

**LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 24, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor/Chairman Parris called the regular meeting of the City Council/Redevelopment Agency meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Staff

Members: City Manager/Executive Director, City Attorney/Agency Counsel, Interim Assistant City Manager, City Clerk/Agency Secretary, Planning Director, Public Works Director, Interim Parks, Recreation & Arts Director, Finance Director, Economic Development Director, Housing Director, Senior Management Analyst

INVOCATION – Pastor Tim Christensen, Lancaster Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Tom Lacey, Senior Legislation Advocacy Representative

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Mayor's Student Athlete – Shon Roe, Quartz Hill High School

United Way Check Presentation

PRESENTATIONS (continued)

The Farm Bureau presented concerns regarding water issues, Antelope Valley Groundwater Adjudication; Arbitration; Community concerns; Landowner Causes of Action; information on Public Water Suppliers.

Mayor Parris stated several concerns; government involvement; importance of reaching solutions although there is no easy answer; desire to have clarification regarding water rights; what is morally and ethically correct; concerns regarding the trial date.

Council Member Sileo expressed concerns regarding the rights of water by water suppliers and property owners.

Attorney Doug Evertz, representing the City of Lancaster as Special Counsel, addressed several concerns of the Council.

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Addressing the Council on this matter:

Pat Chiodo – concerns regarding the water issues; water rights of landowners.

John Ukkestad - concerns regarding the water issues; water rights of landowners.

RECESS

The Mayor requested a recess at 5:55 p.m.

RECONVENE

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE REMOVED

The City Manager stated that Item No. PH 6 would be removed from the agenda and would be placed on an agenda for a future meeting.

APPROVAL OF REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR

On a motion by Agency Director Mann and seconded by Agency Director Sileo, the Redevelopment Agency approved the Agency Consent Calendar with the exception of Item No. RCC 2 which was pulled for separate action due to the fact that Mayor Parris would need to be recused from this item, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

RCC 1. MINUTES

See CC 2 for the approval of the Regular Redevelopment Agency Meeting minutes of May 27, 2008.

RCC 2. ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTIES

Approved Agreements for Acquisition of Real Properties between the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency and various agencies as part of the approved Neighborhood Foreclosure Preservation Homeownership Program.

On a motion by Agency Director Sileo and seconded by Agency Director Mann, the Redevelopment Agency approved this item by the following vote: 4-0-1-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith; NOES: None; RECUSED: Parris; ABSENT: None.

RCC 3. ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Approved Agreement for Acquisition of Real Property between the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency and Josephine Pocino and Patrick F. Larkin, Co-Trustees of the Josephine Pocino Trust, for property located on northeast corner of 22nd Street East and Kettering Street.

RCC 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE RESERVE FUND

Approved the establishment of an Emergency Maintenance Reserve fund for Brierwood and Desert Sands Mobilehome Parks in the amount of \$250,000.00 from the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency's Low and Moderate-Income Housing Account No. 910-6660-942.

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JCB 1. FISCAL YEAR 2008/2009 BUDGET

The Joint Continued Business item regarding the Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Redevelopment Agency / City of Lancaster Budget was heard during the Joint City Council / Redevelopment Agency portion of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council approved the Council Consent Calendar with the exception of Item No. CC 16, which was pulled for separate discussion and action, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, 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. MINUTES

Approved the Redevelopment Agency / City Council Regular Meeting minutes of June 10, 2008.

CC 3. WARRANT REGISTER

Approved the Check and Wire Registers (May 25, 2008 through June 7, 2008) in the amount of \$2,197,224.83.

CC 4. ORDINANCE NO. 902

Adopted **Ordinance No. 902**, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, adding Chapter 2.26 to the Lancaster Municipal Code relating to the Architectural and Design Planning Commission.

CC 5. ACCEPTANCE OF MAINTENANCE FOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Approved and accepted for maintenance the work and materials for the drainage improvements for Drainage Maintenance District Annexation Nos. 89-06, 05-25, and 04-42 installed for: Parcel Map No. 067571/ CUP 06-06, located on the northeast corner of 20th Street West and Avenue I, Owner: Vallarta Properties, LLC; Permit No. 04-03980, located at 30th Street East and Avenue J-8, Owner: Antelope Valley Joint Union High School District; and Tract No. 54400, located on the southeast corner of Avenue J-8 and 35th Street West, Owner: Trimark Pacific-Lancaster 82, LLC.

CC 6. ACCEPTANCE OF MAINTENANCE FOR LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

Approved and accepted for maintenance the work and materials for the landscape improvements for Landscape Maintenance District No. 1, Annexation Nos. 332 and 250, installed for Tract No. 061278, located on the northeast corner of Avenue K-8 and Challenger Way, Owner: Richmond American Homes of California, Inc.; and Tract No. 53297, located on the southwest corner of Avenue K and 20th Street East, Owner: K. Hovnanian Forecast Homes, Inc.

CC 7. COMPLETION OF SEWER SYSTEMS

Approved the completed sewer systems installed by the developers for Tract No. 060889, located on the northeast corner of Avenue L and 60th Street West, Owner: Richmond American Homes of California, Inc.; and Tract No. 46601, located on the northwest corner of Avenue J-8 and 37th Street West, Owner: Lancaster Palms, LLC.

CC 8. ACCEPTANCE OF STREETS FOR MAINTENANCE

Approved the developer constructed streets and accepted the streets for maintenance by the City for: Conditional Use Permit No. 04-08, located on the northeast corner of 10th Street West and Avenue J-6, Owner: Raznick Family Ventures; and Tract No. 061756, located on the south side of Avenue H-8, approximately 120 feet west of 3rd Street East.

CC 9. COMPLETION OF INSTALLED WATER SYSTEM

Approved the completed water system installed by the developer of Conditional Use Permit No. 04-08, located on the northeast corner of 10th Street West and Avenue J-6, Owner: Raznick Family Ventures.

CC 10. COMPLETION AND ACCEPTANCE OF INSTALLED TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Approved the completed developer installed traffic signals and accepted the traffic signals for maintenance by the City for: Parcel Map No. 067571/CUP 06-06, located on the northeast corner of 20th Street West and Avenue I, Owner: Vallarta Properties, LLC; Permit No. 04-03980, located at 30th Street East and Avenue J-8, Owner: Antelope Valley Joint Union High School District; Tract No. 060154, located on the southeast corner of Avenue J and 30th Street East, Owner: Trimark Pacific-Lancaster 139, LLC; and Tract No. 54401, located on the northeast corner of Avenue K and 60th Street West, Owner: K. Hovnanian Forecast Homes, Inc.

CC 11. PWCP NO. 06-020

Accepted the work performed by Bowen Engineering and Environmental for **Public Works Construction Project No. 06-020**, Lowtree Neighborhood Buildings Demolition No. 2; directed the City Clerk to file the Notice of Completion for the project; authorized payment of the 10 percent retention 35 days after recordation, provided no stop notices, as provided by law, have been filed.

CC 12. PWCP NO. 06-029

Accepted the work performed by Bowen Engineering and Environmental for **Public Works Construction Project No. 06-029**, Various North Downtown Demolitions, Phase XII; directed the City Clerk to file the Notice of Completion for the project; authorized payment of the 10 percent retention 35 days after recordation, provided no stop notices, as provided by law, have been filed.

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CC 13. PWCP NO. 06-034

Accepted the work performed by Bowen Engineering and Environmental for **Public Works Construction Project No. 06-034**, Lowtree Neighborhood Buildings Demolition, No. 3; directed the City Clerk to file the Notice of Completion for the project; authorized payment of the 10 percent retention 35 days after recordation, provided no stop notices, as provided by law, have been filed.

CC 14. REJECTION OF BIDS – PWCP NO. 08-014

Rejected all bids for **Public Works Construction Project No. 08-014**, Prime Desert Woodland Trails Project Phase II. Direct Capital Engineering Division to modify bid specifications and re-bid the project.

CC 15. PWCP NO. 08-018

Awarded **Public Works Construction Project No. 08-018, Skytower Park Wrought Iron Fence Replacement** to Fence Corp. Inc., in the amount of \$215,264.25 (plus a 5% contingency) and authorized the City Manager, or his designee, to sign all documents. The project is designed to remove and replace existing fence and access gates.

CC 16. RESOLUTION NO. 08-49

A Resolution that expresses the City of Lancaster's desire to be considered as a site for a commercial-level solid waste conversion technology facility. Such a facility will process solid waste into useful by-products such as new energy streams and significantly reduce the volume of waste that is disposed of by landfill operations.

Addressing the City Council on this matter:

David Paul – Questions regarding the chemical solvents; pollution; desire for more information.

Lyle Talbot – Against this project; look closely at the proposal; concerns regarding pollution.

CC 16. RESOLUTION NO. 08-49 (continued)

The City Council assured citizens that no formal action was being taken at this time. This resolution represents the City's desire to be considered as a site upon receiving further information.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Mann, the City Council adopted **Resolution No. 08-49**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, that expresses the City of Lancaster's desire to be considered as a site for a commercial level solid waste conversion technology facility. Such a facility will process solid waste into useful by-products such as new energy streams and significantly reduce the volume of waste that is disposed of by landfill operations. Authorized the Mayor to sign a letter of interest and desire to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

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PH 1. ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PARKING AND BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (PBID) LEVY IN THE LANCASTER OLD TOWN SITE AREA

Mayor Parris opened the Public Hearing. Council Member Mann stated that he would need to recuse himself from discussion on this matter.

The Economic Development Director presented the staff report regarding the annual assessment for the Parking and Business Improvement District.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Parris closed the Public Hearing.

On a motion by Council Member Sileo and seconded by Vice Mayor Smith, the City Council adopted **Resolution No. 08-50**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, approving the Lancaster Old Town Site 2007-2008 Year End Report and levying the annual assessment for the Downtown Lancaster Business Improvement District for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year, by the following vote: 4-0-1-0; AYES: Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; RECUSED: Mann; ABSENT: None.

PH 2. LANCASTER DRAINAGE BENEFIT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR FY 2008/2009

Mayor Parris opened the Public Hearing. The Public Works Director presented the staff report regarding Lancaster Drainage Benefit Assessment District for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Parris closed the Public Hearing.

PH 2. LANCASTER DRAINAGE BENEFIT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR FY 2008/2009 (continued)

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council adopted **Resolution No. 08-51**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, confirming the diagram and assessment and ordering the levying of an assessment in Lancaster Drainage Benefit Assessment District for Fiscal Year 2008/2009, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

PH 3. LANCASTER LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICT FOR FY 2008/2009

Mayor Parris opened the Public Hearing. The Public Works Director presented the staff report regarding Lancaster Lighting Maintenance District for Fiscal Year 2008/2009.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Parris closed the Public Hearing.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council adopted **Resolution No. 08-52**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, confirming the diagram and assessment and ordering the levying of an assessment in Lancaster Lighting Maintenance District for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

PH 4. LANCASTER LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 1 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008/2009

Mayor Parris opened the Public Hearing. The Public Works Director presented the staff report regarding Lancaster Landscape Maintenance District No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Parris closed the Public Hearing.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Mann, the City Council adopted **Resolution No. 08-53**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, confirming the diagram and assessment and ordering the levying of an assessment in Lancaster Landscape Maintenance District No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

PH 5. SERVICE RATES FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE

Mayor Parris opened the Public Hearing. The Public Works Director presented the staff report regarding service rates for the collection and disposal of solid waste and recyclable materials.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Parris closed the Public Hearing.

On a motion by Council Member Mann and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council adopted **Resolution No. 08-54**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, setting the service rates for the collection and disposal of solid waste and recyclable materials pursuant to Section 13.16.080 of the Lancaster Municipal Code, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

PH 6. VACATION OF ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY NORTHEAST CORNER OF LANCASTER BLVD. AND YUCCA AVENUE

This item was removed from the agenda and will be scheduled for a future meeting.

PH 7. VACATION OF ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY – PORTION OF BEECH AVENUE

Mayor Parris opened the Public Hearing. The Public Works Director presented the staff report regarding Vacation of Road Right-of-Way – Portion of Beech Avenue.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Parris closed the Public Hearing.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Sileo, the City Council adopted **Resolution No. 08-55**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, ordering the vacation of a portion of Beech Avenue, road right-of-way located west of Sierra Highway and 150 feet north of Avenue H-8, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

PH 8. APPEAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION ON CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 07-09 (HOLIDAY SKATING RINK)

Mayor Parris opened the Public Hearing. The Planning Director presented the staff report regarding Appeal of Planning Commission action on Conditional Use Permit No. 07-09 (Holiday Skating Rink.)

Communication was received from Mr. James Young in favor of the recommended action to deny the Conditional Use Permit.

Addressing the Council on this matter:

George Blumfield – Facility is in good shape; all activities are directed to worthwhile goals; expenses that have been incurred have resulted in having multi-use programs at the facility; important to keep skating programs going.

John Piller – On behalf of the Holiday Skating Rink, owners are well liked; healthy activities for children; agrees with liquor license request; having additional events will benefit the community.

Rene Guzman – Concerned with a possible conflict of interest by Mayor Parris; gave a brief history of the process that the applicant has been through.

Mayor Parris stated that because of a client of his there may be a conflict and for the benefit of his client he agreed to recuse himself from this matter.

Vice Mayor Smith requested clarification regarding the hours of alcohol use. The Planning Director clarified the points regarding alcohol use.

PH 8. APPEAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION ON CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 07-09 (HOLIDAY SKATING RINK) (continued)

Michael McCombs – Appreciates the Holiday Skating Rink; excellent activities for families; allow the use of a liquor license in order to generate additional activities that will allow the doors of this business to remain open; it is a safe environment.

Randy Browning – Enjoys the activities at the Holiday Skating Rink; many skating leagues involved at this facility; supports the desire of the owners to have an alcohol license; important to keep the doors open; if owners can serve the alcohol then they can regulate this as well; parking is not a concern.

Vice Mayor Smith requested clarification regarding groups that have brought alcohol into this business and if they had permits for this.

The Planning Director gave a brief history and stated that the owners definitely have a right to regulate the alcohol that is brought into their facility.

Olivia Marshall – Stated that she has requested on several occasions, meetings with the City Council; business is in financial trouble; business needs the help of the City; the only way the doors are going to be kept open is with approval of the CUP; security is not a problem, they have many avenues regarding security; there is no record of problems with law enforcement; important to keep the doors open for the youth of the community.

Pedro Arevalo, the appellant, spoke with the help of Mr. Rene Guzman as the translator, of his concerns which included hours of operation; hours of operation in which alcohol will be served; discussed beer sales and beer consumption hours; the intention to attract adults for dancing; controlled alcohol service; there has never been a law enforcement issue; no facts to base refusal; discussion has been ongoing for almost two years and still nothing is clear as to the intent; quoted the actual appeal wording and reason for appeal.

Vice Mayor Smith asked Mr. Guzman for clarification regarding banquet hours and the desire to serve alcohol during banquet hours.

Council Member Mann related the confusion that has come before the Planning Commission on different occasions regarding this matter and the time that has been allowed for the applicant to bring forth more clarity. He stated that more clarity has been presented this evening but related the concerns of the Planning Commission and the concerns related to interjecting children, adults and alcohol at the same events.

Vice Mayor Smith stated his concerns regarding the flexibility of hours and service of alcohol.

PH 8. APPEAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION ON CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 07-09 (HOLIDAY SKATING RINK) (continued)

Mr. Guzman, speaking for Mr. Arevalo, requested that Council take everything into consideration on this matter and approve the CUP.

Council Member Sileo requested clarification of the hours for actual skating.

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

Council Member Mann stated that he is sympathetic to this matter but has a concern about a business that wants to switch gears to change from skating, to a Night Club, to a banquet hall. It is important to make sure a business is viable and benefits the community. It is important to have clarity on this matter and he is very concerned about interjecting alcohol with young children. Unfortunately, the appellant wants four different types of uses and he feels that he cannot support this.

Council Member Sileo stated that he is concerned about the hours when alcohol can be served; concerned whether the business can actually do enough to support this business. This business is used for children and family and mixing in the sale of alcohol would not be an effective use of the facility.

Council Member Marquez stated that she will uphold the staff recommendation.

Vice Mayor Smith stated that Ms. Marshall requested meetings with Council, and explained the standards by which he stands to not meet with someone who has filed an appeal. It is important to hear the appeal in a public hearing format to see if it will stand on its own merits. It is important to keep businesses viable but the City has a responsibility to determine what types of businesses are viable. He stated his concerns with the legality of the flexibility of the CUP and future events that will keep the doors open.

On a motion by Council Member Mann and seconded by Council Member Sileo, the City Council adopted **Resolution No. 08-56**, a resolution of the City of Lancaster, California, upholding Planning Commission decision to deny Conditional Use Permit 07-09, by the following vote: 4-0-1-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith; NOES: None; RECUSED: Parris; ABSENT: None.

JCB 1. FISCAL YEAR 2008/2009 REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY/CITY OF LANCASTER BUDGET

The City Manager presented the staff report regarding the Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Redevelopment Agency/City of Lancaster Budget.

Vice Mayor Smith stated that funds would be set aside for auditing of business licenses and hiring a professional auditor for this purpose.

Mayor Parris – Stated that there is a concern about how undocumented workers are dealt with and stated that the City will do something about employers who hire undocumented workers but will not tolerate in anyway harassment of these undocumented workers. Undocumented workers deserve protection just like anyone else.

The City Manager stated that the City does not support harassment of undocumented workers and assured the Council that this is not occurring within Lancaster.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Smith and seconded by Agency Director Mann, the Redevelopment Agency adopted the following resolutions by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

A) Adopted **Resolution No. 04-08**, a resolution of the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency, adopting the proposed Lancaster Redevelopment Agency Fiscal Year 2008/2009 budget as submitted.

B) Adopted **Resolution No. 05-08**, a resolution of the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency, finding that the acquisition of property or construction of various improvements as approved pursuant to the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Budget will be of benefit to the Redevelopment Project.

C) Adopted **Resolution No. 06-08**, a resolution of the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency, establishing the terms and conditions and authorizing the execution of a promissory note in favor of the City of Lancaster for the distribution of funds to the revolving fund of the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency pursuant to the implementation of the Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Budget.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council adopted the following resolutions by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

JCB 1. FISCAL YEAR 2008/2009 REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY/CITY OF LANCASTER BUDGET (continued)

A) Adopted **Resolution No. 08-57**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, adopting the proposed City of Lancaster Fiscal Year 2008/2009 General Fund Operating Budget, Special Funds Budget, and Capital Improvements Budget, as specified in the Staff Report and Budget Document.

B) Adopted **Resolution No. 08-58**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, finding that the acquisition of property or construction of various improvements as approved pursuant to the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Budget will be of benefit to the Redevelopment Project.

C) Adopted **Resolution No. 08-59**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, establishing the annual Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Year 2008/2009.

D) Adopted **Resolution No. 08-60**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, establishing the terms and conditions and authorizing the execution of a promissory note in favor of the City of Lancaster for the distribution of funds to the Revolving Fund of the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency pursuant to the implementation of the Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Budget.

E) Adopted **Resolution No. 08-61**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, amending Resolution No. 06-231 by establishing the various classifications of employees of the City of Lancaster.

F) Adopted **Resolution No. 08-62**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, amending Resolution 06-231 by establishing a compensation schedule for various classifications of employees of the City.

NB 1. FUNDING STRATEGY FOR UNDERGROUNDING OF AMARGOSA CREEK DRAINAGE WAY FROM AVENUE L TO AVENUE K-8

The Finance Director presented the staff report regarding the Funding Strategy for Undergrounding of Amargosa Creek Drainage Way from Avenue L to Avenue K-8.

On a motion by Council Member Sileo and seconded by Vice Mayor Smith, the City Council approved funding strategy for undergrounding of Amargosa Creek Drainage Way from Avenue L to Avenue K-8, by the following vote: 4-0-1-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: Parris; ABSENT: None.

CA 1. SECTION 8 AD HOC COMMITTEE

Mayor Parris discussed consideration of a Section 8 Ad Hoc Committee.

Addressing the Council on this matter:

Barbara Mayzels – Stated that it is illegal for cities, counties or agencies working on their behalf to make zoning or land-use policies that unlawfully discriminate against a citizen. Concerned regarding vouchers for viable Section 8 citizens, such as the elderly and disabled.

Sharla Brebeck – Stated that there is confusion of Section 8 vouchers; intimidation of good people in need of Section 8 vouchers; vouchers are important to seniors; referred to benefits of people entitled to receive benefits; duty to protect all citizens.

Mayor Parris stated that there will not be any obstacle for seniors and disabled people; the City is not going to do anything about law abiding Section 8 citizens. The extent of the Section 8 problem and the abuse of the program are huge. He referred to an article in the Atlantic Journal; the City wants to make it perfectly clear to the landlords in Lancaster that they will not allow violations of the program. The Antelope Valley has the highest death rate in heart disease, cancer and it is not just the poor, it is all classes and types of people. Hospitals are overcrowded and Los Angeles County has not transferred services along with people on these vouchers. The City is only going to accept their fair share and has reached a tipping point where they cannot provide adequate services – this is intolerable. Lancaster is going to be the model for the nation in regards to housing for seniors; fantastic opportunities coming forward for seniors. There is a monster that comes with Section 8 and nothing will stop this City from attacking this monster. Vice Mayor Smith and Council Member Marquez are coming up with some incredible ideas to combat this matter; assured citizens that nothing will be done to offend or hurt the senior citizens of the area.

Council Member Mann stated that the solution is to take a couple of agencies that sit on the voucher system program now and allow them to sit on the Ad Hoc committee to help with these issues.

Mayor Parris stated that it is time for cities to take action and not sit back and let other agencies make the decisions.

CA 1. SECTION 8 AD HOC COMMITTEE (continued)

Council Member Marquez stated that she understands the concerns of the citizens and will not go after people who actually deserve Section 8 funding; the Federal Government and the State are not going to come to the aid of the cities; there is an extremely large amount of fraud within Section 8 and fraud in many other portions of the system; the desire of the City of Lancaster is to only be going after people who are truly harming the community.

Vice Mayor Smith discussed business license regulations in regards to Section 8. He stated that this program is very complex and the bottom line is the enforcement of this is going to have to come from the City. He feels that the City is going in the right direction.

Council Member Sileo – Stated that if any citizens listening to this are currently defrauding the system, he advised them to get out now because City will be cracking down on this very serious issue.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and it was seconded by Council Member Mann, to form an Ad Hoc Committee to address Section 8 issues and appoint Council Member Marquez as the Chairperson of this committee.

Mayor Parris – Referred to studies regarding Section 8 and correlation with high crime areas and the matter of not being given the services that are needed to help with this. He explained his view behind appointing so many Commissions; the authority that comes with Commissions; importance of having Commissions to handle the demands of the City. This should truly be a Section 8 Commission, not an Ad Hoc committee.

Vice Mayor Smith withdrew his earlier motion and stated the following new motion:

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Mann, the City Council approved the formation of a Section 8 Ad Hoc Commission to address Section 8 issues and appointed Council Member Marquez as the Chairperson of this Commission, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

CA 2. QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVES

Mayor Parris discussed Quality of Life Initiatives. He discussed different Commissions that he desires to have within the City such as the Crime Commission and an Arts Commission. He stated that he would like to appoint the Architectural/Design Planning Commissioners at the meeting of July 8, 2008 and requested that this be placed on that agenda.

The City Manager stated that this matter would be on the next agenda and that the new Commissioner appointments would become effective on August 12, 2008.

CA 3. 1000 LIVES PROPOSAL

Mayor Parris stated that many people are in poor health; it is wrong to not do something when people are dying from neglect; importance of taking care of citizens; Los Angeles County has the highest death rate; Antelope Valley has healthy air; open spaces, yet people are sick or dying. Los Angeles County is not providing the proper services and he does not want to see the City stand idly by and take this abuse. The City has a right to its fair share. He is requesting that Dr. Philip Tusso and Bishop Hearn come together and address these matters. Dr. Tusso has a program that has saved thousands of lives without government assistance; consideration of community gardens; people are obese yet dying from malnutrition and it is time for the City to help and support this matter.

Council Member Marquez – Requested clarification as to how the City gets involved and how this impacts the City financially.

Mayor Parris – Stated that he believes the resources are out there, they just need to be found.

The City Manager – Stated that the City currently does have programs in place that can help. There are many programs to support healthy life styles. He stated that he will discuss this matter with Dr. Tusso to find out what the City can do to help and ways to get involved.

COUNCIL AGENDA

None

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The City Manager thanked staff and the local business owners for the success of the Downtown Event; thanked Laurie Butts for her leadership and making this event successful.

Council Member Mann agreed and stated that this was the best attended Downtown event so far and commended Laurie Butts for her efforts.

The Interim Parks, Recreation and Arts Director stated that many events are planned throughout the year and it takes the involvement and commitment of many staff members; they perform a fantastic job and he appreciates the leadership of Laurie Butts as well.

CITY CLERK / AGENCY SECRETARY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Addressing the City Council/Agency at this time:

Scott Pelka – Voiced his concerns regarding campaign flyers that were sent out during the election cycle and his concern regarding the involvement of Vice Mayor Smith.

David Paul – Appreciates concise issues; referred to a book about the early history of the Antelope Valley and the drought of 100 years ago; referred to Section 8 violators on his street – understands the concerns; addressed his concerns regarding safe and sane fireworks; importance of strong enforcement during the 4th of July holiday.

The City Manager encouraged citizens to visit the City’s website regarding the reporting of firework violations and additionally, there is information on the website regarding the 4th of July program that the City will be putting on.

Marilyn Dalrymple – Requested consideration for a one-day workshop about violence and abuse of children; presented a representation regarding abused children as well as parental abuse; there is a lack of public awareness; encouraged the City to host a one-day workshop on these matters. She presented an outline to the Council and stated that collectively, people can gather information and come up with ways to help with the abuse. She asked for a room to be donated; help with publicity; help with guidance; if the City could put their stamp of approval on this matter, it would be appreciated.

Mayor Parris – Stated that he would like to meet with Ms. Dalrymple and discuss this matter.

The City Manager - Stated that there are ways for the City to help out and he would meet with Ms. Dalrymple as well.

Council Member Sileo – Stated that the City should consider partnering with Antelope Valley Hospital. In the last year they have stepped up their community lecture series; they were instrumental in starting the SARS Program; sexual assault response service; they have a history of dealing with sensitive assault issues and they would be an excellent addition to this effort.

COUNCIL REPORTS

None

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 24, 2008

COUNCIL / AGENCY COMMENTS

Council Member Sileo – Stated that the Antelope Valley Hospital is very impacted by the community and that when it comes to heart attacks that is the one thing that Antelope Valley Hospital handles very well. He explained a process known as “door to balloon” time, which means from the time a person hits the emergency room door to the time a person is in surgery, the national standard is sixty minutes. Antelope Valley standard is approximately forty-five minutes and they are twenty percent better than the national average. There are difficulties in the emergency room but stated that he did want to hold them up for the good things they do as well.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Parris adjourned the Council/Agency meeting at 8:35 p.m. and announced the next regular meeting of the City Council/Redevelopment Agency would take place on Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. (*NEW TIME*)

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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

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 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)
