with Ms. DeWitt. He also reported that he will soon meet with a representative of Helping Hands for Animals, another cat rescue group. He did not believe there are any easy solutions to the problem, but said he would continue to investigate the issue.

Lastly, Mr. Roschel said there was discussion on a naming proposal for the Northwest Corridor Linear Park. That proposal was tabled until it is requested by an outside sponsor. The issue will come before the committee again at the August committee meeting.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE** – Councilman Reichenbach reported his committee met July 6 and discussed the Historical Commission’s recommendation of a denial for 801 North Reservoir Street. In that case, the property owner applied to enclose a rear porch, then failed to comply with recommendations, attend further meetings or respond to communication. The process timeline necessitates the denial. That item is later on the agenda.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Councilwoman Sorace made a motion to approve a quarterly legislative budget transfer in the amount of \$48,159.41 for City workers’ compensation costs. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reichenbach. The transfer was approved by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Ms. Sorace further reported that the Finance Committee met earlier in the evening to hear from Administrative Services Director Patrick Hopkins and Tracy Resh, of the Maher Duessel accounting firm, report on the City’s 2014 audit. The audit was considered “clean,” without deficiencies or significant findings. Ms. Sorace praised the financial stewardship of Mr. Hopkins, and Accounting Bureau Chief Julie Cenera, and said the City is fortunate to have their service.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE** – Mr. Roschel, reporting on Mr. Soto’s behalf, said the committee had met July 6 and heard from Mr. Randolph Harris, of West Chestnut Street. Mr. Harris, a consulting historian, presented a proposal for the establishment of “meaningful mitigation” measures when a historic building is demolished. Measures would include an interpretive display of the history of the site, salvage of architectural elements of the building, and creation of a historic preservation fund. Mayor Gray said during the committee meeting that he believes state law would preclude the city from requiring those measures. The mayor will ask the city solicitor to examine the proposal.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** – Councilwoman Williams made a motion to accept the appointment of Mr. Mitch Nugent to the Public Arts Advisory Board. Mr. Reichenbach seconded the motion. The appointment was approved by a unanimous roll-call vote.

## LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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

1. Eduardo Martinez, owner of 801 North Reservoir Street, proposes enclosure of a second-story rear porch on a corner property at East Frederick Street.

Mr. Reichenbach noted this application was recommended for denial by the Historical Commission. The applicant chose not to attend Historical Commission meetings after his initial

presentation nor respond to the City's letters. The commission has 75 days to act on an application. The commissioners' action was the recommendation of denial.

Mr. Reichenbach moved to accept that recommendation. Ms. Sorace seconded the motion. City Council voted to deny the application by a unanimous roll-call vote.

2. David Charles, owner of 235 North Mary Street, requests installation of a new handrail on concrete entry steps.
3. RL2 Development LLC, owner of 28 East Vine Street, requests replacement of shake shingles on a pent roof, replacement of a residential door, installation of new exterior lighting and reconstruction of a rear enclosed stairway.
4. Tippetts/Weaver Associates, owner of 311 East Orange Street, requests demolition of a modern one-story office building and construction of three new, frame, three-story townhouses.

Those four applications were recommended for approval by the Historical Architectural Review Board.

Councilman Reichenbach made the motion to approve the four Historical Architectural Review Board recommendations as presented. Councilwoman Sorace seconded the motion.

Council approved the recommendations together by a unanimous roll-call vote.

#### ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

Administration Bill No. 7-2015, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**An ordinance authorizing the incurrence of nonelectoral debt of the City of Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, by the issuance of up to [\$11,800,000] principal amount of general obligation bonds, series of 2015 (federally taxable) (the "2015 bonds"); issued for the purpose of providing financing for costs of the refunding of all or a portion of the City's outstanding general obligation bonds, series of 2006 (federally taxable fixed rate) (the "2006 bonds") and paying costs of issuance incurred with the 2015 bonds; approving the refunding and authorizing the redemption of the outstanding 2006 bonds; determining to sell the 2015 bonds at a private sale by negotiation or invitation; approving the form of the 2015 bonds; fixing the date, interest and maturity of the 2015 bonds; making a covenant for the payment of the debt service on the 2015 bonds; pledging the full faith, credit and taxing power of this City in support of the 2015 bonds; providing for the filing of required documents; providing for the appointment of a sinking fund depository for the 2015 bonds; authorizing and directing the execution and delivery of an escrow agreement and otherwise providing for the refunding of the 2006; and authorizing execution, sale and delivery thereof, and other necessary actions.**

Councilwoman Sorace stated that Bill 7-2015 would refinance City 2006 pension obligation bonds with new bonds at a lower interest rate. The refinancing at this point is expected to save the city about \$344,000. The second option is to refinance the 2006 bonds through a

conventional bank loan, or note, authorized by Bill 8-2015. Administrative Services Director Hopkins, with the consultation of the city's financial advisor, will determine which of those options is more advantageous based on market conditions before going forward with the refinancing. A second reading is not expected until August 11 or later.

Administration Bill No. 8-2015, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**An ordinance authorizing the incurrence of nonelectoral debt of the City of Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, by the issuance of up to [\$11,800,000] principal amount general obligation note, series of 2015 (the "note"); issued for the purpose of providing financing for costs of the refunding of all or a portion of the City's outstanding general obligation bonds, series of 2006 (federally taxable fixed rate) (the "2006 bonds") and paying costs of issuance incurred with the note; approving the refunding and authorizing the redemption of the outstanding 2006 bonds; determining to sell the note at a private sale by negotiation or invitation; approving the form of the note; fixing the date, interest and maturity of the note; making a covenant for the payment of the debt service on the note; pledging the full faith, credit and taxing power of this City in support of the note; providing for the filing of required documents; providing for the appointment of a sinking fund depository for the note; authorizing and directing the execution and delivery of an escrow agreement and otherwise providing for the refunding of the 2006; and authorizing execution, sale and delivery thereof, and other necessary actions.**

#### ORDINANCES FOR AMENDMENT

Administration Bill No. 9-2015, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania rescinding Chapter 202-Parking Lots to the Code of the City of Lancaster; adopting a new Chapter 202-Parking Lots, Surface to the Code of the City of Lancaster; providing for the repeal of inconsistent ordinances; providing for the severability of the ordinance; and providing that the ordinance shall take effect in accordance with Pennsylvania law.**

Councilman Roschel said the revised ordinance would require stormwater management regulations to be imposed whenever major improvements were made to a surface parking lot. The draft ordinance was delayed by several months while it was reviewed by the City Economic Development & Neighborhood Revitalization department staff to ensure the proposal would not discourage property developers.

This was the first reading of the ordinance.

#### RESOLUTIONS

Council Resolution No. 38-2015, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A resolution of the Council of the City of Lancaster authorizing the disposal of certain obsolete police records (non-traffic citations, parking violations, traffic citations,**

**abandoned or impounded vehicle records, daily activity reports, etc.) in conformity with the retention and disposition schedule for records of Pennsylvania municipalities.**

Mr. Reichenbach made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Roschel seconded the motion.

Ms. Williams said the resolution was a routine action to dispose of unneeded police records from 2010, 2011 and 2012.

City Council approved Resolution No. 38-2015 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Krofcheck, 723 East Orange Street, of Lancaster United Bike Polo, corrected the comments made earlier by Mr. Roschel regarding the dek hockey rink at Reservoir Park. His organization does not wish to lease the rink from the City. They are asking the City to open the rink for wider public use, including by his group for bike polo matches. He again offered the services of his group to paint and maintain the rink.

Mr. Krofcheck said a representative of Lancaster Dek Hockey has agreed to allow his group to have a bike polo match at the rink in the near future. This trial use will show whether bike polo will damage the dek hockey surface. If it does not, the bike polo group will be allowed to use the facility. Yet, Mr. Krofcheck said he would still prefer the City to dissolve the lease, the conditions of which he maintains are not being upheld by the dek hockey club. He maintained the City park facility should be available for use by the public.

#### REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Gray read the following prepared statement:

*The Lancaster Rec Commission has joined with the City to provide 700 free Slide the City tickets to children at Rec Center day camp and playground sites. The flyer attached to this report provides details of this event.*

*Yesterday, we reached the first major milestone in the transition to new enterprise management software. After ten months of analysis, planning, data conversion and training by staff in Accounting, Treasury and Information Technology, all of our accounting systems are now working in Tyler Munis. The transition to Munis involved learning to manage an entirely new accounting system while, at the same time, moving two and a half years of historical data related to the tens of thousands of financial transactions that occur each year. This work was done primarily by staff who last Fall were also working to create the 2015 Budget, and this Spring were working to complete the 2014 Audit.*

*The financial operations of the City are fundamental to everything we do as a local government. After operating with the prior accounting system since 2002, it was time for a change. A modern*

*accounting system that provides department directors and managers with the tools they need to provide oversight and management of their operations is critical to our success as a City. I want to congratulate all of the staff in the Administrative Services department who worked on this project for their excellent work and dedication to reach this milestone.*

*As you may recall, a detailed survey and assessment conducted in 2013 resulted in a Pavement Management Plan that evaluated the surface condition of every city street. This survey allowed us to prioritize paving projects based on need. Attached to this report is a list of Street Paving projects scheduled for the 2015 Season. The list includes estimated cost of each project.*

*Also note that the sewer lines work on W Chestnut Street will begin next week. It will take 6-8 weeks to complete the sewer lime replacement. Paving of West Chestnut will likely start the end of September/beginning of October.*

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Sorace updated everyone on state legislative action on municipalities' use of radar for vehicle speed enforcement. The joint House-Senate Transportation Committee held a hearing earlier in the day on Senate Bills 535 and 559. Bill 535 would allow municipalities to use the same traffic timing devices as the State Police. Bill 559 would allow only some municipalities to use radar and would allow implementation more gradually. There was no action at the hearing.

Ms. Sorace said she believes the issue is inching forward slowly. She hopes the bill will be moved from the Transportation Committee for a full Senate vote. She encouraged her colleagues to continue speaking out on the issue.

Mr. Reichenbach said he was pleased to report on two recent developments in the southwest part of the city: the Live on Vine concert, a country music concert and festival held at the LNP parking lot, at West Vine and South Queen Street; and the opening of Springhouse Brewery on Hazel Street. He said both events are important for the residents of the southwest part of the city and the future development of businesses in the area.

Vice President Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

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John E. Graupera, president

Attest:

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Bernard W. Harris Jr., City Clerk