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**LANCASTER
CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/
FINANCING/POWER AUTHORITY
MINUTES
February 25, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor/Chair Parris called the regular meeting of the City Council/Successor Agency/Financing/Power Authority to order at 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council Members/Agency Directors/Authority Members: Johnson, Mann, Smith, Vice Mayor/Vice Chair Crist, Mayor/Chair Parris

ABSENT: None

STAFF

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

INVOCATION

Pastor Tim Stroup, Crosswind Community Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2014 Youth in Government Students

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Greg Hanes of *Hanes & Associates* for his contribution to the remodel of the Lancaster Sheriff Station dispatch and customer service area.

Student of the Month – SOAR High School (Students on Academic Rise) – Cesar Trujillo. Mr. Trujillo also received a \$1,000 Mayor’s Scholarship.

Recognition of Kathy Nozil of the Boys & Girls Club for being chosen as the 2013 Youth of the Year.

J.D. Kennedy, representing the Air Show, gave a brief update regarding the March 2014 Air Show to be held at William J. Fox Airfield, Friday & Saturday, March 21 & 22, 2014.

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M 1. MINUTES

On a motion by Vice Mayor/Vice Chair Crist and seconded by Council Member/Agency/Authority Member Johnson, the City Council/Agency/Authority approved the City Council/Successor Agency/Financing/Power Authority Regular Meeting minutes of February 11, 2014, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Johnson, Mann, Smith, Crist, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None

CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Mayor Crist requested that Item No. CC 2 be pulled from the Consent Calendar for separate discussion and action.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Crist and seconded by Council Member Mann, the City Council approved the Consent Calendar, with the exception of Item No. CC 2, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Johnson, Mann, Smith, Crist, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None

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

Addressing the City Council on this matter:
Michael Rives – opposed to the funding for copiers; suggested staff go to local copier businesses to make copies when needed. Opposed to costs relating to mitigation matters. In the matter regarding Item No. CC 5, suggested the City become the recycling capital of the world and take steps to achieve this; consider secession from Los Angeles County and join Kern County.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Crist and seconded by Council Member Johnson, the City Council approved the Check and Wire Registers for January 26, 2014 through February 8, 2014 in the amount of \$1,146,025.21, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Johnson, Mann, Smith, Crist, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None

CC 3. MONTHLY REPORT OF INVESTMENTS

Accepted and approved the January 2014, Monthly Report of Investments as submitted.

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CC 4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS – UNCLAIMED CHECKS

Approved the transfer of funds for checks issued by the City for individual items less than fifteen dollars (\$15) which have remained unclaimed for the period of one year.

CC 5. RESOLUTION NO. 14-09

Adopted **Resolution No. 14-09**, approving and authorizing the re-designation of the County of Kern/City of Lancaster Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) and approved the submittal of the renewal application to include the City of Lancaster.

NB 1. BUILDING INCENTIVE STIMULUS PROGRAM FOR EXISTING TRACTS AND NEW COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Public Works Director presented the staff report regarding this matter.

Discussion included how the stimulus program has now been implemented throughout the State and has been very successful; Lancaster has received the most business-friendly award due to programs such as the stimulus program. The program is well defined; discussed xeriscape guidance for new homes; future of older tract maps and how to consider them under the program. This City has lowered fees and continued to build and offer incentives, while other cities have suffered.

Mayor Parris requested staff look into a program regarding the use of gray water; water recycling and report back to Council in 180 days.

Addressing the City Council regarding this matter:

Michael Rives – stated his concerns regarding lack of landscaping; maintenance of abandoned homes.

Marta Golding Brown – in favor of this action; energy and water efficiency is vital; KB Home is producing these homes; other builders are playing catch-up; consider phasing in the water recycling direction to give builders a chance; BIA will help the City with this project.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Crist and seconded by Council Member Smith, the City Council adopted **Resolution No. 14-10**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, approving the continuation of the Building Incentive Stimulus Program for existing tracts and new commercial development, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Johnson, Mann, Smith, Crist, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None

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NB 2. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM UPDATE/PRESENTATION

The Planning Director and the Recreation Supervisor presented the update regarding this matter. The presentation included information on the Walk Audit process; evaluations of street lighting; landscaping factors; bike safety; helmet safety; how to obey traffic laws; funding through Los Angeles County Public Health; promotion of exercise; statistics regarding U.S. youth obesity rates; statistics on walking/biking to school; barriers that may prevent this such as distance; traffic dangers; weather; crime; school policies. Information was presented on high speed increases; efforts made to slow traffic down such as curb extensions; islands; traffic controls and traffic circles. The five “E’s” to this program are: Education; Encouragement; Enforcement; Engineering; Evaluation.

Addressing the City Council regarding this matter:

Michael Rives – feels this is a great program; stated his concerns regarding the lack of sidewalks on route to Sunnydale Elementary School; importance of educating people regarding the laws when school bus lights are in flash mode; traffic is horrendous in Lancaster – too much time is spent waiting for lights to change.

Vice Mayor Crist stated that recently both cities received grants in the amount of \$100,000 to assist with the synchronization of traffic lights.

Update received; no action required.

NB 3. LANCASTER CORPORATE CHALLENGE UPDATE/PRESENTATION

It was the consensus of the City Council to waive the presentation regarding this matter. No action required.

CR 1. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE ANTELOPE VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Vice Mayor Crist presented the following information:

Special Reports were presented to the Board by the Los Angeles Metropolitan District High Desert Corridor Project Manager regarding the HDC project; WAVE, Inc. regarding details on Wireless Advanced Vehicle Electrification (WAVE) technology; AVTA staff provided a status update of the electric bus demonstration project. Contracts and Internal Policies were approved; Legislative Updates were given. Full report is available in the City Clerk Department.

Addressing the City Council regarding this matter:

Michael Rives – stated his concerns regarding expenditures to an advocacy group by the AVTA; change in plan to purchase diesel buses and now it is to purchase electric buses.

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CR 1. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE ANTELOPE VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY (continued)

Vice Mayor Crist stated the main goal in Lancaster is job creation; importance of receiving the fair share of different grants and funding; competing with cities from all over the country; importance of having a voice in Washington D.C.; electric buses will be cheaper to operate; easier to fund; must look at the big picture and support the entire community.

Council Member Johnson agreed with the Vice Mayor's comments; importance of developing jobs in this community; it is a win-win situation.

LANCASTER HOUSING AUTHORITY

No action required at this time.

LANCASTER FINANCING AUTHORITY

No action required at this time.

LANCASTER POWER AUTHORITY

No action required at this time.

LANCASTER SUCCESSOR AGENCY

No action required at this time.

CITY MANAGER / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The City Manager stated the opening ceremony of a 5k run for the Corporate Challenge was well attended; inspiring and commended the hard work of staff.

The City Manager stated the Department of Finance has now approved the Long Range Property Management Plan; will now allow the City to keep certain properties and sell certain properties for the benefit of the City; commended staff and the hard work of the Oversight Board.

The City Manager stated recently he, along with Mayor Parris and Council Member Johnson, attended the Tapestry meeting in which veterans of the Buffalo Soldiers and the Tuskegee Airmen were recognized; a brief video was shown and it was a very informative and inspiring presentation.

CITY CLERK /AGENCY/AUTHORITY SECRETARY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Addressing the City Council at this time:

Willie Green – stated his concerns regarding lack of knowledge for senior citizens living in the senior apartments in the matter of evacuation routes in the event of a disaster; concerns about emergency shelters; seniors need to have this information laid out for them; discussed emergency supplies.

Mayor Parris requested staff look into the communication regarding this matter; evacuation plans are in place; emergency shelters are in place.

The City Manager stated he will have staff work on this and take this plan on the road to present to the senior citizens of the community. It is important for seniors to have supplies on hand; discount supplies are available and staff will make sure they have all the information.

Michael Rives – discussed the Lancaster senior center; a center in Henderson, Nevada operates seven days a week; the City needs to step up and get more involved to assist the seniors.

Mayor Parris reminded Mr. Rives that the Senior Center is County operated and he should consider addressing his concerns to Mr. Norm Hickling.

David Paul – discussed a recent event that took place at the Courthouse; his letter to the editor; praised the Mayor for his presentation on the State of the City address to the Chamber of Commerce; discussed lack of water and consider a moratorium on writing tickets to people with brown lawns; enjoyed the presentation regarding the Safe Routes to School Program; thanked the Mayor and Council for everything they do.

COUNCIL / AGENCY COMMENTS

Council Member Johnson discussed the recent Tapestry meeting; it was an honor to witness the recognition of the African American Veterans; it was wonderful to hear the history of the Buffalo soldiers.

Council Member Johnson stated she is looking forward to all the Corporate Challenge events to promote good health; great opportunity to become active.

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RECESS Mayor Parris recessed the meeting at 6:09 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a Closed Session meeting regarding the following matters:

CLOSED SESSION

1. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation: significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d) (2) - four potential cases.
2. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation: consideration of initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d) (4) - one potential case.
3. Conference with Legal Counsel--Existing Litigation - Government Code Section 54956.9(d) (1)
4. Coalition for Open Government v. City of Lancaster, Case No. BC499047
5. Quartz Hill Cares v. City of Lancaster, Case No. BS 122336
6. Palmdale v. Lancaster - Case No. BC443280
7. Lancaster v. Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) Case No. MC023649
8. Rubin v. Lancaster - United States District Court Case No. CV 10-4046 DSF (JCx)
9. Save Our Neighborhood Group v. City of Lancaster, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS 121501.
10. Shabazz v. Parris, USDC, Central Case No. CV12-5803 SVW (JEM)

11. ANTELOPE VALLEY GROUNDWATER CASES

Included Actions:

Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 v. Diamond Farming Co.
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC325201;

Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 v. Diamond Farming Co.
Superior Court of California, County of Kern, Case No. S-1500-CV-254-348

Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. v. City of Lancaster, Diamond Farming Co. v. City of Lancaster, Diamond Farming Co. v. Palmdale Water District
Superior Court of California County of Riverside, consolidated actions;
Case Nos. RIC 353 840, RIC 344 436, RIC 344 668

Santa Clara Case No. 1-05-CV 049053

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RECONVENE

Vice Mayor Crist reconvened the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

CITY ATTORNEY ANNOUNCEMENT

The City Attorney announced the City Council met in Closed Session and discussed Item No. 1 and Item No. 11 as listed under Closed Session; no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Crist adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m. and stated the next Regular Meeting would take place on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this _____day of _____, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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

R. REX PARRIS
MAYOR/CHAIRMAN
Lancaster, CA

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CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/FINANCING/POWER AUTHORITY

I, _____, _____ of the City of Lancaster, CA, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original City Council/Successor Agency/Financing/Power 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)
