

STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL – OCTOBER 27, 2015

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, October 27, 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. Reichenbach, Mr. Roschel, Ms. Sorace, Mr. Soto, Ms. Wilson and President Graupera – 6

Excused – Ms. Williams - 1

The minutes of the meeting of Council for October 13, 2015 were approved by a roll-call vote. Ms. Wilson abstained.

REPORTS REQUESTED BY COUNCIL

Valerie Moul, chairwoman of the Lancaster Central Market Trust, provided Council with a brief overview of the current strategic focus areas after 10 years of the Trust operating the City-owned market.

Ms. Moul said that in 2016, she expects market rents to cover 98 percent of the market's operating costs. She said volunteers have begun selling Central Market merchandise in a corner of the building. And, last year, the Trust had its first fund-raising gala, to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the market building. Funds from the gala will be used to start the Trust's next capital campaign. The "raise the roof" campaign will replace the asphalt shingles on the roof with slate, such as when the building was constructed. That campaign is expected to begin next year.

Additionally, the Trust is working with the Lancaster City Alliance to establish a "market district." She said the market draws about 17,000 visitors each week. The market serves as an incubator for start-up businesses. Of the 65 businesses in market, only two are from outside of the county. Those are from neighboring York County. She said there has also been a 40 percent increase in the number of stands accepting EBT/SNAP cards. The market managers are working with SouthEast Health Services on healthy cooking demonstrations and with Lutheran Refugee Service on job and business opportunities.

Mr. Reichenbach and Ms. Wilson praised the Market Trust for the 40 percent increase in stands accepting EBT/SNAP and the partnering with SouthEast Health Services to provide cooking demonstrations.

Maryor Gray credited the market for helping foster the City's revitalization by remaining an anchor when the City was struggling economically.

Mr. Soto thanked Ms. Moul and Market Trust board members for providing a place that has taken his children and now his grandchildren. President Graupera thanked them for presenting information to Council and for all they do for the market.

INTERIM REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Patrick Hopkins, City Administrative Services director, explained a legislative budget transfer in the amount of \$131,000. The funds come from the 2015 savings from the recent refinancing of a 2006 pension obligation bond issue. Another \$700,000 in savings will be paid out in subsequent years. The funds in the transfer will be used to pay for the annual maintenance fee for the Tyler Muni computer system now in use by the City.

The motion to approve the legislative transfer was made by Finance Committee Chairwoman Danene Sorace and seconded by Mr. Reichenbach.

The transfer was unanimously approved by a roll-call vote of Council.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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

- a. 436 West James Street LLC, owner of 436 West James Street, proposes construction of a new wooden trellises at the front and side entryways of a corner building.
- b. Inline Properties LP, owner of 626 Columbia Avenue, proposes construction of a new side entry porch and a new rear stair tower.

The City Clerk noted that the Historical Commission failed to muster a quorum at its October 19 meeting. Although these applications were deemed appropriate, no formal recommendations were made.

President Graupera noted that the Historical Commission is a recommending body to Council. While Council usually acts on the Commission's recommendations, those recommendations are not required for Council action.

Mr. Reichenbach noted that both projects were deemed appropriate and that further delay to receive a Commission recommendation would be a hindrance to project developers.

He made a motion to approve both applications.

Ms. Wilson seconded the motion.

Mr. Randy Patterson, City Economic Development & Neighborhood Revitalization director, noted that 436 West James Street was originally a grocery store that was being converted into a restaurant and an architectural office. And 626 Columbia Avenue was the former Porter's Furniture store, which is being converted into apartments. Both projects represent adaptive reuse and economic development outside the core of the downtown.

The Historical Commission applications were approved by a unanimous roll-call vote.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Council Bill No. 14-2015, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

An ordinance of the Council of the City of Lancaster enacted pursuant to the authority set forth in Section 285-130.E. of the Code of the City of Lancaster, Chapter 285, Vehicles and Traffic; establishing a temporary exception from the handicapped parking space limitation set forth in Section 285-130.B to permit three (3) handicapped parking spaces on the north side of the 700 block of High Street; and provide that this ordinance shall expire upon the expiration of two years after its effective date unless reenacted by Council.

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

Ms. Wilson stated that City ordinance limits the number of handicapped parking spaces to two on a one-way street in which there is parking on one side of the street. A handicapped resident of the 700 block of High Street had come before Council and requested a third space. There is a provision in the law that allows Council to approve an ordinance to make an exception and grant the additional space.

Mr. Soto noted that there was a notification letter sent by Council to residents of the block that the additional handicapped parking space was being considered. He asked the City Clerk if he had received any response to the letters. The Clerk replied that he had received one phone call from a resident asking where the additional space would be located, but not objecting to its placement on the block. The Clerk also stated he had received two letters back as undeliverable, of the 62 which were mailed.

Mayor Gray cautioned Council about being too free in approving handicapped spaces to those who asked.

Ms. Wilson responded that she was initially reluctant to move this measure forward, however, the resident had come to several Council meetings to state his case. She wished to reward his determination. She and President Graupera noted that such exceptions are rare.

Ms. Wilson said Council had done its due diligence and residents were notified.

Council approved Bill No. 14-2015 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ellie Bila, of West Chestnut Street, questioned why when the City repaves a road does UGI come soon afterward and cut into the roadway for utility work? She asked why there is no communication between the City and the utilities and whether it wouldn't be more prudent to require UGI to do its work before the road is repaved?

President Graupera responded that she should stay after the meeting and talk on someone from the mayor's staff. The reply to her questions would be rather lengthy.

Mayor Gray responded that Chestnut Street has been torn up for the past year. That is because utility companies were required to do work on lines beneath the street prior to repaving. Once it is repaved, they will not be able to cut into the street for a minimum of three years unless

it is an emergency. He also noted that the state Public Utility Commission controls utilities, and the City's power is limited.

The City passed a Right-of-Way ordinance that would provide additional fee revenue and greater control over utilities cutting into City streets, the mayor said. That ordinance is being challenged by utility companies in court.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Gray read the following prepared statement:

As you know, a Walkability Analysis conducted by Jeff Speck was released in May and, since that time, City staff have been working to implement some of the report's recommendations. Progress to date is as follows:

- 1. PennDOT is reviewing plans for conversion of Mulberry Street to two-way traffic. If approved, construction is expected to begin in Spring 2016.*
- 2. As part of the paving and re-striping of West Chestnut Street, the Traffic Commission will review initial proposals for a two-way bike lane consistent with one of Jeff Speck's recommendations. The Traffic Commission review is on the agenda for discussion at the Commission's meeting, but no decision will be made before January. This will give more opportunity to gather public input.*
- 3. Early next year, the Traffic Commission will also review a proposal to add bike lanes during restriping of South Duke Street, Church Street, South Broad Street, Chesapeake Street, and Hershey Avenue planned for Spring 2016.*
- 4. Later this year, City Council will be asked to adopt revisions to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance that incorporate some of Jeff Speck's recommendations. For example, proposed revisions would establish a maximum lane width of 10 feet for City streets. Another proposed revision would limit the distance between street trees to no more than 40 feet.*
- 5. Engineering staff have conducted an inventory of downtown parking, and more than 100 additional potential curbside parking spaces have been identified. Traffic Commission must approve the addition of curbside parking spaces.*
- 6. Signs are being made to post street names in both directions at intersections, regardless of whether a street is one-way or two-way.*
- 7. Pending adoption of the proposed budget for 2016, additional stanchions will be purchased for placement at mid-block crosswalks in the Central Business District. This will also need review and approval by Traffic Commission.*

Almost all of the recommendations in the Speck Analysis will require approval from either or both PennDOT and the Traffic Commission. We will continue to report on progress and on actions taken.

Our new Lancaster City Visitors Center and Office of Promotion is proving to be popular among visitors and residents alike. You'll note on the attached report that we now have nearly 20 thousand combined Facebook fans and Twitter followers. In addition, in the first three months after the July 1st opening, our Visitors Center hosted nearly five thousand people from all over the world. Detailed data from these first three months is attached to this report. I encourage you to stop in to our Visitor's Center if you haven't already done so.

The mayor further stated he had met earlier in the day with state Senators in Harrisburg. He said he left with an optimistic feeling about chances for passage of municipal pension reform. Previous meetings about the issue have not been as positive about the need for reform.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

President Graupera reported the following:

On Thursday, October 15, I welcomed students from Lancaster's sister city, Sano City, Japan. Here in Council chambers, I spoke with them about Lancaster's government and answered their questions. As was customary, there was an exchange of gifts. Each of the students left here with a miniature Lancaster City flag, a Lancaster Barnstormers visor and patches from the City's police and fire bureaus.

On Tuesday, October 20, I attended the Chestnut Hill neighborhood meeting. There I heard the presentation from Public Works Director Charlotte Katzenmoyer about the Chestnut Street bikeway. As we all know, Chestnut Street is a mess right now, but soon it will be repaved and restriped. If the Traffic Commission approves, it will be restriped again in the spring and a bike lane will be added.

Ms. Katzenmoyer's department has been working for several years to develop bike lanes along City streets. The proposed bikeway on Chestnut Street takes that a step further by separating the bike lane from passing cars with a row of parked cars. This has been done successfully in other cities. Ms. Katzenmoyer told me on Friday that York City has just started its first separated bikeway pilot program. They have a jump-start on us and we should be able to see their results soon. We're going to invite Ms. Katzenmoyer at our next committee meeting, on Monday, and hopefully she can make a report.

And a shout out to Councilman Soto. I want to congratulate him. He was honored as the first recipient of the Our People Award for Public Service at the 1st Thursday Latino, Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on October 1 at the Ware Center. Congratulations.

And I wanted to thank Council members for approving an additional handicapped parking space on High Street this evening. The vote on that ordinance came after a handicapped resident came to us and requested a third handicapped space be added on the block. This was a Council-led process and I'm glad that it is working to help that man. We'll ask Ms. Katzenmoyer when the handicapped parking sign will be installed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Sorace said she was heartened by the position taken by the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry in support of the state adding specific protections for gay, lesbian and transgender persons in the work place. The chamber, in its announcement, cited the large number of employers in Lancaster County who already provide those protections.

The focus was ensuring that this community is a welcoming community for all people. She said it brought to mind the recent decision of the Lancaster County Commissioners to eliminate specific protections for gay, lesbian and transgender people from the ethics code of the County Prison. Ms. Sorace then asked Mayor Gray for an update on discussions with the commissioners about their action being contrary to the City Human Relations Ordinance.

Mayor Gray responded he was away last week. He went through his mail on his return and there was a copy of a letter from the City solicitor to the County commissioners and other entities of County government. The letter informed them that if their facilities are in the City of Lancaster they are subject to City law, just as the County was subject to the City Building Code when they renovated the County Government Center, at 150 North Queen Street. He said he has gotten no response from the commissioners.

The mayor also mentioned that he had emailed the president of the Chamber of Commerce to commend the chamber for taking its position in support of LGBT protections. He said it made him proud that the City was a chamber member.

Ms. Wilson acknowledged the students in the audience and asked them to stand, introduce themselves and state which school they attended.

Mr. Soto announced that the Lancaster County Planning Commission will be holding a kick-off event for the start of its redrafting of the county's comprehensive plan, entitled "Places 2040," on Wednesday, November 4, at 6:30 p.m., at the Lancaster County Convention Center. He encouraged everyone to attend.

President Graupera adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

John E. Graupera, president

Attest:

Bernard W. Harris Jr., City Clerk