

STAFF REPORT
City of Lancaster

NB 2
01/27/15
MVB

Date: January 27, 2015

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Allison Burns, City Attorney
Jocelyn Corbett, Assistant City Attorney

Subject: **Amendment to Title 2 of the Lancaster Municipal Code relating to creation and duties of various commissions and terms and appointments of commissioners, and amendments throughout the Lancaster Municipal Code relating to references to the Department of Public Works.**

Recommendation:

Introduce **Ordinance No. 1002**, amending Title 2 of the Lancaster Municipal Code by amending Sections 2.24.070, 2.28.010, 2.28.030, 2.28.070, 2.30.030, 2.30.070, 2.34.030 and 2.34.070, deleting Sections 2.30.090 and 2.34.090, adding new Section 2.04.090 and new Chapter 2.36 in Title 2 (“Administrative And Personnel”), related to appointments and terms of appointed commissioners, and amending references throughout the Lancaster Municipal Code from the Department Of Public Works to the Department of Development Services.

Background:

The City Attorney’s office has been conducting a comprehensive review of the Lancaster Municipal Code (Code), to determine where updates and revisions may be appropriate. This is the second ordinance to be brought before Council to address these revisions. This updates various provisions concerning commissions, including appointment of commissioners, terms of service and other matters.

Specifically, the Code chapters concerning the Youth, Criminal Justice and Architectural and Design Planning Commissions are each being revised to clarify the term of office. Additionally, those chapters, as well as the chapter concerning the Planning Commission, are each being revised so that termination of a commissioner’s appointment as a result of excessive absences will be discretionary, rather than mandatory, as the Code is currently written.

Additionally, provisions concerning expense reimbursement, which have never been used by the commissions and trigger somewhat burdensome FPPC requirements, are being deleted from the chapters for the Criminal Justice and the Architectural and Design Planning Commissions.

As currently written, Chapter 2.28 regarding the Youth Commission, expressly identifies eight high schools in the City from which commission members may be selected. The Ordinance revises the pertinent section to allow the commission to be comprised of one or more commission members from each of the high schools in the City and Quartz Hill.

The Ordinance also adds a new section to Chapter 2.04, authorizing the Mayor, with the approval of a majority of the City Council, to appoint one or more Mayor Emeritus, to represent the City during ceremonial and other events, when the Mayor and/or City Council members cannot attend.

The Ordinance also adds a new chapter 2.36 concerning the Neighborhood Vitalization Commission.

Finally, the Ordinance provides that, wherever the Code uses the Department and/or Director of Public Works, the phrase shall be construed to mean the Department and/or Director of Development Services.

Attachment:

Ordinance No. 1002