

STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL – MAY 27, 2008

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A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, May 27, 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. Coller, Mr. Morales, Mr. Roschel, Ms. Saunders,
Mr. Urdaneta, & President Williams -6

Excused - Mr. Polite - 1

City Council approved the minutes of May 13, 2008 by a unanimous roll call vote.

READING OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS & MEMORIALS - Mayor Gray and Councilwoman Saunders presented Red Rose Awards for Academic Achievement to eight J.P. McCaskey High School seniors. The students accepting the awards are as follows: Elissa Walton, Dat Jimmy Vuu, Catherine Sturla, Sayra Reyes, Charisse Perez, Ashley Engle, Rebecca Coldren and Jessica Brown.

President Williams further commended the students on behalf of City Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Bill Roberts, President of IBS Development Corporation, stated that his corporation is owner of the Kendig Bare Building which he has rehabilitated in the last year. He is having a serious problem with skateboarders and bicyclists at the building. He stated that they have invested about \$6 million in the building. The front of the building has granite and the skateboarders come down and ride up on the granite, follow the granite down and then continue to go down the street. They are doing a serious amount of damage to it. It is disheartening that we can not stop the children from doing this.

Mayor Gray stated that he appreciates what Mr. Roberts has done and continues to do for the City of Lancaster. He stated that if you go up and look at the front of it on Chestnut Street, it is really terrible what is happening to the building. He also noted that there have been complaints of skateboarding damage down around the Fulton Bank and in Binns Park and Lancaster Square. He suggested that the Administration and the Public Safety Committee would look into the ordinance and see what we can do.

REPORTS REQUESTED BY COUNCIL - Patrick Hopkins, Director of Administrative Services, gave Council a short synopsis of what is actually a very voluminous report. He provided a printed copy of the executive summary of the report, which lays out the rationale behind this study. The full fee study has a lot more information, tables on the cost that goes into many of the services we provide and for which we charge fees.

We charge a fee that, hopefully, recovers the cost of providing special services that benefit an individual or a class of individuals. One example is development fees. It makes sense to charge individuals who are bringing a development plan to the City for the plan reviews, engineering costs and all of those things that go into reviewing a new development plan, rather than having taxpayers, in general, pay the costs of those services.

The idea behind the study was, that we calculate the full cost of providing all these special service and then determine in which places does it make sense to charge the full cost and then in other areas it may make sense to charge some percentage of the full cost. But before we know which of those directions to take, we have to know the full cost behind the services we are providing.

We also know that the last time a comprehensive review of all Citywide fees was back in 1996. Since then various fees have been increased over time, some have been increased once or twice. Others have not been touched at all. We decided to look at all services in total and look at all of those fees. In total, Maximus reviewed 177 different services.

The recommendation of Management Partners and Maximus is that once we establish those fees we should revisit them on a regular basis to make sure that we are not playing catch up in 10 years like we are right now.

Jennifer Baker, Director of Mayor's Office of Special Events, updated City Council on the work that is done by her office. In 2006, MOOSE was formed as a non-profit organization to host and promote events for the City, and also to be a resource for other organizations and individuals that want to do events. She stated that they have strived to enhance our professionalism and our customer service standards for our residents and guests. In October, 2007 we completed our strategic plan working with our board. It was funded by the Lancaster County Community Foundation. You will see in the Strategic Plan, our core purpose is to create excitement and enthusiasm for the City, really wanting to bring people here to have a great time, to experience new things. As part of that, the major focus of our organization are the events that we do downtown. There are five events that we do, one being the dinner and the movie series, we have Celebrate Lancaster which is coming up on June 27th, where we will have the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra performing a free concert downtown. We have Wheels Weekend, which is a weekend all about wheels, with cars, motorcycles, art installations, concerts and our annual car show. Then we have the Dome Parties, they are coming back this year and we are doing three nights of the Dome with each night being a different theme. We are hoping to attract different people each night giving them a great experience downtown. And, of course, for the Holidays, with the Mayor's Tree Lighting, visits with Santa, strolling entertainment and shopping downtown. Some of the marketing initiatives that we have going on, thanks to two grants, one from LIVE and Lancaster County Community Foundation, have allowed us to extend our efforts and reach those people who may not have been here before, in surrounding counties and even the Baltimore area. She further credited the partnering with the James Street Improvement District, the Downtown Investment District, Lancaster Arts, and PA Dutch Convention and Visitor's Bureau. We are able to reach many people and give them some great new experiences. We are doing some direct mail campaigns just to City and County residents, and a print, radio and television campaign that we are promoting in Central Pennsylvania. With the JSID, DID and the PA Dutch Convention and Visitor's Bureau we are hosting meeting planners to come here to see our City, to have a hardhat tour of the Convention Center and encourage them to book their shows, tradeshows and events at the Convention Center.

She noted that on May 2nd, they hosted 12 meeting planners, which were all State Association Meeting Planners from Pennsylvania. We gave them a hardhat tour, provided lunch, and did a downtown presentation for them. We sent them off on a City tour where they were able to have some free time and shop in different areas of the City and then ended with a reception in the evening, allowing them to attend First Friday. They loved Downtown. Many of them did not know that there was a downtown. They were glad to see that there was so much just in walking distance

of the Convention Center itself. She showed a video to City Council.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Chairwoman Saunders stated that the Committee will meet on Monday, June 2, to discuss supplemental appropriations for property abatement related to the administrative ticketing.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING - Councilwoman Collier stated that the Committee will meet on Monday, June 2.

Administration Bill No. 7-2008, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER TO ENTER INTO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTING "GROWING TOGETHER: A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR CENTRAL LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA," PURSUANT TO (1) SECTIONS 1102 AND 1104 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPALITIES PLANNING CODE ("MPC"), 53 P.S. §11102 and §11104, RESPECTIVELY, AND (2) THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION LAW, 53 P.A.C.S.A., CHAPTER 23, SUBCHAPTER A.

Councilwoman Collier stated that this agreement is with the Lancaster Inter-municipal Committee which is a group of 11 municipalities that surround the City of Lancaster. This is an agreement based on their comprehensive plan of Growing Together. It is a way for these municipalities to communicate better and promote smart growth.

Councilman Urdaneta made the motion to approve and Councilman Morales seconded. Administration Bill No. 7-2008 was approved by a unanimous roll call vote and shall hereinafter be known as Administration Ordinance No. 7-2008.

Administration Bill No. 8-2008, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTING THE 2006 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE AS AMENDED HEREIN AS THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE OF THE CITY; 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.

Councilwoman Collier stated that this is the first reading of the bill that would adopt the 2006 International Property Maintenance Code and bring the Administration up-to-date. Mr. Patterson stated that the City has been going through a process since the end of 2006 of updating all of its code to make them consistent with the International Code Council. We have adopted the International Fire Code, and the International Building Codes. This is the last piece of that process.

Council Resolution No. 30-2008, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER
RECOGNIZING JUNE 2008, AS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND
TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH, AND ENCOURAGING ALL PEOPLE OF THE
CITY OF LANCASTER TO WORK TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF EQUALITY
AND TOWARDS ACHIEVING A SAFE COMMUNITY THAT APPRECIATES ITS
DIVERSITY IN ALL ITS FORMS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.**

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

Councilwoman Saunders stated that she thinks this resolution is a long time coming. It is the first in Lancaster City and County. In June of 2000, President Clinton deemed the month of June, Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. This month was chosen to remember a riot in 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in Manhattan, and was thought to be the beginning of the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. She stated that she wrote a lot of this resolution, so she does not have to much additional things to say about Gay Pride Month; however, she wanted to take this time to help those understand what it is like to be Gay, Lesbian or Transgender. Imagine if you had to sit quietly through lunchtime conversations with co-workers while they talk about their weekends with their families and you can't share yours. Imagine if you had to listen and pretend not to mind while people made offensive remarks or jokes about people like you. Imagine what it would be like to be threatened or beaten up because people hate or fear your sexual orientation or gender expression. Imagine what it would be like if your partner of many years becomes disabled and guardianship is awarded to his or her family instead of you. Imagine if you supported your partner financially, but still paid higher taxes because the IRS didn't legally recognize your relationship with your partner. Imagine if you had to spend holidays and vacations away from your partner so things would "appear normal". Imagine if your partner had introduced you to relatives or friends as "my roommate" when the relationship is much more than that. Imagine spending years serving your country, building a career and you are discharged because your sexual orientation is thought to be incompatible with military service. Imagine that your partner dies and you lose your home and half of everything the two of you have worked for because his or her family are the legal beneficiaries. Imagine feeling that you are always identified by your sexuality rather than by many of your other qualities or characteristics. Those are just a few examples, but she thinks that the community of Lancaster deserves better and that is why she wrote this resolution.

Councilman Roschel stated that he is a great fan of literature and he also asked to imagine the American Theater without Tennessee Williams', A Streetcar named Desire, or Tony Kushner's, Angels of America. He mentioned James Baldwin, Willa Cather, and the greatest poet that ever lived, Walt Whitman. Locally he would like to acknowledge the contribution to the community, the various organizations they belong to and the economic impact on the community. He noted some very dear friends, and thanked Kendra for putting this together.

Council approved Council Resolution No. 30-2008 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Anthony Leskoski and Erica Millner accepted copies of the Resolution on behalf of the community and the Human Relations Commission of the City.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR - Mayor Gray gave his report to Council and it can be viewed on the City's website, www.cityoflancasterpa.com

President Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Louise B. Williams, President

Attest:

City Clerk