

STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL – APRIL 9, 2013

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 in Council Chambers, Southern Market Center, 100 South Queen Street, Lancaster, PA, at 7:30 p.m., with President Williams presiding.

City Council led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present – Mr. Graupera, Mr. Reichenbach, Mr. Roschel,
Mr. Urdaneta, Ms. Wilson, President Williams – 6

Excused – Mr. Smith - 1

City Council approved the minutes of March 26, 2013 by a unanimous roll call vote.

REPORTS REQUESTED BY COUNCIL – Tracy Beyl, Public Arts Manager for the City of Lancaster, gave a power point presentation and a comprehensive report on the Public Arts Projects which are planned for the City this year and next.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – Chairman Roschel stated that Public Works Committee met on April 1. The Public Works Director and our City Solicitor Handwerker introduced two related ordinances to the Committee. The first ordinance would add a new chapter to the code with the purpose of implementing a comprehensive program for the management of the City’s right-of-way. This would include right-of-way agreements, permit procedures and establishing a right-of-way maintenance fee. The second ordinance would amend the Streets and Sidewalks Chapter 262, to provide City Council the authority to amend excavation fees via resolution. The City conducted a study to determine what it costs to manage our right-of-ways and that study concluded that the City was under-recovering costs by over \$500,000. The Committee meeting was just an introduction to these ordinances. A special meeting with the sole purpose of discussing these ordinances is scheduled for April 22, here at 7:00 p.m. The first reading will be the next day, April 23, and the second reading is scheduled for May 28, 2013.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE – Chairman Urdaneta stated that the Committee met on April 1, and Mr. Patterson presented an amendment to Chapter 240 of the Code and adding Article III establishing licensing and operational requirements for mobile food trucks operating within the City. This is a new industry that is growing in other cities around the country and we have about 12 that are already operating within the City. The Code does not allow these trucks to park and operate within the right-of-way areas. This requires us to allow for these businesses to flourish while protecting existing restaurants and food businesses. We will address this at the May 6 Committee Meeting and it will come to Council for readings at the City Council Meetings in May.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Councilman Roschel stated that the Committee met on April 1,

and it was more of an informational discussion on Municipal Pension Proposal by the PA Municipal League. Mayor Gray and Patrick Hopkins went through some options and proposals. Just looking at the numbers and the long-term obligation is pretty scary. We need to deal with that, the sooner the better.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE – Chairman Reichenbach stated that the Committee met on April 1 and the topic of discussion was a Zoning Ordinance Update. Mr. Patterson gave us a brief overview of what the City is in the process of doing in the process of updating our Zoning Ordinance. There will be a lot of public comment along the way. There will a lot of opportunities for residents to give their input.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Chairman Graupera stated that the Committee moved Council Resolution No. 20-2013 and he will discuss it when it comes up on the agenda.

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

1. Patrick and Lori Murphy, request to install wooden flower boxes on the building's ground-floor windows, at 136 East Vine Street.

Councilman Urdaneta made the motion to approve and Councilman Reichenbach seconded. City Council approved the decision of the HARB by a unanimous roll call vote.

Administration Bill No. 1-2013, (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 155 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER TO PROVIDE FOR THE ABILITY OF THE CITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION SPECIALIST TO ISSUE A NOTICE OF VIOLATION; AMENDING THE NOTICE OF VIOLATION PROVISIONS AND THE VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE; AMENDING BUILDING CODE REFERENCES; 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.

Councilman Urdaneta made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Wilson seconded. Councilman Reichenbach stated that right now only the Building Official can issue a violation citation for code violation in the Historic District, but not in the Heritage Conservation area. This will allow the Historic Preservation Specialist to issue citations or stop work orders, as well at the Building Official in the Heritage Conservation District. City Council approved Administration Bill No. 1-2013 by a unanimous roll call vote and shall hereinafter be known as Administration Ordinance No. 2-2013.

Administration Resolution No. 20-2013, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MAYOR GRAY’S PARTICIPATION IN “MAYORS AGAINST ILLEGAL GUNS” IN ITS EFFORTS TOWARDS ENACTING ENFORCEABLE GUN BACKGROUND CHECK LEGISLATION AND OTHER MEASURES TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE, AND CALLING ON THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA AND HELP PREVENT FUTURE MASS SHOOTINGS THROUGH THE PASSAGE OF: S. 374 / H.R. 137, A BILL WHICH WOULD REQUIRE A BACKGROUND CHECK FOR EVERY GUN SALE AND ENSURE THAT ALL CRIMINALS AND OTHER DANGEROUS PEOPLE WHO ARE PROHIBITED FROM BUYING A GUN ARE LISTED IN THE NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM; AS WELL AS, LEGISLATION THAT WOULD KEEP MILITARY-STYLE WEAPONS AND HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES OFF OUR STREETS AND WOULD MAKE GUN TRAFFICKING A FEDERAL CRIME.

Councilman Reichenbach made the motion to approve and Councilman Urdaneta seconded. City Council approved Council Resolution No. 20-2013 by a unanimous roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Pat Coller, 334 West Orange Street, stated that she is here to support the resolution Council just passed, supporting Mayor Gray and Mayors Against Illegal Guns. She stated that she is not against the 2nd Amendment, but she wanted to call on Lancastrians to contact their representatives in Washington. These folks do respond to public pressure and she knows that most Americans are in favor of gun legislation. As far as background checks, she has at least three in the last couple of years, because every volunteer organization she has volunteered for requires background checks, not just for child abuse, but the FBI background check. That is because they want to protect the innocents.

Councilwoman Wilson stated that she would like to send out her thoughts and prayers to the young store owners who were robbed this weekend. They took an old building, the old Darrenkamp’s on Union Street and turned it into a retail store. Although they were robbed and shot, thankfully, they will recover. In light of this unfortunate incident, she supports this resolution.

Councilman Graupera thanked Council for considering this resolution and for voting in favor of it. He caught the news before he left home and it looks like the 14 Republican senators are getting internal pressure, and they may be changing their mind. This is a fluid issue, things change from day-to-day, but he thinks we are heading in the right direction.

President Williams stated that things are happening everyday that remind us that this is something that is vitally important and needs to be passed.

Mayor Gray thanked Council for taking a stand, not in favor of gun control, but in support

of reasonable gun regulation. It is interesting, people that say there are too many laws, just enforce the laws you have, and also “guns don’t kill people, people kill people.” If you look at background checks, this supports both of those issues, and that is, it enforces the laws that are currently on the books. It would prohibit felons and those with serious mental illness, or have been involved with domestic violence, from purchasing guns. It is not a new law, it is an enforcement law. It begins to ferret out those people who should not possess or purchase firearms. It is reasonable gun regulation, and he appreciates Council independently taking a stand on this.

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

COUNCIL COMMENT – Mr. Roschel thanked Tracy Beyl, Public Arts Manager, for the presentation she made tonight. He further thanked those council members who served before him on the Public Arts Advisory Board, Councilwoman Coller and Councilman Urdaneta. The Board is doing a great job.

Councilman Reichenbach stated that he had lunch with a councilman from Harrisburg and remarked how this visitor complimented the City for the cleanliness, the activity and the various meeting places and restaurants here.

President Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Louise B. Williams, President

Attest:

City Clerk