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**LANCASTER  
CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/  
FINANCING/POWER AUTHORITY  
MINUTES  
September 23, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Mayor Crist called the meeting of the City Council/Successor Agency/Financing/Power Authority to order at 5:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Council Member/Agency Director/Authority Member: Johnson, Mann, Smith, Vice Mayor/Vice Chair Crist

**EXCUSED:** On a motion by Council Member/Agency Director/Authority Member Smith and seconded by Council Member/Agency Director/Authority Member Mann, the City Council/Agency/Authority excused Mayor/Chair Parris from the meeting, by the following vote: 4-0-0-1; **AYES:** Johnson, Mann, Smith, Crist; **NOES:** None; **ABSTAIN:** None; **ABSENT:** Parris

**ABSENT:** Mayor/Chair Parris

**STAFF**

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

**INVOCATION**

Dr. Tom Shepherd, Lancaster Baptist Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Deputy Mayor Szeto

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. International Walk to School Day Presentation and Proclamation  
Presenters: Planning Director and Vice Mayor Crist
  
2. Proclamation regarding City of Lancaster's recognition in the Allstate Best Driver's Report  
Presenter: Vice Mayor Crist

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**RECESS**

Vice Mayor Crist recessed the meeting at 5:09 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) - three potential cases.
2. Conference with Legal Counsel – Initiation of Litigation: consideration of initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d) (4) - four potential cases.
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. Lancaster v. Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) Case No. MC023649
7. Save Our Neighborhood Group v. City of Lancaster, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS 121501.
8. Shabazz v. Parris, USDC, Central Case No. CV12-5803 SVW (JEM)
9. 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
10. Shane C. Reid v. City of Lancaster, LASC Case No. BC 503240

**RECONVENE**

Vice Mayor Crist reconvened the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

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**CITY ATTORNEY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The City Attorney announced the City Council met in Closed Session and discussed item number 1- one item of anticipated litigation with no reportable action.

**M 1. MINUTES**

On a motion by Council Member Smith and seconded by Council Member Mann, the City Council/Successor Agency/Financing/Power Authority approved the City Council/Successor Agency/Financing/Power Authority Meeting minutes of September 9, 2014, by the following vote: 4-0-0-1; AYES: Johnson, Mann, Smith, Crist; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Parris

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

On a motion by Council Member Smith and seconded by Council Member Johnson, the City Council approved the Consent Calendar by the following vote: 4-0-0-1; AYES: Johnson, Mann, Smith, Crist; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Parris

**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 August 24, 2014 through September 6, 2014 in the amount of \$2,281,606.55.

**CC 3. INVESTMENT REPORT**

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

**CC 4. CITY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

Adopted **Resolution No. 14-60**, approving the amended City Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2013-2018.

**CC 5. RESCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2014 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Rescheduled the November 11, 2014 City Council meeting for Wednesday, November 12, 2014.

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It was the consensus of the Council to hear item No. NB 3 at this time

**NB 3. REPORT ON ANTELOPE VALLEY EDUCATION ALLIANCE**

The Public Safety Director and Antelope Valley High School Vice-Principal Brett D'Errico presented the report on this item.

The Program is a partnership with the City of Lancaster and Antelope Valley Union High School District; it is a restorative justice program that takes a proactive approach to truancy to enhance students' educational success. Information provided included the process and programs offered to students and families.

Discussion among Council and staff included discussion of Antelope Valley High School's (AVHS) 6-year WASC accreditation and discussion related to AVHS being chosen as the pilot school due to the number of truants and the impact that can be made.

Received and filed the report on Antelope Valley Education Alliance

**NB 1. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION**

The Deputy City Manager presented the staff report regarding this item.

Discussion among Council and staff included discussion of the appearance of citizens' electric bill and the organizations that will be responsible for energy supply, transmission, and maintenance of power poles, etc. The process for implementation of the distribution of energy and distribution of information to the community was discussed. Additionally the Deputy City Manager provided the process related to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). As a result of the formation of the CCA, citizens will have the opportunity to choose the company that provides their power. The choice will include the choice of a 'greener' product and a lower rate for energy. Discussion of Southern California Edison's rate increases took place.

Addressing the City Council at this time:

Maria Paesano – discussed bond issues and utility bills.

On a motion by Council Member Johnson and seconded by Council Member Mann, the City Council approved the Revised Implementation Plan for the Community Choice Aggregation and authorized the City Manager or his designee to execute and submit all related documents, by the following vote: 4-0-0-1; AYES: Johnson, Mann, Smith, Crist; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Parris

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**NB 2. RFP 575-14**

The Finance Director presented the staff report regarding this item.

Addressing the City Council at this time:

Michael Rives – discussed the agreement with Venco Western, the condition of city parks and trash barrels at parks.

Discussion among Council and staff included discussion of Venco Western’s commitment to hiring local residents.

On a motion by Council Member Johnson and seconded by Council Member Mann, the City Council awarded a one (1) year contract, with an option of two, 2-year extensions at the City’s discretion, to Venco Western, Inc., with an annual cost of \$447,840.00, for **RFP No. 575-14 for Landscape Maintenance Services for City Parks and the National Soccer Center**, and authorized the City Manager, or his designee, to sign all documents. The total agreement period shall not exceed five (5) years, by the following vote: 4-0-0-1; AYES: Johnson, Mann, Smith, Crist; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Parris

**CA 1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SUPPORT FOR CALIFORNIA STATE PROPOSITION 46**

The City Manager requested this item be removed at this time.

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

Council Member Johnson provided the report of the proceedings and issues discussed at the recent regular Board of Directors meeting of the Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA); information included applying for a grant to expand the fleet of electric buses, and the Board voted to procure 2 additional electric buses to expand the bus fleet

Vice Mayor Crist discussed a transportation workshop he attended with the City Manager. The City of Palmdale’s Mayor and City Manager and a team from Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti’s office were also in attendance. One focus of the workshop was to discuss utilizing electric buses in the area.

**CR 2. COUNCIL REPORTS**

Council Member Mann discussed the unveiling of a partnership with Destination Lancaster and the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce.

Council Member Mann discussed recent actions at the Sanitation District 14 meeting; information provided was related to bonds and bond ratings for the Sanitation District.

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**CR 2. COUNCIL REPORTS CONTINUED...**

Vice Mayor Crist as a member of the Antelope Valley Fair Authority JPA, discussed statistics related to attendance at the Antelope Valley Fair.

Vice Mayor Crist discussed the recent award of the AIRE (Achievement in Reducing Emissions) Award to Antelope Valley Transit Authority; the award was given for the organization's commitment to utilizing electric buses and their significant reduction in water usage.

**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 discussed the dedicated Park's employees who take pride in the job they do in maintaining the grounds of the City's parks and thanked all City staff for their hard work in what they do for the entire City. Additionally the City Manager discussed the upcoming Streets of Lancaster event taking place September 26-28, 2014 and the Bark at the Park event being held October 4-5, 2014 at Lancaster City Park. A brief interview highlighting the AVTA's receipt of the AIRE Award was shown.

The Assistant to the City Manager discussed an upcoming Safety Expo being held at the Lancaster Senior Center.

**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.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS**

Addressing the City Council at this time:

Ed Galindo – thanked the Council for the Mariachi band that performed on Thursday Night and discussed cities that have a department of immigrant affairs.

Ruth Russell – discussed the City's prompt response to her recent request for assistance from the City Council regarding an infestation of bugs at her apartment complex.

Darleen Peterson – stated closing the Lancaster Metrolink Station will inconvenience the citizens of Lancaster and discussed the impact on Lancaster Boulevard businesses.

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**PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS CONTINUED...**

Vianna Friss – objects to closing the Lancaster Metrolink Station; stated this would indicate an attitude of hatred; discussed her recent interaction at City Hall; praised the movie theaters on Lancaster Boulevard for treating citizens with respect.

Heather Brown – discussed her certification as a water expert, gave information related to the makeup of the water in LA County Water District 40.

Emma Williams – discussed closing the Lancaster Metrolink Station, building a new Metrolink Station and funding related to building a new Metrolink Station.

Fran Sereseres- apologized to the Council for complaining to them without having enough information related to closing the Lancaster Metrolink Station; discussed busing people to the Palmdale Metrolink Station and the schedule related to these buses; discussed the use of Access buses and requested a reduction in the fee associated with this service; discussed homeless people using the American Heroes Park building and suggested posting a ‘no loitering’ sign at that location.

Vice Mayor Crist stated the City is not looking to simply close the Metrolink Station; the City is looking for help regarding the issues related to the homeless and discussed the discrepancy related to funding for the homeless in our area.

Lillian Moreno – discussed Kern County Transit; stated closing the Metrolink Station will be a mistake, closing the station would mean closing off several communities who use the station to commute to Los Angeles; discussed issues related to wheelchair-bound individuals who use AVTA buses and stated these riders cannot be guaranteed a seat on the bus; discussed bus riders not giving up their seats on buses for wheelchair bound people.

Additional discussion took place regarding the number of handicap seats available on buses and the way in which bus drivers handle situations related to these issues.

**COUNCIL / AGENCY COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Mayor Crist turned the meeting over to Council Member Johnson at this time.

Brief recess 6:56 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 6:57 p.m.

Council Member Johnson stated the City Council meeting will be adjourned in memory of Charles Emanuel Briggs. Mr. Briggs was born and raised in the community; Mr. Briggs will be remembered as a hero and Council Member Johnson thanked his family and friends for sharing their son with the community.

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Vice Mayor Crist adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m. and stated the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
BRITT AVRIT, CMC  
CITY CLERK  
AGENCY/AUTHORITY  
SECRETARY

\_\_\_\_\_  
R. REX PARRIS  
MAYOR/CHAIRMAN

**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)

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