

**LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor/Chairman Parris called the regular meeting of the City Council/Redevelopment Agency meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Council Member/Agency Director: Mann

Staff

Members: City Manager/Executive Director, City Attorney/Agency Counsel, Interim Assistant City Manager, Assistant to the City Manager, City Clerk/Agency Secretary, Planning Director, Public Works Director, Interim Parks, Recreation & Arts Director, Finance Director, Economic Development Director, Housing Director, Human Resources Director

It was the consensus of the City Council to excuse Council Member/Agency Director Mann from the meeting this evening.

INVOCATION - Pastor Herbert Howard - First Southern Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Bishop Henry Hearn

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Mayor's Student Athlete – Hunter Horn, Quartz Hill High School
Presenter: Mayor Parris

Presentation to Lyle Norton, Interim Assistant City Manager upon his retirement.
Presenter: Mark Bozigian, City Manager

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE REMOVED

None

APPROVAL OF REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR

On a motion by Vice Chairman Smith and seconded by Agency Director Sileo, the Redevelopment Agency approved the Agency Consent Calendar by the following vote: 4-0-0-1; AYES: Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mann.

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RCC 1. MINUTES

See CC 2 for the approval of the Regular Redevelopment Agency Meeting minutes of September 23, 2008.

RCC 2. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES

Approved Agreement for Acquisition of Real Properties between the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency and various agencies as part of the approved Neighborhood Foreclosure Preservation Homeownership Program as outlined in Exhibit "A" of the Staff Report.

RCC 3. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH RBF CONSULTING

Authorized a Professional Services Agreement with RBF Consulting to develop the Yucca District Neighborhood Specific Area Vision Plan in an amount not to exceed \$43,943.00 for Phase I. The Yucca District Neighborhood is bounded by Sierra Highway to Division Street and from Avenue I to Avenue J.

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 by the following vote: 4-0-0-1; AYES: Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mann.

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 2A. MINUTES

Approved the City Council Special Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2008.

CC 2B. MINUTES

Approved the City Council/Redevelopment Agency Regular Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2008.

CC 3. WARRANT REGISTER

Approved the Check and Wire Registers (August 24, 2008 through September 6, 2008) in the amount of \$6,327,306.56.

CC 4. ORDINANCE NO. 906

Adopted **Ordinance No. 906**, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California adopting the Downtown Lancaster Specific Plan (SP 08-01).

CC 5. AGREEMENT WITH ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE

Approved the Agreement for use of the Performing Arts Center by the Antelope Valley College for the 2008-2009 Season.

- CC 6. ACCEPTANCE OF DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE**
Approved and accepted for maintenance the work and materials for the drainage improvements for Drainage Maintenance District Annexation No. 04-16, installed for Tract No. 53297, located on the southwest corner of Avenue K and 20th Street East, Owner: K. Hovnanian Forecast Homes, Inc.
- CC 7. ACCEPTANCE OF INTERIOR STREET TREES FOR MAINTENANCE**
Accepted the interior street trees for maintenance by the City for: Tract No. 060987, located on the southwest corner of Avenue J and 52nd Street West, Owner: Larwin Company, Tract No. 062326, located on the south side of Avenue K-8 approximately 530 feet east of 30th Street West, Owner: Harris Homes, Inc.; and Tract No. 47775, located on the southeast corner of Avenue J-8 and 42nd Street West, Owner: Lancaster Palms, LLC.
- CC 8. ACCEPTANCE OF LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE**
Approved and accepted for maintenance the work and materials for the landscape improvements for Landscape Maintenance District No. 1, Annexation No. 358, installed for Tract No. 061905, located on southeast corner of Avenue K-8 and 27th Street West, Owner: RCDR VI, LLC.
- CC 9. MONUMENTATION WORK**
Approved the monumentation work for Tract No. 060450, located on the southwest corner of 60th Street West and Avenue K-8, Owner: Warmington Lancaster Associates L.P.
- CC 10. APPROVAL OF COMPLETED SEWER SYSTEMS**
Approved the completed sewer systems installed by the developer of Private Contract No. 04-27 (Portion A), located on 60th Street West between Avenue K-10 and Avenue L, Owner: Richmond American Homes of CA; Tract No. 061033, located on the southwest corner of 30th Street West and Avenue M, Owner: Pinnacle Quartz Hill I, LLC.
- CC 11. JOINT USE AGREEMENT WITH SCE FOR PROPOSED WIDENING OF AVENUE M**
Approved the Joint Use Agreement with Southern California Edison Company (SCE) for Site Plan Review No. 04-04, located at the northeast corner of Avenue M and 3rd Street East, to provide for the relocation of existing SCE facilities necessitated by the proposed widening of Avenue M.
- CC 12. JOINT USE AGREEMENT WITH SCE FOR PROPOSED WIDENING OF AVENUE J**
Approved the Joint Use Agreement with Southern California Edison Company (SCE) for Tract Nos. 61206 and 61248, located on Avenue J at 35th Street East, to provide for the relocation of existing SCE facilities necessitated by the proposed widening of Avenue J.

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CC 13. TAX SHARING RESOLUTION

Adopted the Tax Sharing Resolution for proposed Annexation No. 373 into Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14.

CC 14. RESOLUTION NO. 08-81

Adopted **Resolution No. 08-81**, declaring its intention to vacate road right-of-way located at West Avenue L and West Avenue L South Ramp.

CC 15. RESOLUTION NO. 08-82

Adopted **Resolution No. 08-82**, declaring its intention to vacate road right-of-way located on the northeast corner of Lancaster Boulevard and Yucca Avenue.

CC 16. PWCP NO. 08-028

Awarded **Public Works Construction Project No. 08-028**, Nuisance Water Flow Improvement System, to Tejon Constructors Inc. in the amount of \$145,112.00 plus a 10% contingency, for the construction of a nuisance water pump back system within and adjacent to the Portofino Housing Tract and authorized the City Manager, or his designee, to sign all documents.

CA 1. RE-EVALUATION OF COUNCIL MEETING TIMES

Mayor Parris requested feedback from the City Manager on this matter.

The City Manager stated that from the perspective of the staff there have not been any negative impacts due to the time change; there has not been a lack of public participation due to the earlier meeting times and staff does appreciate that the meetings begin earlier.

Addressing the City Council on this matter:

Scott Pelka – Stated that people cannot make it to the meetings at 5:00 p.m., especially commuters from the valley; people are rushed; internet access is not acceptable; it is unfair to citizens to have the meetings at 5:00 p.m.

Council Member Sileo stated that he appreciates the comments he has received from citizens who work until 5:00 p.m. and the challenge it is for them to attend the earlier meeting time. He stated that it is incumbent upon the Council that if they, as a Council ask the citizens to attend the meetings at 5:00 p.m. then Council should hold themselves to that meeting time and be on time as well. He stated that since changing the meeting time to 5:00 p.m. there have been seven meetings and six of the meetings have started late. He felt that changing the meeting time to 5:30 p.m. would allow everyone to hold to the same standards and the meetings would begin on time.

Council Member Sileo made a motion to change the meeting time to 5:30 p.m. The motion died for lack of a second.

No further discussion took place; meetings will continue to be held at 5:00 p.m.

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CA 2. APPOINTMENTS TO THE SECTION 8 COMMISSION

Council Member Marquez introduced the seven individuals that have been nominated to serve on the Lancaster Section 8 Commission. She stated that this commission will be the face for the citizens; staff has done a great job and great things will come from the formation of this commission.

Mayor Parris stated that a letter was received from Supervisor Antonovich in which he has given his full support on this and in bringing the housing authority to a regional level.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council appointed Bret Banks; Gene Gaynor; Larry Grooms; LeeRoy Halley; Risa Shepler; Tim Sturtevant; Perry Watkins to the Lancaster Section 8 Commission by the following vote: 4-0-0-1; AYES: Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Mann.

CITY MANAGER / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENT

The City Manager stated that he appreciated all the hard work by staff, the community, sponsors and the City Council to make the Aerospace Walk of Honor a tremendous success.

Bishop Hearn stated that he enjoyed attending the Aerospace Walk of Honor and appreciates all the hard work that goes into the preparation of this annual event.

CITY CLERK / AGENCY SECRETARY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Addressing the Council/Agency at this time:

Paul Jennings – Stated that a lower speed limit on the musical road would have been a viable solution rather than removal of the road.

Mayor Parris explained that the City did look at ways to divert the sound but the primary reason that the City decided to pave over the road and possibly relocate to Avenue G was safety. So many people were using the road and immediately making u-turns to use it again and this became a dangerous hazard. There really was not a choice but to pave over the road and hopefully, if the road is moved to Avenue G there will be traffic signs to allow for safe left turns.

Carl Sundstrom – Discussed the many changes that have taken place in the Antelope Valley; baggy pants/clothing styles of youth; high concentration of Section 8 housing; too many ice cream trucks driving around and they are not dealing ice cream; citizens need to get more involved, watch what is going on in their neighborhoods; squatters living in different homes illegally; people parked illegally in handicapped areas.

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PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (continued)

Veronica Meugniot – Discussed the AIDS Walk and availability of the Mayor to attend; educational tutorial to teach people to speak English.

Barbara Mayzels – Presented the Council with documents relating to statutes from the Educational Code pertaining to English only in the State of California.

Marilyn Hilton – Stated that she is disappointed in the removal of the musical road; this was a fine addition to the community; understands the safety issues; should have put more thought into this and thought about traffic controls; best free entertainment around. Discussed water conservation issues – appreciates the concerns of the Council but it should not be up to the Council to require citizens to retrofit their homes to help with water conservation.

Lyle Talbot – Presented the Mayor with an Iron Fist to rule the dais and a miniature (toy) caterpillar/earth mover to bulldoze down the Section 8 homes. Additionally, he stated that there would be a public meeting at Fire Station 129 regarding the Blue Fire EIR (Project Green Waste to Energy) on October 1, 2008.

Jenn Skidmore – Stated that she had discussed the musical road with Pauline East; found it amazing how quickly the road was removed; community has truly enjoyed this road; Ms. East stated that neighbors couldn't sleep because of the noise; decision should not have been made based on the complaints of just a few people.

David Paul – Discussed the state of the economy; discussed what God means to him as an individual.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Vice Mayor Smith stated that he will present a report to Council at the next meeting regarding the activities of the Board of Directors for the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority.

COUNCIL / AGENCY COMMENTS

Council Member Marquez commented on several statements that were made by citizens this evening. Comments included activities that are offered by the City that are free, such as the Annual Walk of Honor that took place on September 20, 2008, as well as the program at Lancaster Performing Arts for the Aerospace honorees. She stated that she was not impressed with the musical road and wished citizens were as involved and passionate about calling in the crime that they see as much as they were about calling in support of the musical road. She stated that what impresses her is citizen involvement. She agreed with the comments made about the baggy clothing style of the youth; presented the Section 8 Fraud Hotline Number which is: 877-881-7233 and people can remain anonymous when calling in violations; there are not enough deputies and inspectors and it is important to have citizen involvement. Additionally, regarding the musical road – if a lower speed limit was to be enforced that would mean putting a deputy out there and that is not a good use of funding.

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COUNCIL / AGENCY COMMENTS (continued)

Vice Mayor Smith thanked the staff for their hard work for the Walk of Honor Event, stated that Dennis Davenport is present and this project was his baby from day one beginning nineteen years ago and that Bishop Hearn attended the very first Walk of Honor Event. He stated that Lyle Norton has done an absolutely wonderful job for the City and that because of him, the City is like a home, there are so many levels within a city and Lyle Norton created a couch and a fireplace and made this a home.

Vice Mayor Smith discussed certificates and would like to see new awards for citizens – men in arms; law enforcement; firemen; people who have done outstanding things and would like staff to look into this and formulate a proposal for the future.

Mayor Parris agreed and stated that public input would be welcomed on this as well.

Vice Mayor Smith discussed water conservation and xeriscaping and the confusion surrounding the term of xeriscaping. He stated that a number of different agencies have gotten together such as KB Homes; the Fairgrounds which has some Federal Grant money; the Kiwanis organization and AVEK and they would like to see the City facilitate not only for adults, but for college and high school students as well – engage in a competition of xeriscaping and learn how to conserve water, engage the citizens and create a showcase at the fairgrounds or at some model homes to show citizens what they can do and how they can conserve and consider giving out some scholarships. He stated that he will be sitting down with the City Manager and the Water Ad Hoc Committee to discuss this, find other entities, bring something back to the Council that will allow the City to facilitate this, get everyone on the same page and not only do something good for the youth but for the community as well.

Council Member Marquez commented on the article in the Press regarding the first 120 days and the many, many accomplishments that have taken place in that short span of time and thanked the Mayor, the City Council and staff for this.

Mayor Parris stated that staff accomplishes much of this by working 60-70 hours a week and he truly appreciates their hard work. There have been 176 felony burglary arrests and this is a target rich environment and enforcement will continue.

Council Member Sileo thanked staff for their hard work on the Aerospace Walk of Honor; commented on the inspiring words of Eileen Collins; praised Lyle Norton, stating that he propelled the Arts Department and elevated the arts to new heights. Much of what Mr. Norton has done has gone unheralded and he truly appreciates all of Mr. Norton's accomplishments.

Mayor Parris requested that Lyle Norton consider being a consultant to the Arts Commission once it is formed.

Lyle Norton stated that he has a stake in promoting arts in the Antelope Valley, especially among young people and he is open to discussing this.

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COUNCIL / AGENCY COMMENTS (continued)

Bishop Hearn – Praised Lyle Norton and his many accomplishments and how committed he was to bringing many different venues to the Lancaster Performing Arts Center. He brought entertainment that kept and brought the community together.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Parris adjourned the Council/Agency meeting at 6:09 p.m. in memory of Pennie Shaffer Clark, Lancaster resident and Gold Star Mother whose son, Army Spc. Ryan Clark, was killed in Iraq in 2006, and son, Staff Sgt. Sean Clark, is an Airborne Ranger serving in Iraq with the 25th Infantry Division. Mayor Parris announced that the next regular meeting of the City Council/Redevelopment Agency would take place on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

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)
