

STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL – OCTOBER 14, 2014

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 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, President Graupera – 6

Excused – Mr. Soto - 1

The minutes of the meeting of Council for September 23, 2014 were approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

READING OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS & MEMORIALS – Mayor Gray presented a proclamation for Childhood Cancer Awareness Week October 19-25, 2014 urging all citizens to recognize and appreciate the important contributions of the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection.

He further presented a proclamation to Exit Lancaster, a non-profit mentoring program, to founders Ty Bair and Shayne D. Meadows, who are selling the pink edition of their program apparel during the month of October and proudly wearing them on the last Wednesday of October to raise awareness and funding for Lancaster County residents affected by Cancer. Mr. Bair and Mr. Meadows accepted the proclamation.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Chairwoman Wilson stated that her committee met last Monday, 6 October and Mr. Bob May of the LEMSAs came and gave a presentation and report of the work that is being done by the Lancaster Emergency Management Service. One interesting point that he mentioned was that the incidences of heroin overdoses have climbed in recent years in the City. There is a drug that they sell that helps recover from an overdose, but the medicine costs more than the heroin.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – Chairman Roschel stated that his committee met last Monday, also, and discussed Administration Bill No. 15-2014 and Resolution No. 41. He will talk about them when they come up on the agenda.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mr. Roschel gave the report because Chairwoman Sorace was not in attendance at the committee meeting. Mr. Roschel stated that Public Library made a presentation to the Council noting the services that the Library offers. They thanked the City for the contributions made to the Library and they hoped the City will continue to do so.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Chairwoman Williams stated that Resolution 43-2014 refers to the appointment of Roger J. Cohen to the Zoning Hearing Board. Zoning Hearing Board

members are appointed by resolution of Council.

City Council considered the following application & (HARB recommendation) for improvements to properties within the Historic District:

1. Sam Wilsker requests alteration of a wooden entry door through installation of glass panes at 135 East King Street.

Councilman Reichenbach made the motion to approve the recommendation and Councilwoman Sorace seconded. City Council approved the recommendation by a unanimous roll call vote.

Administration Bill No.14-2014, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER TO EXERCISE THE CITY'S POWERS OF EMINENT DOMAIN AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 2801 OF THE THIRD CLASS CITY CODE (53 P.S. §37801) AND SECTION 303 OF THE OPTIONAL THIRD CLASS CITY CHARTER LAW (53 P.S. §41303) TO APROPRIATE AND TAKE THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY AT 119 JUNIATA STREET IN LANCASTER CITY, LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA; PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY OF THE ORDINANCE; AND PROVIDING THAT THE ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PENNSYLVANIA LAW.

Councilman Roschel made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Wilson seconded. Councilman Roschel explained why we are taking this property by eminent domain. It is a "friendly taking" and it helps to avoid transfer taxes. The City must remove the building on the property so it can repair a damaged sewer line. City Council approved Administration Bill No. 14-2014 by a unanimous roll call vote and shall hereinafter be known as Administration Ordinance No. 14-2014.

Administration Bill No. 15-2014, (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 22 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION; AUTHORIZING RESIDENCY AND MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION TO MAKE AND ALTER BY-LAWS; REPEALING INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY OF THE ORDINANCE; AND PROVIDING THAT THE ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PENNSYLVANIA LAW.

Councilman Roschel stated that this is the first reading of this bill. It will expand the Commission from 3 to 7 members. This will help them better meet their quorum. The bill also states that they must be City residents. A majority of members should have direct experience in forestry, horticulture, landscape architecture, planning, zoning, environmental science, arboriculture or related fields. The ordinance further states that the Commission may make and alter bylaws and regulations consistent with this article and the laws of the Commonwealth.

Council Resolution No. 40-2014, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER SUPPORTING “BAN THE BOX,” A NATIONAL INITIATIVE WITH THE GOAL OF INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PREVIOUS CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS, AND SPECIFIC MEASURES TAKEN BY THE CITY OF LANCASTER TO PROMOTE FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES.

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

Councilwoman Sorace stated that she thanks the City of Lancaster for leading the way by eliminating that question from the application for employment. She hopes that other municipalities in the County also consider banning the box. Mayor Gray thanked Councilwoman Sorace for bringing this to our attention, providing material on it, and allowing us to have a considered judgement about the issue.

Jean Bickmire, of “Have a Heart” for persons in the criminal justice system, thanked the City Council, the Mayor and Councilwoman Sorace for not letting this issue die. Many people are pleased that now they may have job opportunities that were not available before.

Blanding Watson, President of the Lancaster NAACP, applauded the City for working with the NAACP and others to bring this issue to the Council for a new policy change. He listed the benefits of using this policy.

Jonathan P. Fox, thanked everyone, the Mayor, Councilwoman Sorace and President Graupera for initiating the passing of this resolution.

Mayor Gray expressed his appreciation to the NAACP who brought lots of information as we talked with Blanding, Reverend Simmons, and Nelson Polite. We are ahead on this issue both nationally and locally.

President Graupera thanked Councilwoman Sorace for staying with this from the beginning.

City Council approved Council Resolution No. 40-2014 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 41-2014, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER APPROVING THE EMERALD ASH BORER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN.

Councilman Roschel made the motion to approve and Councilman Reichenbach seconded.

Councilman Roschel stated that this resolution approves the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan. The Emerald Ash Borer is a pest that threatens the health and life of all ash trees in the City. The plan would establish a plan to immediately treat or remove threatened ash trees. Having this plan in place would qualify the City for any potential funding. City Council approved Administration Resolution by a unanimous roll call vote.

Council Resolution No. 42-2014, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2014 AS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF LANCASTER AND ENCOURAGING ALL ITS CITIZENS TO TAKE STEPS TO HAVE A PLAN TO DETECT THE DISEASE IN ITS EARLY STAGES AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME.

Councilman Reichenbach made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Williams seconded.

Councilwoman Wilson stated that as the resolution states one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime and each year it is estimated that over 220,000 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 40,000 will die. She encouraged every woman to take steps to detect the disease in its early stages.

City Council approved Council Resolution No. 42-2014 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Council Resolution No. 43-2014, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER APPOINTING, ROGER J. COHEN, AS AN ALTERNATE, TO THE CITY OF LANCASTER ZONING HEARING BOARD, FOR A THREE (3) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2014.

Councilman Roschel made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Sorace seconded. City Council approved Council Resolution No. 43-2014 by a unanimous roll call vote.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR – The report of the Mayor can be viewed on the City’s website www.cityoflancasterpa.com

President Graupera adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

John E. Graupera, President

Attest:

City Clerk