

**STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 26, 2008**

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A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, February 26, 2008, 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 –Ms. Collier, Mr. Morales, Mr. Polite, Mr. Roschel,  
Ms. Saunders, , & President Williams - 6

Excused - Mr. Urdaneta -1

City Council approved the minutes of February 12, 2008 by a unanimous roll call vote.

READING OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS & MEMORIALS - Mayor Gray and Acting Chief Palmer presented Heroism and Lifesaving Awards to Officer McCormick and Officer Gerace who saved the lives of Ezequiel Almodovar and Jose Gascot III who were trapped inside a burning vehicle.

PUBLIC COMMENT - David Hommel, North Mulberry Street, spoke in opposition to the Student Housing Overlay District proposed by Franklin & Marshall College. Mr. Keith Orris, Franklin & Marshall College, spoke in rebuttal stating that the College has withdrawn their petition as of yesterday, to more fully consider the opinions expressed by the residents at the Planning Commission.

REPORTS REQUESTED BY COUNCIL - Candice O'Donnell, member of the City Human Relations Commission, representing the Chairman, Albert Gonzales, reported on the complete report that has been distributed to Council, but sharing highlights of the report. This report is made to City Council in accordance with the Discrimination ordinance.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - Councilman Roschel stated that the Committee will meet on March 3, 2008 and we will discuss an administrative ticket process as well as a streetscape design ordinance.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Chairwoman Saunders stated that the Committee met earlier this evening and discussed two resolutions. One is on the agenda tonight exonerating 2007 water and sewer charges in City-owned properties. We discussed a resolution approving a Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation project within the City. The Finance Committee voted to bring it to the full council with a vote for approval. She made a motion to add Resolution No. 6-2008 to the agenda and Councilman Roschel seconded. City Council approved adding to Resolution No. 6-2008 to the agenda by a unanimous roll call vote. Chairwoman Saunders further stated the Finance Committee would be meeting on March 3, to hear a presentation of the Budget for the Downtown Investment District.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE - Chairwoman Collier

stated that she has attended two City Planning Commission meetings and she has also been going to the Lancaster Inter-municipal Committee meetings. She attended the Lancaster County Planning Commission annual dinner. Smart Growth awards were given out and the LIMC was given an award for their Growing Together Plan. She further stated that the Committee would be meeting on March 3, to get an update on the Lancaster Press Building and SCORE/ASSETS entrepreneur loan program.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Chairman Polite stated that there is a resolution on the agenda tonight appointing Harvey Miller as an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board.

The City Council considered the following applications & (Historic Commission recommendation(s) for construction & demolition within the Heritage Conservation District:

1. Jonathan & Jennie Groff propose a frame addition with a one-bay garage at 105 Old Dorwart Street

2. John Keane, proposes a two-story open deck addition to Annie Bailey's Pub at 28 East King Street.

Councilman Polite made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Collier seconded. City Council approved the recommendations of the Historic Commission by a unanimous roll call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 6-2008, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER APPROVING A CERTAIN PROJECT TO BE UNDERTAKEN AND FINANCED BY THE LANCASTER MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY ON BEHALF OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL REHABILITATION SERVICES, INC.; DECLARING THAT IT IS DESIRABLE FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA SERVED BY FACILITIES OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL REHABILITATION SERVICES, INC. TO HAVE SUCH A PROJECT UNDERTAKEN AND FINANCED BY THE AUTHORITY.**

Councilman Roschel made the motion to approve and Councilman Morales seconded. Councilwoman Saunders stated this is the Resolution we discussed earlier at the Finance Committee meeting. This is an expansion of the Manos House Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Center. We struggled with this because it would take the property off the tax rolls which is something that we try not to do, but at the same time Manos has a very good reputation and they have been good stewards giving us payments in lieu of taxes.

Mr. Dan Blakinger, Solicitor, for the Municipal Authority, stated that this is asking City Council to pass what is called a "Health and Welfare Resolution". The Lancaster Municipal Authority has already approved the project and the Municipal Authorities Act requires that the City that created the authority pass this resolution. Mayor Gray stated that at the Committee meeting, it was indicated that the property is currently paying \$8,500 in taxes. Manos indicated that if we pass this resolution, they would save \$50,000 in financing charges. During that

meeting, it was suggested that Manos House would possibly make a commitment to continue to pay the same taxable amount. The officers in attendance agreed to go back to their Board of Directors and recommend to the Board that they continue to pay the current taxable amount.

Councilwoman Saunders stated that she wants the citizens to know that we take taking properties off the tax rolls very seriously. We do have 250 non-profits in the City and we have far more than any other surrounding municipality in the County.

Councilman Polite stated that when this was first brought to committee a month ago, it was not stated that it was a Manos property. He was going to vote against it, because we don't need any additional places like that in the City. Tonight we found out that it is a Manos project, and they are a good neighbor.

City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 6-2008 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 14-2008, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER EXONERATING 2007 WATER CHARGES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,354.06 AND SEWER CHARGES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,511.71 FOR CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES AT 29 LOCATIONS.**

Councilwoman Saunders made the motion to approve and Councilman Polite seconded. Councilwoman Saunders stated that this is something we do every year. We exonerate the water and sewer charges to city-owned properties and other facilities such as the Lancaster Public Library. This is so we are not charging ourselves for water and sewer. City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 14-2008 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Council Resolution No. 15-2008, was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER DESIGNATING MARCH 2008 AS "WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH" IN THE CITY OF LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA.**

**WHEREAS,** Women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

**WHEREAS,** Women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural and social role in every sphere of life of this City by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; and

**WHEREAS,** Women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic and cultural institutions across our nation; and

**WHEREAS,** Women of every race, class and ethnic background served as early leaders in

the forefront of every major progressive social change movement; and

**WHEREAS**, Women have been leaders not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, the peace movement and other movements which create a more fair and just society for all.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Lancaster designates the month of March as “Women’s History Month” and encourage the citizens of this City to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

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

Councilman Roschel who sponsored this resolution stated that it is easy to look at the contributions of women, mentioning those he is currently working with and those who he has worked with in the past. He cited the labor movement, stating that women played leading roles at the grass roots of those organizations, mentioning the Teacher's Union, the Nurse's Union and AFSME, leading unions that are fighting for worker's rights today. With the advent of Women's History we started to look at history not just in wars and biographies, but also the day to day activities that occur. He mentioned women in his own family who have had influence on his life, and hundreds of others who were influenced by them. He cited a yellow pamphlet that he put on the front chair, from the National Women's History Project. They are the organization that wrote this resolution and they sponsor the Women's History Month every year. This year their theme is Women's Art, Women's Vision.

City Council approved Council Resolution No. 15-2008 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Council Resolution No. 16-2008, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER APPOINTING HARVEY S. MILLER, 427 WEST LEMON STREET, AS AN ALTERNATE, TO THE CITY OF LANCASTER ZONING HEARING BOARD, FOR A THREE (3) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2008.**

Councilman Polite made the motion to approve, and Councilwoman Saunders seconded. Councilman Polite urged Council to approve this resolution, stating that Mr. Miller comes very well qualified, he is well versed in the laws and codes of the City. City Council approved Council Resolution No. 16-2008 by a unanimous roll call vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - Matt Henderson, NewsLanc.com, stated one of the things the City has coming up in the near future is renovating of the Amtrak station. According to planners in County Government, a construction bid for these renovations could be awarded as early as this summer. NewsLanc has been informed by Amtrak that during construction the amount of parking at the station maybe reduced as much as one third. It seems likely that this could cause congestion in the neighborhoods surrounding the Amtrak station. In light of that, what does the City plan to do to help relieve this congestion? President Williams stated that the Public Works Committee will look

into it.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR - The report of the Mayor can be seen on the City's website at [www.cityoflancasterpa.com](http://www.cityoflancasterpa.com)

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

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Louise B. Williams, President

Attest:

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City Clerk