

STATED MEETING - CITY COUNCIL –MARCH 25, 2003

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A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2003, in Council Chambers, Southern Market Center, 100 South Queen Street, Lancaster, Pa., at 7:30 p.m., with President Diamantoni presiding.

City Council led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present – Ms. Dickson, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Graupera, Mr. Mendoza, Mr. Polite,
Mr. Stoltzfus, President Diamantoni – 7

City Council approved the minutes from February 25, 2003 and March 11, 2003 by a unanimous roll call vote.

REPORTS REQUESTED BY COUNCIL – Charlotte Katzenmoyer, Director of Public Works reported to Council an interim report about the progress of addressing the issues and problems at Central Market. She stated that she now has a new Superintendent of Parks and they are in the process of evaluating job descriptions and how better to meet the needs of the standholders in relation to better management at the market. The Market Master is retiring and they will be rewriting the job description and improving management at market.

She stated that they will be working on a new master plan for market that deals with the major philosophical issues: traffic circulation plan around market, pedestrian access around market and how to deal with the parking issues that relate to market. In a master plan we need to deal with the mix of stands, and ask whether we need to provide for some other type of market that we are not currently serving. She further stated that in absence of a master plan, we are addressing other things, including pest control. They are working with the Health Bureau addressing this issue. They are also working with LEADS on maintenance issues around the Heritage Quadrant. They are also repairing outside lighting at market. There are about 100 bollards all around Market. We have identified about 25 that need immediate replacing. The only added cost will be \$20,000 for interior cleaning done by an industrial cleaning firm from top to bottom. They will prepare surfaces for our crew to do the interior painting. We have identified between 3 and 4 hundred brick pavers on Market Street that need to be replaced. Another item that we have identified is improving the ventilation before this summer. This is something that we want to do until an HV/AC engineer can conduct a comprehensive analysis. She noted that these are the short-term maintenance issues that we have talked about and are in the process of addressing. The 7 short-term projects that she described will be handled under the Parks Maintenance Budget. She further stated that we are applying for a Federal Grant called “Save America’s Treasures Grant” specifically for preservation of historic structures. The minimum request is \$250,000 and that requires a local match. She stated that she is looking forward to working with the Ad Hoc Committee that Council has set up to prioritize the other long-term

capital projects that need to be addressed.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – Councilman Mendoza stated that the Central Market Ad Hoc Committee that former Mayor Morris is chairing met twice. The main objective is to address issues relating to Central Market operations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE – Councilman Graupera stated that he has a quick summary of the North-South Truck Route Study Committee. It met March 20 at the Lancaster Township Municipal Building. The meeting was attended by various representatives of surrounding municipalities. Mr. Polite and Mr. Graupera represented the City. The meeting focused on a future traffic study, which will be in two parts. The first is a traffic count, not only through the City but also through the proposed alternate routes. This will be done by an automated traffic recorder. The other part of the study is an origin destination study. It is more of a survey and that will determine where these trucks are coming from or where they are going, if they are stopping in the city or whether they are just passing through.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE – Councilwoman Dickson stated that her committee met on March 18 and there were two items on the agenda. One was an introduction to the Executive Director of the James Street Improvement District, Ms. Lisa Riggs. She and Mr. Keith Orris gave us a brief overview of what the plans are for this district. We found out that the district itself is considerably larger than just the James Street corridor, it does expand significantly over a broader area. They are in the process of forming a board of directors. Ms. Riggs was quite impressive with her level of enthusiasm and her knowledge of community development, her experiences working in Baltimore and with the national trade group for Community Development Organizations. She will work on the JSID and will have autonomy. This is not to be viewed as a project of Lancaster General Hospital or F&M. They got it up and running and now she and that board will work on the details over the next several years. We asked her to come to Council in a few months to keep us informed, so that as we get questions from citizens, we know what the plans are. She will have many neighborhood meetings planned with folks, so people should be well informed.

The second item on the agenda was the approval of the Community Development Block Grant Citizen Panel. This year there is one panel with 7 appointments from the Mayor and seven appointments from Council. We approved the appointments. She made the motion for Council to approve the appointments and Councilman Polite seconded. City Council approved the appointments by a unanimous roll call vote.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Councilman Polite stated that the Committee met just before our last Council Meeting and approved recognizing Renee Valentine for being selected for the Jean Royer Kohr award for 2003. The Resolution is on the agenda this evening.

Council Resolution No. 14-2003 was read by the City Clerk as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER
RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING RENEE VALENTINE FOR HER
SELECTION AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE JEAN ROYER KOHR AWARD FOR
2003.**

WHEREAS, in 1982, the Lancaster Women's Coalition decided to cite an outstanding woman each year with an award honoring the late Jean Royer Kohr; and

WHEREAS, the award goes to a woman with a strong sense of self-identity, a sensitivity to injustice, a vision to reach her goals and to help others to reach their goals, perseverance and an inner strength, and the will and courage to work on the cutting edge of social change; and

WHEREAS, this year Renee Valentine is the recipient of the Jean Royer Kohr award presented by the Women's Alliance of Lancaster County; and

WHEREAS, Renee Valentine is the Founder of Milagro House, a transitional shelter for women with children, which for the past 5 years, has assisted more than 150 women break the cycle of poverty and become self-sufficient.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Lancaster that we recognize Renee Valentine for the honor of being chosen for the Jean Royer Kohr award and for her dedication and untiring support that has changed the lives of women and families.

Councilwoman Dickson made the motion to approve and Councilman Mendoza seconded.

Councilwoman Dickson stated that on March 11, this council approved a resolution designating March as Women's History Month, so it is appropriate that tonight we honor a woman who is making history in the City of Lancaster. She further stated that she is pleased to sponsor this resolution recognizing and commending Renee Valentine for her selection as the recipient of the Jean Royer Kohr Award for 2003. Renee Valentine as founder of Milagro House, designed a program that permits women to stay at Milagro House if they are in school or have a full time job. The ultimate goal is to break the cycle of poverty and failure by giving women the tools to become self-reliant.

President Diamantoni stated that he knows Renee Valentine and if you look in the dictionary and there was a picture next to the words caring and compassionate, that picture would be of Renee Valentine. Her can-do philosophy has helped produce transition housing for a lot of women who have had relationship problems, social problems, drug problems, and parenting problems and have struggled just to be able to make it day to day. What Renee has done is provide the environment for them to learn those life skills, and their social skills.

City Council approved Council Resolution No. 14-2003 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Valentine was in attendance and accepted the resolution thanking City Council for the recognition.

Council Resolution No. 16-2003 was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER DECLARING OUR SUPPORT FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND GREAT BRITAIN, COMMENDING THE WORK THEY ARE DOING AND PRAYING FOR THEIR SAFE RETURN.

WHEREAS, our founding fathers fought for our independence and structured our government so all its citizens would walk in freedom; and

WHEREAS, we have supported the oppressed and fought in two world wars to rid the world of tyrants and despots; and

WHEREAS, there are those in the world who hate Americans just because of the freedoms we enjoy; and

WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001 the safety of the world and its people has been shaken; and

WHEREAS, terrorism that had gone unchecked for years has undermined the security of travel and movement all over the world; and

WHEREAS, our military men and women have been called to duty to liberate the people of Iraq and cast out the tyrannical regime that has suppressed that country for decades and kept its neighbors in fear as it amassed weapons of mass destruction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council and the Administration of the City of Lancaster do hereby declare that we support our armed forces in the Middle East, commend the work of the military men and women of the United States of America and Great Britain and pray for their safe return.

Councilman Duncan made the motion to approve and Councilman Mendoza seconded.

Councilman Duncan made the motion to amend the Resolution to read ‘and all the other coalition forces supporting their efforts’ and Councilman Graupera seconded. City Council approved the amendment by a unanimous roll call vote. City Council approved Council Resolution No. 16-2003 (as amended) by a unanimous roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Helene Guilfooy, 130 East Vine Street, stated that since President Diamantoni stated that we are fighting for the rights of the women in Iraq, she wants to state that although she is not speaking in favor of Iraq, that Iraq is the only Arab country that allows women full rights including serving in the legislature.

Mike Ridgeway, Dream Ride, stated that he would like to tell Council about the bicycle

program of the last two years. It will be introducing the second phase of the Cycle Smart Bicycle Program for youth for kindergarten through 7th grade. One of the features is a Saturday weekly ride that leaves from the Wickersham Elementary School in Lancaster City. These rides are designed to teach children how to ride their bike properly both as a beginning step and as they progress into using the bicycle as a vehicle, a mode of transportation. Our goals for the program are safety, fun, fitness, education and developing adult coaches through activities with this program. It is a free program.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR – Mayor Smithgall reported three extra alarm fires, one on Plum near Chestnut, one on Beaver Street and one on Lime Street. During the last 10 days he has been to many Homeland Security Meetings to go over different things that we are going over in the City. He invited the Public Safety Committee, and other Councilmembers to tour the New Police Station. Within the next 10 days the final power will be on. Once the power is on, you will be able to see the building. The completion date is early September.

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

Stephen G. Diamantoni, President

Attest:

City Clerk