

STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, September 22, 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, Ms. Williams, Ms. Wilson and President Graupera – 6

Excused – Mr. Soto - 1

The minutes of the meeting of Council for September 8, 2015 were unanimously approved by a roll-call vote.

INTERIM REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION - Mr. Reichenbach reported on the meeting of the City Revitalization and Improvement Zone Authority which occurred earlier in the day. He said authority members unanimously approved a tax-exempt bond reimbursement resolution to repay costs incurred by the authority once funding from the state becomes available. Also approved was a funding application for a restaurant space at 35 North Queen Street, which will be fitted for a Jimmy John's franchise. That restaurant will open by the end of the year. A second funding application was also approved for \$3 million in pre-development costs for the Conestoga Plaza project, at 902 South Duke Street. Funding will allow both projects to move forward, Mr. Reichenbach said.

PERSONNEL – Ms. Williams recommended James Cunningham for reappointment to the Lancaster Airport Authority, for a five-year-term from December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2020, and Ted Darcus to the Lancaster County Convention Center Authority, for a four-year-term from September 15, 2015 to September 15, 2019.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

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

An ordinance authorizing the incurrence of non-electoral debt of the City of Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, by the issuance of up to [\$12,800,000]

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 bonds; and authorizing execution, sale and delivery thereof, and other necessary actions.

Ms. Sorace made a motion to approve the bill. Mr. Roschel seconded the motion.

Patrick Hopkins, City administrative services director, related that a bond auction was held at noon that day. The hope was to save at least 3 percent of principal with the refinancing of the 2006 bonds. That would have equated to about \$340,000 over the life of the bond. The average interest rate on the existing bonds was 5.35 percent. Robert W. Baird, a Wisconsin-based investment company, was the low bidder on the refinancing bonds, at an average interest rate of 3.897 percent. That translates to a principal net savings of about \$830,000 over the life of the bonds.

Mr. Hopkins said saving will be spread over 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Daryl Peck, of Concord Public Finance, recalled that when this refinancing was brought to Council in early July, he said they would consider both a conventional bank loan and a bond issue to refinance the 2006 debt. Proposal requests were sent to more than 20 banks. Seven proposals were received. None were close to the required savings threshold.

After the decision was made to proceed with the new bond issue, the City contacted Moodys Investment Service and Moodys affirmed the City’s A1 bond rating. That rating was important in receiving favorable rates at the subsequent auction.

Mayor Gray praised Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Peck and thanked them on behalf of the taxpayers.

Ms. Sorace then read a prepared motion to amend the ordinance with the correct principal amount of \$11,840,000, inserting Robert Baird & Co. as the purchaser of the bonds, inserting an issuance date and amortization schedule for the bonds, and adding the purchaser proposal and amortization schedule as exhibits to the ordinance.

Ms. Williams made a motion to amend the ordinance. Mr. Roschel seconded the motion.

Mayor Gray asked for a correction in the motion. Ms. Sorace read that May 15, 2016 would be the final interest payment date for the bonds. The motion should say that will be the first interest payment date for the bonds.

Ms. Sorace corrected herself and stated that date would be the first interest payment date for the bonds.

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

The motion to approve the amended Bill No. 7-2015 was then approved by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Administration Bill No. 13-2015, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania establishing appropriations for \$60,000 of payments in lieu of taxes in 2015; 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. Sorace made a motion to approve the bill. Mr. Roschel seconded the motion.

Ms. Sorace said the bill was first discussed by Council at the September 1 committee meeting. The first reading was held on September 8.

She said Lancaster General Hospital had agreed to increase its payment-in-lieu-of-taxes from \$115,000 per month to \$125,000 per month, retroactive to the start of its fiscal year on July 1. That increase results in \$60,000 in additional revenue for the City in the 2015 calendar year. The City administration and hospital officials agreed to direct that money to the Lancaster Community Safety Coalition, for operation of the coalition's surveillance camera system. This bill appropriates those funds.

Ms. Sorace said questions were asked why that money is being provided to the Safety Coalition and not another worthy organization. She responded that public safety is a primary City function. The camera system is used by City police to solve crimes and thereby increases safety and saves the City money that would have been spent on police investigations.

City Council approved Bill No. 13-2015 by a unanimous roll-call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Yvette Wood Brown, 3 Millwood Court, representing Lancaster Unity and Lancaster City Alliance, informed Council that in response to recent gun violence a prayer vigil and unity walk will be held Saturday, October 10, at 5:30 p.m. Tentatively, the event will begin in the Heritage Quadrant of Penn Square, pending permit approval. Alternatively, it will be held at the Ecclesial Center, at 223 West Orange Street. She asked Council members to attend.

Additionally, she invited Council members to attend the dedication celebration of the Ecclesial Center on Saturday, October 24, at 11 a.m. The center has been known as St. John's Lutheran Church and has recently been acquired by Kingdom Life International Assembly.

Lancaster Unity will have its monthly potluck at the center at noon that day, followed by a coat drive.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Gray read the following prepared statement:

Contractors have revised the paving schedule for West Chestnut Street. Milling of the roadway is planned for October 7th and 8th or possibly the week of September 28th, if schedules allow. City crews will then complete base repairs. This adjustment will save the City money and, at the same time, keep the work moving until contractors can return to reconstruct the entire roadway from Nevin to Pine and Pine to Mary before finishing with a final overlay from Arch Street to College Avenue. Contractors are currently scheduled to begin this phase during the week of October 19th.

A request for technical assistance has been filed through the EPA's Local Foods, Local Places program that would facilitate a workshop with community stakeholders to come up with an action plan for improving access to fresh, local food in neighborhoods along the South Duke Street Corridor. The Lancaster City Alliance economic development plan, Building on Strength, calls for establishment of an outdoor market on S. Duke Street. Consistent with this recommendation, discussions are underway to develop food kiosks on City-owned property adjacent to the Martin Luther King Elementary School.

Local partners in this effort include Crispus Attucks Community Center, Assets, San Juan Bautista Church, the Spanish American Civic Association, the School District of Lancaster, the Lancaster City Alliance, and Lancaster General Health's Lighten Up Lancaster Coalition. The EPA technical assistance will help the community plan how the food kiosks can meet the needs of all residents in the surrounding neighborhood, and how to structure the operation of the kiosks in order to employ neighborhood residents.

With Central Market's October 3rd Harvest Breakfast approaching, I'm happy to report that Phases I and 5 of our Streetscape Project are nearing completion. Thus far, new stained concrete banding has been added around Market. This will help to differentiate the pedestrian areas from vehicular areas; bricks on the driving areas along Market Street and Grant Street have been laid in a herringbone pattern; parking spots along Market Street are completed with permeable brick; and street lights are in place along Market Street. Phase 2 focuses on improvements to Penn Way, with demolition set to begin by next week. This Phase is expected to take 6 to 8 weeks for completion.

A newly-greened parking area at the Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster has been chosen by Storm Water Solutions Magazine as one of this year's Top Ten Projects. The Church located at 328 W. Orange Street, and the Lancaster County Conservancy will host a celebration with food, beverages, and a live gypsy band next Wednesday, Sept. 30th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Neighbors will be invited to share their perspectives on the long-awaited venture. Event sponsors hope to inspire other city churches and businesses to create similar stormwater management projects with a green component.

Finally, Lancaster City Police are assisting Amtrak Police this weekend with the expected increase in ridership to Philadelphia for the Papal visit. Fifty-one charter buses will be dropping off groups of passengers at the Lancaster Station. This may cause minor traffic delays around the train station depending on arrival and departure times. The buses are not parking at the train station in an effort to alleviate the demand for parking at the station.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Wilson reported that Dan Nephin, staff writer for LNP, contacted her to ask for her thoughts on instituting community policing initiatives in the City in response to recent gun violence. She related her response: Community may be something to be considered, but community policing alone will not be the answer to what is a very complex issue. I read studies from several areas where it has helped reduced crime and in some areas it has not. The issues behind these crimes are very complex. Some of these issues, in my opinion, are the following: 1. Guns are number one to me. We must legislate from the federal level on down to regulate gun control in this country and in this state. 2. Gang violence. Gangs offer protection and a way to earn money, status and mentorship. We must, as a community, create the same opportunities for our youth. 3. Poverty – lack of resources and lack of proper education.

The community along with the police must come together to reduce the crime rate and take back the neighborhoods. Unfortunately, for most people of color, they don't see the police as an ally. People of color are racially profiled and disproportionately arrested and put in the judicial system and will rarely report an incident for fear they will be wrongly accused or their names given out to the perpetrators.

However, some of this growth is already being done here in our city. The Mix at Arbor Place is one example. The former director of Arbor Place worked along with the City Administration and got a grant to restart the Police Athletic League. These types of programs build positive relationships before there is a problem – and that's what needs to happen. When we have those positive relationships between the police and the community, it's hard for either side to build a stereotype. The mayor is also doing something with [creation of] a commission on poverty. That's going to help.

In addition, each City neighborhood has a sector policeman. You can go on the City website and see which policeman represents your neighborhood and you can send emails and texts and call your sector policeman if you have a non-emergency type related issue. If you need help with that, we can help you. Council can help. The city clerk can give you that information. We can tell you where to go on the website to find that information for your neighborhood.

To close, Dan Jurman, executive director of CAP, who is doing a study of poverty and the effects it has on society, [stated] this problem is clearly more than a government entity, non-profit or for-profit enterprise can tackle alone. That is precisely our premise that we change the more outdated and ineffective paradigms of the health and human services model and put an end to the days that any of us think it's a good idea to go it alone.

Our youth are sending a clear message to us and that is they have lost hope. We all must heed this message and stop blaming. No one in this City or County can sit back and say this has nothing to do with me, because this is all of our problem.

President Graupera adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

John E. Graupera, president

Attest:

Bernard W. Harris Jr., City Clerk