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**LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES  
June 3, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Mayor/Vice Chairman Smith called the Budget Workshop meeting of the City Council/Redevelopment Agency meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Council Members/Agency Directors: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Vice Mayor/Vice Chairman Smith

Absent: Mayor Parris

**Staff**

Members: City Manager/Executive Director, City Clerk/Agency Secretary, Planning Director, Admin. Services Manager for Public Works, Parks, Recreation & Arts Director, Finance Director, Economic Development Director, Housing Director, Human Resources Director

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member/Agency Director Marquez

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NB 1.** The City Manager presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program. In summation, the City Manager's presentation included:

The City of Lancaster/Redevelopment Agency proposed FY 2008-2009 Budget ensures the continued delivery of critical public services, reflects that public safety remains the City's top priority, and focuses on the following five primary priorities:

- ✚ Maintaining service levels to the public despite an economic downturn through ongoing conservative financial practices;
- ✚ Significantly increasing the City's commitment to public safety to ensure that recent momentum is maintained;

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- ✚ A commitment to continued leadership on a regional level in addressing critical water resource issues;
- ✚ Strategic financial management over the next few years to ensure the City's ongoing financial stability;
- ✚ Capital improvements to enhance water resource management, enhance economic development and recreational opportunities, and maintain existing public facilities.

The budget totals nearly \$266.5 million which is a decrease of 16% from the 2007-2008 Budget. This decrease was achieved as a result of reductions in the operating budget and completion of capital projects.

- ❖ Conservative financial practices resulting in the ability to maintain services and expand public safety during an economic downturn.
  - FY 2008-2009 budget includes an operating budget decrease of \$6.9 million, equivalent to a 7.5% reduction, primarily through reductions in development-related expenses, operational expenses such as travel, and numerous other efficiencies;
  - Proposed FY 2008-2009 Budget is in balance, with revenues exceeding expenditures;
  - Maintain 10% operating reserve and Financial Stability Reserve equivalent to 3 months of operating expenditures;
  - No new staff positions proposed;
  - No layoffs recommended;
  - Four development-related positions to remain unfilled;
  - Ongoing City Manager review of all vacant positions and all out of state travel requests;
  - City's financial forecast sets funds aside for continued expansion of public safety.
- ❖ Public Safety expansion
  - Budget adds 5 new City-funded deputy positions to complement the prior commitment of a 7 deputy team by Sheriff Baca through his Antelope Valley Crime Fighting Initiatives to maintain a total of 12 additional deputies in action next fiscal year;
  - Two of the new City deputies will be deployed in a 2-person "Truancy Car" to target chronic truancy issues and impact daytime burglaries;
  - Engaging businesses in expanded Business Watch programs and other business outreach efforts to reduce robberies, larcenies, and other similar crimes;

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- Focus patrol operations, working with the newly established CORE deputy team, on problem oriented policing and problem solving;
- Successfully integrate Council proposed Lancaster Criminal Justice Commission into crime fighting initiatives to better leverage citizen involvement and effectiveness in public safety;
- Significantly enhance crime analysis capabilities through software and system improvements to better focus resources and deployment on specific public safety issues and targets;
- Increase “Party Car” deployment from two to four nights per week to curtail neighborhood disturbances.
- ❖ Continued leadership role in regional water resource management
  - FY 2008-2009 Budget includes \$3.2 million in capital projects for expansion of recycled and potable water systems;
  - Establishment of City-operated Sewer Maintenance Operations;
  - Funds are included to ensure greater local control of water management issues, such as conservation, supply, governance, and conditions of development;
  - Establish Council Water Ad Hoc Committee to continue regional leadership in water resource management.
- ❖ Additional Key Initiatives
  - Continuation of Neighborhood Revitalization Efforts including:
    - Proactive Code Enforcement
    - Neighborhood Community Building
    - Foreclosure Mitigation Programs
    - Housing Rehabilitation Programs
    - Safer & Stronger Neighborhoods Program
  - Completion of Planning Efforts
    - Downtown Specific Plan
    - 5-Year Redevelopment Implementation Plan
    - General Plan Update
  - Other Key Initiatives
    - Continuation of robust Parks, Recreation and Arts Programs
    - Business License Audit for Undocumented Workers
    - Facility Maintenance & Repairs

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- ❖ Strategies throughout coming year to meet future economic challenges
  - Strategic focus on ongoing cost efficiencies and/or revenue enhancements of indentified programs and projects;
  - Address funding deficit of lighting maintenance district;
  - Focus on expanding private sector partnerships to encourage and expedite economic development projects.
- ❖ Capital Improvement Projects -- *\$39 million program with over 20 funding sources*
  - Water Projects - \$3,162,000
    - Expansion of Recycled Water System
    - Funding for Recycled Water Conversions
    - Recycled Water Recharge
    - North City Water Transmission Main (Ave. K 30<sup>th</sup> W to 60<sup>th</sup> W)
    - Phase 1B Recycled Water Improvements (City Park)
  - Economic Development Projects - \$19,053,000
    - Infrastructure for Auto Dealers Expansion
    - Amargosa Creek Drainage Channel Undergrounding
    - Ave I & SR 14 Interchange Improvements
    - Front Row Center Infrastructure Improvements
    - 30<sup>th</sup> West & Ave. G Infrastructure Improvements
    - Lancaster North Business Park Acquisitions
  - Parks Projects - \$5,727,210
    - Carter Park Construction
    - Gilley Park Construction
    - Prime Desert Woodlands Improvements Phase II
    - Lancaster Museum & Art Gallery Relocation
  - Streets & Pavement Management - \$8,225,000
    - 30<sup>th</sup> West Widening, Ave. M to Ave. L
    - 2008 Pavement Management Program

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The Finance Director presented an overview of the budget, including efficiencies and reductions within the proposed budget.

Captain Anderson of the Lancaster Sheriff's Department briefly discussed patrol operations; continuing the efforts to drive Part One crime rates down; pleased with all of the deputy teams that are involved. Deputies are being encouraged to become the very best that they can be; developing their skills; orienting themselves to problem solving; finding ways to deal with long term problems, rather than with a band-aid approach.

Comments and concerns from the City Council included:

Optimistic regarding software that will bring efficiencies to the Sheriff's Department; Section 8 concerns must be addressed and consider funding in conjunction with Los Angeles County for an additional Section 8 investigator – this is worth exploring. Public Safety is the Number One priority; pleased with the proposal on truancy enforcement. Explore the possibility of bringing older shopping centers into compliance with the new shopping centers in regards to lock downs on shopping carts. Commended staff for their hard work; presentation of a conservative budget with conservative budget cuts and at the same time, an increase to the public safety budget. Water is a critical issue and the budget reflects the efforts of this City and every citizen should become a part of the solution. Importance of getting buy-in from the older established neighborhoods in regards to water conservation; there should be a mechanism in place for compliance.

The City Manager thanked the staff and the Council for their collaboration on the budget efforts.

Vice Mayor/Vice Chairman Smith adjourned the Council/Agency Budget Workshop at 5:40 p.m. and announced the next regular meeting of the City Council/Redevelopment Agency would take place on Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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

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R. REX PARRIS  
MAYOR/CHAIRMAN  
Lancaster, CA

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

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 Budget Workshop 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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