

STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL – MAY 24, 2016

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, May 24, 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, Mr. Roschel, Ms. Sorace, Mr. Soto, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Williams and President Graupera – 7

The minutes of the meeting of Council for May 10, 2016 were approved by a unanimous roll-call vote.

PROCLAMATIONS, HONORS, AWARDS AND RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

Mayor Gray summarized a proclamation in which June 2, 2016 will be marked as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Lancaster.

June 2, 2016 would have been the 19th birthday for Hadiya Pendleton, a Chicago teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade. She was tragically shot and killed a few weeks later. The Mayor's Coalition Against Illegal Firearms and other organizations decided her birthday should be marked as National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Almost 100 people each day in the United States are killed by gun violence.

The mayor asked that everyone wear orange that day. It was Hadiya Pendleton's favorite color and wearing it would commemorate the day for her and other victims of gun violence.

The mayor also announced that the City of Lancaster had received Platinum Certification – the highest performance level – through the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification program. Lancaster was previously the first gold certified municipality. It is now the third municipality to receive a platinum certification.

Douglas Smith, the City's sustainability planner, introduced himself to City Council. He said the platinum certification is the result of the metrics which he established to measure the City's sustainability practices. Most of those practices were already in place and have now been documented. Those practices have saved energy, resources and money.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Shoemaker, president and chief executive officer of the Lancaster City Alliance, read a letter in which the Alliance's Advocacy and Executive Leadership Team praised the leadership of Mayor Gray.

The seven-member committee of business leaders commended the mayor and his administration for running the City as a business would be run: financially, strategically and with measurement. They believe the mayor's policies have been a prescription for economic success for Lancaster and look forward to continuing their relationship with the mayor and administration.

INTERIM REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Ms. Wilson said her committee was proposing the reappointment of three members of the Fire Appeals Board: Patrick Egan, Lloyd Henry and Denise Freeman. Each would serve a term from July 10, 2016 to July 10, 2019. Further, she proposed the reappointment of Gary Hufford to the Noise Control Board, for a five-year term, from February 1, 2016 to February 1, 2021.

Mr. Reichenbach made a motion to approve all four reappointments. Mr. Soto seconded the motion.

Council approved the motion by a unanimous roll-call vote.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Administration Bill No. 5-2016, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

An ordinance of City Council of the City of Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania establishing appropriations for \$247,500 of FEMA Disaster Assistance anticipated to be received in 2016; 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.

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

Ms. Sorace explained that the bill appropriates funds which the City anticipates receiving from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for expenses incurred during the January snowstorm. It is a partial reimbursement for expenses during a 48-hour window of the storm. The funds are being directed to the City's General Fund.

Council approved Administration Bill No. 5-2016 by a unanimous roll-call vote. It will hereafter be known as Administration Ordinance No. 6-2016.

Administration Bill No. 6-2016, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

An ordinance of City Council of the City of Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania establishing appropriations for \$750,000 from the General Fund Reserve; 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. Wilson made a motion to approve the bill. Mr. Reichenbach seconded the motion.

Ms. Sorace said a preliminary report of the 2015 audit showed the City has a surplus of about \$1.5 million from last year due to lower than anticipated spending. Some of that money is being directed to the Liquid Fuels line item to be used for street repairs and paving. Rather than wait for the FEMA reimbursement to replenish the Liquid Fuels fund, the appropriation provides

money to fund paving and repairs this summer. These funds will still fall short of money needed for necessary repairs, but prevents the City from falling further behind, she said.

Council approved Administration Bill No. 6-2016 by a unanimous roll-call vote. It will hereafter be known as Administration Ordinance No. 7-2016.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tony Dastra, 113 North Plum Street, stated that he believes free or low-cost higher education should be a human right. Yet, he said, there is no groundwork, or plan in place, to provide a transition from high school to higher education. Local government, where changes can occur, is in the best position to foster a transition plan, he believes.

Ron Harper Jr., of Stevens, contended a City police officer had given him an unconstitutional order to leave the southeast corner of Penn Square about six weeks ago. The officer asserted that the private property owner – the Marriott – did not like him being on the sidewalk. Mr. Harper contended the square in its entirety has been public property since before the City was founded, in 1729. He demanded an apology from Council members, which he did not receive.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Gray read the following prepared statement:

We're pleased to report that neighborhood meetings have produced consensus on the placement and design of remote switching stations at four locations throughout the City. Changes in the network design will allow for the use of small switching boxes instead of larger buildings at Musser Park and along South Duke Street. This paves the way for moving forward with plans to provide citywide internet access. If all goes according to schedule, we expect to begin testing the fiber broadband network in late June, and provide residential internet subscriptions beginning in early Fall.

After more than a decade of legal battles, the City has acquired ownership of the former Shell's Recycling Center at 640 South Franklin Street. We look forward to welcoming City Council members to a neighborhood meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, May 31st at 6:30 PM at Washington Elementary School. The meeting is being held to solicit input from neighbors on the idea of developing Nelson Polite Sr. Park at this site.

Attached to this report is the City's Street Paving Plan, including some streets held over from last year's paving list. A bid will be issued in the coming weeks with construction in the summer and fall. You'll note that a few streets will be held over into 2017 to allow for utility work in advance of repaving.

Tomorrow at 2:30 PM, a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony will be held at the newly renovated Martin Luther King, Jr. Wading Pool on South Duke Street. The celebration will feature a Public Art installation at the Pool by artist Beatrice Colon. Funded through private contributions, the Public Art provides a great complement to the \$400,000 pool renovation project that was completed last summer. Beatrice Colon will join King Elementary students and other community members be on hand for the ribbon-cutting.

Last week, Governor Wolf announced two grant awards for the City:

* A grant of \$40,000 from the Department of Environmental Protection for the City of Lancaster Intermunicipal Watershed Action Plan provides funds for the City East Lampeter, and West Lampeter Townships to address stormwater and flooding issues along the Conestoga Watershed. Flooding during heavy rain is an on-going concern for residents in these municipalities.

* The City of Lancaster maintains 116 intersections. Of those, 27 do not have pedestrian signals. A grant of \$387,825 from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation will provide for the installation of new pedestrian signals at 20 intersections where currently there are none. The City is required to provide matching funds for this grant. PennDOT will manage installation of these signals over a 24 month period.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

President Graupera read the following prepared statement:

On Saturday, June 4th, Lancaster will host the Red Rose Run for the 40th year. Like the Race Against Racism last month, the Red Rose Run encourages healthy, physical activity for serious runners and for the whole family. In addition to the 5-mile foot race, there will be a kids' fun run and a wheelchair race.

After expending your energy in the run, Central Market will be open for you to replace those carbs. There will also be a beer garden at the race with a free beer for each runner.

I encourage you to participate, or come out and cheer the runners on. If you'd rather skip the run, I remind you that streets along the route will be closed beginning at 7 a.m. The last ones will reopen about 10:30.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Sorace reported that the Public Art Advisory Board has recently completed four days of meetings as part of the board's master planning process. More than 100 people participated. The City Clerk will be sending an online survey to Council members, which she asked all members to complete.

President Graupera adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

John E. Graupera, President

Attest:

Bernard W. Harris Jr., City Clerk