

**CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY/
FINANCING AUTHORITY
MINUTES
May 10, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Smith called the regular meeting of the City Council/Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members/Agency Directors/Authority Members: Crist, Marquez; Vice Mayor/Vice Chairman Smith

On a motion by Council Member/Agency/Authority Director Crist and seconded by Council Member/Agency/Authority Director Marquez, the City Council excused Council Member/Agency/Authority Director Mann and Mayor/Chairman Parris from the meeting by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Crist, Marquez, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mann, Parris

Excused: Council Member/Agency/Authority Director Mann; Mayor/Chairman Parris

Staff

Members: Deputy City Manager / Deputy Executive Director; City Attorney / Agency/Authority Counsel; City Clerk/Agency/Authority Secretary; Planning Director; Public Works Director; Parks, Recreation and Arts Director; Finance Director; Economic Development Director; Housing Director; Human Resources Director

INVOCATION

Pastor Ryan Parish, New Hope Community Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member/Agency/Authority Director Crist

PRESENTATIONS

Municipal Clerks Week Proclamation

Presenter: Vice Mayor Smith

Public Service Recognition Week Proclamation

Presenter: Vice Mayor Smith

Lancaster High School Eagle Robotics Team International Championship 1st Place Winner

Presenter: Vice Mayor Smith

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PRESENTATIONS (continued)

UNITE Call for Projects by Safer Stronger Neighborhood Committee and LNV Commission.
Presenters: Kelvin Tainatongo, Assistant to the City Manager and Patricia Garibay, Recreation Supervisor.

The presentation included background on the UNITE Program - Launched by the City of Lancaster's Safer Stronger Neighborhoods Committee, in collaboration with Lancaster Neighborhood Vitalization Commission. It aims to empower local neighborhoods and strengthen the bonds between neighbors; encourages creativity and cooperation among neighbors to develop innovative projects that accomplish these goals. They presented information on the "call for applications" aspect of the program; beautification; neighborhood interaction; public safety; judging criteria and important dates of the program process.

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE REMOVED

None

APPROVAL OF AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR

On a motion by Agency Director Marquez and seconded by Agency Director Crist, the Redevelopment Agency approved the Agency Consent Calendar, by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Crist, Marquez, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mann, Parris

RCC 1. AWARD OF DEMOLITION PROJECT

Awarded Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Department's Lowtree Apartment Demolition **Project No. 11-HNRD 315** to Housley Demolition and Excavation in the amount of \$298,388.00 (plus a 15% contingency) and authorized the Executive Director, or his designee, to sign all documents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Council Member/Agency Director Crist and seconded by Council Member/Agency Director Marquez, the City Council/Redevelopment Agency/Authority approved the City Council/Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority Regular Meeting minutes of May 10, 2011, by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Crist, Marquez, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mann, Parris

M 1. MINUTES

Approved the City Council/Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority Regular Meeting minutes of April 26, 2011.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Mayor Smith requested that Item Nos. CC 5 and CC 6 be pulled for separate discussion and action, due to speaker cards that had been submitted on these items.

On a motion by Council Member Crist and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council approved the Council Consent Calendar with the exception of Item Nos. CC 5 and CC 6, by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Crist, Marquez, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mann, Parris

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CC 1. ORDINANCE WAIVER

Waived further reading of any proposed ordinances. (This permits reading the title only in lieu of reciting the entire text.)

CC 2. WARRANT REGISTER

Approved the Check and Wire Registers for April 10, 2011 through April 23, 2011 in the amount of \$5,057,410.76.

CC 3. MONTHLY REPORT OF INVESTMENTS

Accepted and approved the March 31, 2011, Monthly Report of Investments as submitted.

CC 4. ACCEPTANCE OF STREETS FOR MAINTENANCE

Approved the developer constructed streets and accepted the streets for maintenance by the City for Tract No. 54369 Phase 2, Lots 1, 5-7, and 26-31, located on the southwest corner of Avenue L and 70th Street West, Owner: KB Home Coastal Inc.

CC 5. SUBSTITUTION OF SUBDIVISION UNDERTAKING AGREEMENT

A speaker card was submitted by Mr. Emile Holmes. It was determined that his topic of discussion would be better suited for the non-agendized portion of the meeting.

On a motion by Council Member Crist and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council approved and accepted the substitution of the Subdivision Undertaking Agreement and Securities submitted by KB Home Coastal Inc., in place of the Subdivision Undertaking and Securities submitted by Harvard Homes, LLC, for Tract Map No. 62075, located at the southwest corner of Donatello Street and 22nd Street East, by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Crist, Marquez, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mann, Parris

CC 6. SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT

Addressing the City Council on this matter:

Nicole Parson – requested clarification regarding the process for this project.

On a motion by Council Member Crist and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council approved the Sub-Recipient agreement between the City of Lancaster and the Housing Rights Center to provide fair housing services to the residents of Lancaster for the 2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year, by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Crist, Marquez, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mann, Parris

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JPH 1. EXTENSION OF THE TERM REGARDING THE REAL PROPERTY LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH GRACE CHAPEL CHURCH IN THE PIUTE VISION PLAN AREA

Vice Mayor Smith opened the Joint Public Hearing. It was the consensus of the City Council/Redevelopment Agency to waive the presentation of the staff report on this matter.

Hearing no further testimony, Vice Mayor/Vice Chairman Smith closed the Public Hearing.

On a motion by Agency Director Crist and seconded by Agency Director Marquez, the Redevelopment Agency adopted Resolution No. **09-11**, a resolution of the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency, Lancaster, California, approving the extension to the term of the License Agreement for the use of Agency-owned real property in the Piute Vision Plan Area, by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Crist, Marquez, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mann, Parris

On a motion by Council Member Crist and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council adopted Resolution No. **11-22**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, approving the extension to the term of the License Agreement for the use of Agency-owned real property in the Piute Vision Plan Area, by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Crist, Marquez, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mann, Parris

PH 1. PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR THE CITY OF LANCASTER'S 2011 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN APPLICATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Vice Mayor Smith opened the Public Hearing. It was the consensus of the City Council to waive the presentation of the staff report on this matter.

One speaker card was submitted and it was determined that the matter of concern from this citizen would be better suited for the non-agendized portion of the meeting.

Hearing no further testimony, Vice Mayor Smith closed the Public Hearing.

On a motion by Council Member Crist and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council approved the proposed projects described herein for the City of Lancaster's 2011 One-Year Action Plan application to be submitted to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Crist, Marquez, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mann, Parris

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**PH 2. AMENDMENT OF TITLE 17 OF LANCASTER MUNICIPAL CODE –
PLACEMENT OF CARGO CONTAINERS FOR STORAGE OF
EMERGENCY SUPPLIES**

Vice Mayor Smith opened the Public Hearing. The Planning Director presented the staff report on this matter.

Addressing the City Council on this matter:

Susan Champion – stated that she is in favor of this ordinance.

Hearing no further testimony, Vice Mayor Smith closed the Public Hearing.

On a motion by Council Member Crist and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council introduced **Ordinance No. 964**, amending Title 17 of the Lancaster Municipal Code to allow the placement of cargo containers for the storage of public emergency supplies, subject to approval of a Director’s Review, by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Crist, Marquez, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mann, Parris

PH 3. INTRODUCTION OF HORSE-DRAWN VEHICLES ORDINANCE

Vice Mayor Smith opened the Public Hearing. The Assistant to the City Manager and a Management Analyst for the City presented the staff report on this matter. The ordinance was discussed in detail regarding regulations for commercial operations of horse-drawn vehicles.

Comments and concerns from the City Council included:

How horses would pull over for traffic; clarification of the vehicle code and seeing if there is a section relating to horses in the right-of-way; licensing; number of passengers permitted including the drivers; weight limits; concerns regarding the heat index; making amendments to the ordinance; concerns about other companies coming in and their horses not being acclimated to the heat of this valley; making sure the horses get plenty of rest, water and shade.

Addressing the City Council on this matter:

Monica Whitmer – stated that she is excited about the progress on this matter; concerned about the five person limitation, when there are two drivers, this would only allow for three passengers; discussed how much weight a horse can pull; the ordinance is too restrictive and suggested it be reworded to state that a horse could not pull more than twice its weight. Concerned about the limitations regarding the temperature of 90 degrees and not allowing horses to pull in heat higher than 90. This is very difficult to achieve in this climate, in this valley.

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PH 3. INTRODUCTION OF HORSE-DRAWN VEHICLES ORDINANCE (continued)

Staff suggested wording that would exclude the drivers; stated that several of the recommendations in the ordinance came from the City Attorney; Animal Control and staff. The key is to make sure the horse is not pulling more than it can handle. Staff will look in to rewording the ordinance regarding the weight limitations and number of passengers; concerns regarding the heat index and the restrictions of temperature as it relates to horse-drawn vehicles.

Further discussion took place and the City Council directed that the public hearing be continued to the City Council meeting on May 24, 2011, to allow time for further research and possible amendments to the ordinance.

NB 1. THE WINNING PITCH – A “DATING SERVICE” DESIGNED TO FIND FUNDING FOR ENTREPRENEURS BY MATCHING THEM WITH INVESTORS

The Economic Development Director presented the staff report on this matter. Additionally, Scott Ehrlich, the developer for the Lancaster transformation presented his ideas regarding this matter.

On a motion by Council Member Crist and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council approved a new program (*The Winning Pitch*) which connects aspiring entrepreneurs with funding sources for new business endeavors in the City of Lancaster and authorized the City Manager or his designee to execute all necessary documents, by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Crist, Marquez, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mann, Parris

LANCASTER FINANCING AUTHORITY

No action required at this time.

CITY MANAGER / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CITY CLERK / AGENCY / AUTHORITY SECRETARY ANNOUNCEMENT

The City Clerk provided the public with the procedure to address the City Council/Redevelopment Agency regarding non-agendized items.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Addressing the City Council at this time:

Maria Gutierrez – suggested that the fair offer a program with an old fashion country flare to it; concerned about safety for the Veterans, suggested a homeless campground where Veterans could pay for the camping area.

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PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (continued)

David G – stated that he enjoys coming to the Council meetings; likes the Winning Pitch idea but it is not enough. People should be able to start any business even from their homes and sell to their neighbors if they want. Concerned with the building of solar in the valley, many of the companies are not from this area and that is not right. He watches people being hassled by the Sheriff's Department all the time and calls it the beautification-tax. People are harassed for bad lawns; Christmas lights being up; the increase in tickets is outrageous; everywhere he turns, he sees people being hassled.

David Paul – stated that he likes the Winning Pitch idea; enjoys coming to the meetings; these meetings are important for people to come and exchange ideas.

Michael Rives – stated that he opposes the solar plant project and the Palmdale Power Plant project. Solar has not been discussed with the same diligence as the Power Plant and he is very concerned about the issues of solar. Concerned about the salary given to the new Director of AVTA.

David Abber – stated that he has concerns regarding the Power Plant; discussed prayer at Council meetings.

Lyle Talbot – submitted a poem he wrote after the 9/11 incident; read it to the City Council; offered it for display at American Heroes Park.

Emile Holmes – stated that he is an entrepreneur for youth programs.

Lynde Williams – stated her concerns regarding the use of redevelopment money to clean up blight; concerned about lawn preservation and the people who struggle to comply with the standards; does not appreciate facts that came out of the 2010 census; neighbors don't feel that they count; buildings are being torn down; people being put out of their homes; neighborhoods are being ignored.

Nicole Parson – stated her concerns regarding group homes; container ordinance; container will give the appearance of blight in the City; opposes the CDBG grant, it does not work for her; opposes the distribution of the funds as it currently stands.

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ADDENDUM

CA 101. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING PROPOSED REDISTRICTING RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE CALIFORNIA CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION – RESOLUTION NO. 11-24

Vice Mayor Smith presented this matter and a resolution for Council's consideration. He gave a brief background on this matter and stated that on May 1, 2011, the 15 member Citizens Redistricting Commission met for redistricting of California. Every ten years, after the census, per the constitution of the United States, there must be a redistricting of congressional districts within one percent to make sure that they have a one-man, one-vote because of the growth of some districts and it is important to have proper representation. Geographically and biologically, this valley is unique, has its own water basin, own power authority and shares common interests with the City of Palmdale. Lancaster and Palmdale represent 63 percent of what an assembly district is supposed to be. With the unincorporated areas of the desert floor, the representation is 80 percent. With the Antelope Valley desert floor, the representation is 93 percent of an assembly district. But, this Commission decided to split this valley in half and their initial tentative map that they will submit on June 10, 2011 is suggesting that the City of Palmdale should be connected with the City of Victorville.

Vice Mayor Smith stated that the Commission is also suggesting that the City of Lancaster be connected with the City of Santa Clarita. He stated that he opposes this and most of the people in the valley who spoke at this meeting oppose this and the comments resounded strongly that this community should stay the way it is and be represented by one representative. For Council's consideration, Vice Mayor Smith presented Resolution No. 11-24 requesting action from the Citizens Redistricting Commission to protect the communities of Lancaster and Palmdale in the same Assembly, Senate, Congressional, Board of Equalization Districts and to recognize the powerful bond between Lancaster, Palmdale and the unincorporated desert communities of Los Angeles County.

Council Member Marquez stated that she opposes what the Commission is trying to put in place and strongly supports the Antelope Valley as one entity.

Council Member Crist stated that it is very important to have Lancaster and Palmdale as one unit.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Crist, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 11-24, by the following vote: 3-0-0-2; AYES: Crist, Marquez, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mann, Parris

A letter and the resolution will be sent to the Citizens Redistricting Commission in Sacramento with a cover letter signed by all members of the City Council.

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COUNCIL / AGENCY COMMENTS

Council Member Crist stated that enforcement on Highway 14 has gone up 100 percent and reminded citizens to not drink and drive.

Vice Mayor Smith stated that it would not be necessary to hold a Closed Session meeting regarding the matters listed on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m. and stated that the next meeting of the City Council/Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority would take place on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 24th day of May, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members: Crist, Marquez, Vice Mayor Smith, Mayor Parris

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Council Member: Mann

ABSENT: None

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

GERI K. BRYAN, CMC
CITY CLERK/AGENCY/
AUTHORITY SECRETARY
Lancaster, CA

R. REX PARRIS
MAYOR/CHAIRMAN
Lancaster, CA

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**CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY/FINANCING AUTHORITY**

I, _____, _____ of the City of Lancaster, CA, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original City Council/Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority minutes, for which the original is on file in my office.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, CA on this _____ day of _____, _____.

(seal)