

STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL – JUNE 23, 2015

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 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. Roschel, Ms. Sorace, Mr. Soto, Ms. Williams, Ms. Wilson, President Graupera – 6

Excused - Mr. Reichenbach - 1

The minutes of the meeting of Council for June 9, 2015 were approved by a roll-call vote.

REPORTS REQUESTED BY COUNCIL

Bob Shoemaker, president and CEO of the Lancaster City Alliance, and Marshall Snively, Lancaster City Alliance executive vice president and COO, presented a briefing on “Building on Strength: Economic Development Strategic Plan for the City of Lancaster, PA.”

The plan was developed over the past year, which included multiple meetings, extensive research and the input of more than 1,000 business owners, residents and officials. The community-owned plan is intended to bridge the gap between the 1998 LDR Plan and the city’s strategic plan.

Goals stated in the plan include, by 2030: increasing per capita income to 70 percent of that of Pennsylvania; adding 300 new hotel rooms in the downtown and commercial hubs; constructing 2,500 residential units; constructing or renovating 100,000 square feet of new retail/restaurant space; filling or creating 300,000 square feet of office and flex space; realizing \$1 billion in private capital investment; and seeing ongoing private investment that will outweigh public investment in economic development.

The plan have four broad strategy areas:

1. Expanding Success: Traditional Economic Development Investment
2. Embracing the Collaborative Economy: Cultivating Entrepreneurs
3. Leveraging the Brand: Marketing Lancaster City
4. Quality of Life: Reinforcing Commercial Hubs

Each of the strategies has short term (immediate to five years), mid-term (five to 10 years), and long-term (10 to 15 years) goals.

President Graupera expressed his thanks to the Lancaster City Alliance for undertaking the economic development planning study. He said everyone should find something to like in the extensive plan.

Pastor Kevin Brown, of Kingdom of Life International Assembly, said that while many of the proposals in the 1998 LDR plan have been developed, few of those in the southeast part of the city came to fruition. He called for greater attention to be paid to that area.

Councilwoman Wilson responded that there were meetings at Ebenezer Baptist Church and the Brightside Opportunities Center, in the southeast and southwest parts of the city, as part of the development of the plan. While she agreed with Pastor Brown, she said residents of those areas need to come forward and represent themselves at meetings and become more aware and involved.

Councilwoman Sorace emphasized that the last plan focused primarily on the downtown. Development proposed in the new plan rests on private dollars, with limited public spending anticipated. That will limit the ability of City Council and elected officials to control development.

Pastor Brown then asked what could be done to better inform people about these discussions. Councilwomen Wilson and Williams and President Graupera responded that, among other ways, Pastor Brown and other clergy can do so from the pulpit.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – No report

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – Councilman Roschel said his committee had met earlier in the evening to discuss Resolution 36-2015 and Resolution 37-2015. He asked for a motion to add those resolutions and Resolution 35-2015 to the agenda.

Councilwoman Wilson made that motion. Councilwoman Sorace seconded the motion.

The motion carried by an affirmative voice-vote of Council.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE – No report

FINANCE COMMITTEE – No Report

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE – No Report

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Councilwoman Williams reminded Council members that Bill No. 6-2015 is on the agenda for a vote later in the evening.

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

1. ACAM Holdings, LLC, owner of 419 South Prince Street, proposes demolition of a rear cement-block garage facing Beaver Street.

2. Jeffrey Hatfield, owner of 703 East Fulton Street, and Century Home Improvements, applicant, proposes enclosure of a rear deck on a modern townhouse.

Both applications were recommended for approval by the Historical Commission.

Councilman Soto made the motion to approve the Historical Commission recommendations as presented. Councilwoman Sorace seconded the motion.

The recommendations were unanimously approved together by a roll-call vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Council Bill No. 6-2015, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania amending Chapter 55 of the Code of the City of Lancaster – Officers, Employees, Article IV – Council, Section 55-12 – Rules and Regulations, Subpart D. – Agenda of Meeting to revise Council’s internal rules regarding its agenda for regular meetings; 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.

Councilwoman Sorace made a motion to approve the bill. Councilwoman Wilson seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Williams said the proposed ordinance addresses the order of the agenda to be followed during Council meetings.

City Council approved Council Bill No. 6-2015 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Resolution No. 35-2015, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A resolution of the Council of the City of Lancaster recognizing June 2015, as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month, and encouraging all people of the City of Lancaster to work to advance the cause of equality and towards achieving a safe community that appreciates its diversity in all its forms for generations to come.

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

Mr. Roschel said he has sponsored the resolution for many years. There have been many positive developments during that time. He recently asked LGBT friends whether the resolution was still relevant. He was told, yes, there remains much work to be done. Mr. Roschel spoke of the contributions of the LGBT community to the diversity, economy and vibrancy of Lancaster.

President Graupera read a statement of support for the resolution by Councilman Reichenbach, the co-sponsor of the resolution, who was not in attendance. Mr. Reichenbach said he was thankful to live and work in a city that accepts the most basic principles that all people, regardless of sexual orientation, have the right to be treated fairly and with love, dignity and respect.

City Council approved Resolution No. 35-2015 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 36-2015, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A resolution of the Council of the City of Lancaster requesting a Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) Grant of \$44,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for investigating the feasibility of developing the Engleside Rail Trail along the abandoned right-of-way of the former Quarryville Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad between Seymour Street and Buchmiller Park.

Councilman Roschel made the motion to approve the resolution. Councilwoman Sorace seconded the motion.

Mr. Roschel said the grant would fund a study of developing a multi-use recreational trail. The grant provides 80 percent of the cost of the study. West Lampeter Township would fund 10 percent and in-kind work by City staff would complete the funding.

City Council approved Resolution No. 36-2015 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 37-2015, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A resolution of the Council of the City of Lancaster requesting a Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP) Grant of \$80,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the installation of flood risers on manholes.

Councilman Roschel made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Soto seconded the motion.

Mr. Roschel said, that as with the previous resolution, Council needs to pass this resolution to allow City staff to apply for the grant before the funding deadline. If approved, this grant would fund the installation of 94 risers on manholes along the Maple Grove Interceptor. The cement cones would lift the manholes above flood level and prevent flood waters from entering the sewer system from those manholes during heavy rains. The grant would fund 80 percent of the project cost. The installation of the risers by City workers represents the required 20 percent matching funds as an in-kind contribution.

City Council approved Resolution No. 37-2015 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Helen Smoot, 650 Fourth Street, said she recently learned that there were not adequate curbside parking spaces on her block to accommodate her and her neighbors. She was told that some neighbors have as many as five vehicles per residence. Ms. Smoot asked if restrictions could be placed on the number of vehicles that City residents could own.

Ms. Pat Brogan, the mayor's chief of staff, offered to provide Ms. Smoot information on obtaining permit parking in her neighborhood. If approved, permit parking provisions would allow only two permits per household.

Vanessa Sommer, of Wernersville, and Yvette Wood, of Village Court, representing Lancaster Unity, invited Council members to their next potluck gathering, on August 8, at noon, at Tellus360.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Gray was attending the Pennsylvania Municipal League convention in Allentown. Ms. Brogan did not present a report on his behalf.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

President Graupera announced there would be a discussion at the July 6 Council Committee meeting on tracking citizens' complaints and concerns made during the public comment period of Council meetings. The tracking is intended to ensure complaints and concerns are being adequately addressed.

Also, President Graupera reported he had received two letters in response to letters sent to state legislators earlier this month. The letters sent to Lancaster County's General Assembly delegation stated City Council support of pending legislation that would allow municipal police officers to use radar to detect motor vehicle speeding. Included were copies of Council Resolution 31-2015, approved June 9, in support of local use of radar.

Letters were received from Representatives Keith Greiner and P. Michael Sturla. Both representatives wrote they are co-sponsors of the House Bill and support the measure. The City Clerk added that electronic mail messages had been received from state Sen. Lloyd Smucker and Rep. Bryan Cutler, also stating their support of the measure.

President Graupera also announced he had received a letter of thanks from the Lancaster Public Library for the City's recent quarterly contribution of \$16,250.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Wilson reminded everyone that Celebrate Lancaster will be held in downtown Lancaster on Friday.

Further, she expressed her grief concerning the attack on Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. last week. She said African Americans are under attack in this country. She noted the contributions of African Americans to this country. She said we all have a part to play in standing up to racism and injustice.

Councilwoman Sorace echoed Ms. Wilson's views and agreed that we should all shine a bright light on the hate that exists in our world.

Councilwoman Williams said she believes there needs to be a conversation about racism that gets at the root of the problem. People need to openly acknowledge their prejudices, she said.

President Graupera adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Louise Williams, Vice-president

Attest:

Bernard W. Harris Jr., City Clerk