

**LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES
January 13, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor 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; Deputy City Manager/Deputy Executive Director; City Attorney/Agency Counsel; Deputy City Clerk/ Deputy Agency Secretary; Assistant to the City Manager; Planning Director; Public Works Director; Parks, Recreation & Arts Director; Finance Director; Economic Development Director; Housing Director; Human Resources Analyst

INVOCATION

Pastor Forte – Growing Valley Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member/Agency Director Mann

PRESENTATIONS

- 1) Youth Training Class - Antelope Valley Church, Director Marion Owens
Council Member Marquez introduced Matthew Ramirez, a student from Desert Christian, who thanked the City Council for the opportunity for allowing youth to overcome their fear of speaking in front of crowds.
- 2) Cross Country Qualifiers - State Championships
 - Melissa Bauer – Paraclete High School
 - Pedro Zaragosa – Lancaster High School
- 3) CIF Football Championships:
 - Paraclete High School
 - Quartz Hill High School

PRESENTATIONS (continued)

- 4) Commendations to deputies from the Lancaster Sheriff's Station's "COPS" and "CORE" Teams; officers from CA State Parole; L.A. County Probation; L.A. County Housing Authority; Lancaster City Code Enforcement for: Section 8 Compliance Checks.

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE REMOVED

None

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2009

RCC 1. MINUTES

See CC 2 for the approval of the Regular Redevelopment Agency Meeting minutes of December 9, 2008.

RNB 1. NORTHEAST GATEWAY CORRIDORS PROJECT

The Housing Director and RBF Consulting gave a presentation regarding the Revised Northeast Gateway Corridors Project – The Piute Neighborhood Master Vision Plan.

Chairman Parris asked for clarification regarding when the Medical Ambulatory Care Center (MACC) would be opening; requested that staff look into possibly speeding up the process for the MACC.

The City Manager stated that the vision that is before the Council does not approve projects; it is the guide that the City will follow in this area.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Smith and seconded by Director Mann, the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency concurred with the vision and the Piute Neighborhood Vision Master Plan and directed staff to commence with the planning, environmental and redevelopment processes necessary to implement and complete the Piute Neighborhood Master Plan, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

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: 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 December 9, 2008.

CC 3. WARRANT REGISTER

Approved the Check and Wire Registers (November 16, 2008 through December 27, 2008) in the amount of \$16,304,163.28.

CC 4. MONTHLY REPORT OF INVESTMENTS

Accepted and approved the November 30, 2008 Monthly Report of Investments as submitted.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2009

CC 5. BID NO. 534-09 - 2009 Sewer Maintenances Services

Awarded **Bid No. 534-09 - 2009 Sewer Maintenances Services**, a one (1) year contract, with annual extensions subject to City Council approval, with an annual cost of \$176,422.19 to Houston and Harris PCS, Inc. and authorized the City Manager, or his designee, to sign all documents.

CC 6. ORDINANCE NO. 913

Adopted **Ordinance No. 913**, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, amending Ordinance No. 876 codified as Chapter 13.09 of the Municipal Code of the City of Lancaster pertaining to sewer service charges.

CC 7. RE-APPOINTMENT OF RENT ARBITRATION BOARD MEMBER

Mayor Parris nominated, and re-appointed, Thomas Lacey to the Mobilehome Park Rent Arbitration Board and the City Council ratified this nomination and appointment.

CC 8. RESOLUTION NO. 09-01

Adopted **Resolution No. 09-01**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, authorizing the destruction of certain records (Telephone Accounts, Correspondence, Travel, City Property Claims, Claims, Subpoenas, Insurance – City as Additional Insured, Insurance – City as Insured, Closed Session, Speaker Cards, Public Records Request, Records Center Documentation, Terminated Home Occupations, Safety Committee Training Records – SB 198, Violations of Municipal Codes, housing Grant Program, Housing Loan Program Files, Bids, Registration – Recreation Programs, Refunds – Recreation Programs, Sports, Recreation/City Facility Use, Summer Day Camp, Grants, CARES Program, Recreation Log Books, Accident/Incident/Damage Reports, AV Film Office, Plans & Plan Checks, Accounts Payable, Payroll – Registers, Payroll – Employee Files, W-2, State 7 Federal Income Tax Returns, Business License Files, Purchase Orders, Banking Records, Financial Reports.)

CC 9. 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. 05-106, installed for: Tract No. 061225, located on the southeast corner of Lancaster Boulevard and 30th Street East, Owner: KB Home Greater Los Angeles, Inc. Appropriated \$2,660.00 from the first year's maintenance cost, that have been paid by the developer, to cover the remaining five months of the fiscal year into the Drainage Maintenance Operating Account No. 484-4743-404.

CC 10. 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. 199, installed for Tract No. 48534-02, located on the northwest corner of Avenue I and 37th Street East, Owner: K. Hovnanian Forecast Homes, Inc.; and Annexation No. 281, installed for Tract No. 060780, located on the southeast corner of Avenue K and 25th Street East, Owner: K. Street East LLC. Appropriated \$3,225.00 from the first year's maintenance cost, that have been paid by the developers, to cover the remaining 5 months of the fiscal year into the Landscape Maintenance Operating Account No. 482-4747-402.

CC 11. COMPLETED SEWER SYSTEMS

Approved the completed sewer systems installed by the developer of Tract No. 061225, located on the southeast corner of Lancaster Boulevard and 30th Street East, Owner: KB Home Greater Los Angeles, Inc. and for Tract No. 54286, located approximately 660 feet west side of 25th Street West, between Avenue K-12 and Avenue K-14, Owner: Hill View Homes, Inc.

CC 12. ACCEPTANCE OF STREETS FOR MAINTENANCE

Approved the developer constructed streets and accepted the streets for maintenance by the City for: Tract No. 060450, located on the southwest corner of 60th Street West and Avenue K-8, Owner: Warmington Lancaster Associates, L.P.; and Tract No. 48534-02, located on the northwest corner of Avenue I and 37th Street East, Owner: K. Hovnanian Forecast Homes, Inc.

CC 13. COMPLETED WATER SYSTEMS

Approved the completed water system installed by the developer of Tract No. 060450, located on the southwest corner of 60th Street West and Avenue K-8, Owner: Warmington Lancaster Associates, L.P.

CC 14. TAX SHARING RESOLUTIONS

Adopted the Tax Sharing Resolutions for proposed Annexation Nos. 393, 395 and 396 that are requesting sewer service for their properties into Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14.

CC 15. PWCP NO. 07-005 – AVENUE K REPAIRS AT RAILROAD CROSSING

Accepted the work constructed by Maverick Asphalt, Inc.; for **Public Works Project No. 07-005 Avenue K Repairs at Railroad Crossing**; directed the City Clerk to file the Notice of Completion for the project; authorized payment of the 5 percent retention 35 days after recordation, provided no stop notices, as provided by law, have been filed.

CC 16. PWCP NO. 08-021 – AVENUE J STORM WATER OUTFALL TRASH COLLECTION SYSTEM

Accepted the work constructed by Sierra Cascade Construction for **Public Works Construction Project No. 08-021 Avenue J Storm Water Outfall Trash Collection System**; directed the City Clerk to file the Notice of Completion for the project; and authorize payment of the 10 percent retention 35 days after recordation, provided no stop notices, as provided by law, have been filed.

CC 17. RESOLUTION NO. 09-02

Adopted **Resolution No. 09-02**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, committing the City to provide local matching funds, if selected for award, for two submitted competitive grant applications under the Bicycle Transportation Account.

CC 18. APPOINTMENT OF VOLUNTEERS TO THE LANCASTER VETERAN'S HOME CITIZEN COMMITTEE

Mayor Parris nominated and appointed volunteers Matthew Plantikow, Deborah S. Plantikow and Jimmie G. Hopewell to fill three of the current vacancies on the Lancaster Veterans Home Citizens Committee and the City Council ratified these nominations and appointments.

CC 19. RESOLUTION NO. 09-04

Adopted **Resolution No. 09-04**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, for the proposed Stillmeadow Lane Sewer Line, located on Stillmeadow Lane near the southwest corner of Avenue K and 25th Street West wherein the City Council preliminarily approves the Engineer's Report and sets the date for a Public Hearing on March 10, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. to hear testimony concerning the formation of "Assessment District 08-01 – Stillmeadow Lane Sewer Project".

CC 20. ORDINANCE NO. 910

Adopted **Ordinance No. 910**, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, repealing Ordinance No. 91 and Ordinance No. 488, the Sanitary Sewer and Industrial Waste Ordinance of the City of Lancaster and adopting Chapters 13.07, 13.08 and 13.09 as the Sanitary Sewer and Industrial Waste Ordinance.

PH 1. RESOLUTION NO. 09-03 - CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION GREEN BUILDING FEE

Mayor Parris opened the Public Hearing. The Public Works Director presented the staff report regarding the California Building Standards Commission Green Building Fee.

Vice Mayor Smith stated that this is a small fee that adds up and compared it to water torture; irresponsible for the State to put this on the backs of citizens; voting for it reluctantly.

Mayor Parris stated the City needs to get used to having the State steal local money; tough road ahead over the next couple of years.

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

On a motion by Council Member Mann and seconded by Mayor Parris, the City Council adopted **Resolution No. 09-03**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, adopting the California Building Standards Commission Green Building Fee, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

NB 1. ORDINANCE NO. 914 - RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL

The City Attorney presented the staff report regarding the introduction of an ordinance amending Chapter 6.04 of Title 6 and adding Chapter 6.08 to Title 6 of the Lancaster Municipal Code relating to Animal Control.

Mayor Parris asked for clarification as to who is paying to house the dogs while they are being held awaiting an administrative hearing; asked the City Attorney to add language to the Ordinance that would require a mandatory deposit for an appeal.

The City Attorney stated that if the owner ultimately gets the dog back, after the hearing, the owner would be responsible for the costs. If the dog is abandoned by the owner, the City would be responsible.

Addressing the City Council on this matter:

Pauline East – supports the Council in what they are doing; objects to limiting mandatory spay and neutering for Pit Bulls and Rottweilers only, believes it should be all animals.

The City Attorney stated that Animal Control objects to mandatory spaying and neutering. Animal Control does not feel they can adequately identify Pit Bulls and Rottweiler's visually.

NB 1. ORDINANCE NO. 914 - RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL (continued)

Mayor Parris stated that the primary reason for this ordinance is to harass the gangs; he wants the gang members to know they are not welcome here; there is a very real problem with these animals in the City.

Katie Clawson – Professional dog trainer; six foot leash is too long, it should be 4 feet long; trained a Mastiff dog from a puppy for a man who wanted the dog as a service dog, he was a great puppy at 4 months, but as the dog matured, he started exhibiting dominant behavior. Recommends not sending dogs for basic obedience, have someone who really knows dogs to assess the dogs and check the dog's genetics; it isn't just about training the dog.

Sky Valencia – Thanked the Council for putting time into this issue; she has been doing rescue work since 1998; started out working with kids to keep them away from gangs and dog fighting; operates an animal rescue; happy with what the City is doing; don't let the dogs get the short end of the stick; spay and neutering should not be breed specific and should be all dogs; find another way to deal with gangs – take away everything else, not just the dogs.

Dr. Larry Bosma, D.V.M. – North Valley Veterinary Clinic, concerned with approved obedience course and the requirement of getting an appointment with a doctor within 10 days; behavior program needs to be defined more specifically; define the 5 year teaching experience requirement; behavior problems can be handled by different techniques – need to teach the dog to relax; temperament testing can be biased; when assessing the dog, determine what the underlying physiological problem is; have trainers obtain certifications; require liability insurance for the trainers.

The City Attorney asked Dr. Bosma to clarify his concerns regarding the appointment with a doctor within 10 days. Dr. Bosma suggested having the owner provide proof that an appointment has been made for the dog to be spayed or neutered due to how busy many Veterinarian offices are.

Carole Kelly – Dog trainer for City of Lancaster and High Desert Obedience Club; thanked the City Attorney for meeting with interested dog owners; concerned with mandatory spay and neutering of Pit Bulls; agrees that gang members need to be bothered and believes that the dangerous dog portion of this ordinance deals with that, but doesn't believe that requiring their dogs to be spayed or neutered has anything to do with it; she doesn't believe that genetics of a dog are to blame for a dog being aggressive or vicious, the blame lies with irresponsible owners.

A. J. Listman – Dog owner, dog trainer; placing restrictions on dogs simply because of their breed is a slippery slope; what happens if gang members change breeds, will the City restrict them, too? Does not have a problem with City going after gangs; placing restrictions on owners who want to enjoy their dogs and enjoy the sport of pure breed dogs is unfair.

NB 1. ORDINANCE NO. 914 - RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL (continued)

Mayor Parris stated that he is open to amending the ordinance in the future; every month his law office sees a family that has been affected by a vicious dog; wants to find a way that allows responsible dog owners to enjoy their dogs, but still have an effect on the gangs.

Council Member Sileo commented that there are exemptions in the ordinance regarding unaltered restricted dog license requirements; doesn't know any person that breeds or shows dogs without having papers and cannot understand why anyone would buy a dog without papers. He wanted to be sure that the public is aware that there are exemptions to the spay and neuter requirement for registered dogs.

Diana Beard-Williams – requested clarification of the ordinance.

Linda Kabel – has worked with Dr. Bosma for 20 years; doesn't feel it is fair to segregate Pit Bulls and Rottweilers; the problem is the lack of education on the owner's part; not fair to punish the dog because the owner is ignorant; dogs need to learn manners just like children; not the dogs fault if they are not taught; this is a move in the right direction; animal control is overloaded; owners need to be taught.

Council Member Marquez stated that she believes the ordinance is fair, not too complex and thoughtful; she thanked the City Attorney for his work; the ordinance has a sufficient appeal process; agrees with possibly amending the ordinance in the future; suggests a pre-approved list of handlers with requirements; agrees with no free bites; the ordinance deals with the level of damage these dogs can do; supports the ordinance because the citizens that want these dogs are going to have to be very responsible for them; supports mandatory spay and neuter for all animals because the County is talking about possibly needing to build another animal shelter.

Council Member Mann agreed with the Mayor regarding the gangs; doesn't understand if the County already has an ordinance that requires all breeds to be spayed or neutered, why isn't the City requiring that as well; supports mandatory spay and neutering for dogs and cats.

Council Member Sileo stated that this essentially is two different issues that overlap; he shares Dr. Bosma's concerns regarding the 10 day appointment requirement; may need to adjust that requirement; need to look at LA County 10.37.130, Section E and how that section will be implemented; need to be sure that these courses do what they say they're going to do which is change the behavior of the dog; certification of trainers needs to be clarified to be sure the owner and the dog get what is paid for and that it is effective; believes adequate exceptions exist for people who want to have Pit Bulls and Rottweilers and not spay or neuter them; if additional breeds start to become an issue, deal with that issue in the future; provide people leeway; overall it is a good balance, not perfect; willing to revisit in future; reasonable compromise.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

JANUARY 13, 2009

NB 1. ORDINANCE NO. 914 - RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL (continued)

Vice Mayor Smith thanked the Mayor; not convinced that the problems are not specific to breeds and is not genetic; the State has made it difficult for cities to control vicious dogs (breed specific) in any way other than with spay and neutering; this is the only way to go after gang members; must be breed specific; believes that spaying and neutering is the way to make animals less aggressive; likes the 4 foot leash requirement, the certified trainer requirement and requiring liability insurance; if someone comes up with a better idea in the future it will be looked at.

Council Member Mann inquired if the ordinance will be amended to clarify the definition of a certified licensed trainer and include the requirement for liability insurance.

The City Attorney stated that these issues would be addressed at a later time.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Sileo, the City Council introduced **Ordinance No. 914** an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, amending Chapter 6.04 of Title 6 and adding Chapter 6.08 to Title 6 of the Lancaster Municipal Code Relating to Animal Control with the following amendments: change the six foot leash requirement to four foot; delete the fluorescent yellow collar requirement; correct typographical errors, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Sileo, to consider an additional amendment within the introduction of **Ordinance No. 914**, with the following amendment: the requirement for a deposit for an appeal with the amount to be set by a resolution of the City Council, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

RECESS

Mayor Parris requested a brief recess at 7:35 p.m.

RECONVENE

Mayor Parris reconvened the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

NB 2. ORDINANCE NO. 915 - RELATING TO THE ARCHITECTURAL/DESIGN PLANNING COMMISSION

The City Attorney presented the staff report regarding the introduction of an ordinance amending Section 2.34.010 of Chapter 2.34 to the Lancaster Municipal Code relating to the Architectural and Design Planning Commission.

Vice Mayor Smith asked for clarification of the requirements.

The City Attorney stated that a member of the Commission would be required to either live in the City of Lancaster or live in the Antelope Valley and work in Lancaster. Mayor Parris stated his purpose for asking for the change is due to the opportunity to have an architect on the Commission who lives 1,000 feet outside of City limits. Vice Mayor Smith stated how important it is to have the individual live in the Antelope Valley because the Commissioners would have a stake in this community.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Mann, the City Council introduced **Ordinance No. 915**, amending Section 2.34.010 of Chapter 2.34 to the Lancaster Municipal Code relating to the Architectural and Design Planning Commission, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

CA 1. DISCUSSION OF LANCASTER CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Mayor Parris announced that he would like citizens to nominate individuals to be the first Lancaster Citizen of the Year. The Mayor's wife has donated \$10,000.00 for the winner.

Council Member Mann clarified that this would be a reoccurring event.

Mayor Parris hoped this would get people involved and a chance to celebrate those who are involved; would like the form on the website for two weeks after which time a determination would be made on the selection process.

CA 101. DISCUSSION OF CONCERNS REGARDING EXPANSION OF SECTION 8 VOUCHER PROGRAM

This item was deferred to the January 27, 2009 meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The City Manager stated that the City received a commendation from the United States Marine Corp. The City of Lancaster employees donated 6 full boxes of toys this year which represents more than they have donated in the past; proud of the employees for this accomplishment.

The City Manager showed a recently completed commercial which promotes the City of Lancaster.

CITY CLERK / AGENCY SECRETARY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Deputy 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:

Barbara Mayzels – Corporate welfare vs. indigent welfare; \$1,000,000 in welfare given to aliens; tuition for aliens; adult film industry.

Vice Mayor Smith clarified illegal alien access to college tuition assistance; report is being completed regarding the businesses in the City who may employ illegal aliens.

David Dyke – lives on eastside; code enforcement confiscated his yard sale sign; received warning letter regarding his yard sale sign; was told the only way to have a legitimate yard sale is to advertise in the AV Press; story in AV Press regarding having yard sales.

Al Ortiz – Small business owner, has been in the AV for over 10 years; works with Work Source and the City in order to hire employees and build up his business; has been let down; has a slumlord landlord for his business; no air-conditioning, heating.

David Paul – Understands the Human Accountability Project is far reaching; wrote a letter to the AV Press regarding what he would like to see from newly elected officials; wants human accountability for citizens, law enforcement, and government to occur simultaneously and immediately; no greater joy than to love and respect the law; bring gang members into the fold; need to build trust; we should all be better people by driving more respectfully.

Diana Beard-Williams – would like the Council to check into AVTA not providing discounts to students who commute to CSUN; does not want the issue that Palmdale is dealing with regarding Antelope Valley College – that it is not becoming a ‘cactus curtain’ issue; this is an accountability and transparency issue.

Vice Mayor Smith stated that he is currently checking into this; AVTA provides commuter service as a favor, not mandated to provide this service.

Mayor Parris stated he may possibly set up a committee to take care of this if it can’t be handled informally; many students commuting to CSUN paying to take the bus.

Mayor Parris discussed the battle between Lancaster and Palmdale; he is trying to stay quiet regarding the issue between the College and Palmdale.

COUNCIL REPORTS

CR 1. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Vice Mayor Smith reported on the activities of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD).

At the October 21, 2008, meeting, the Governing Board adopted the following significant recommendations of the AVAQMD's staff:

Allocation of a maximum of \$175,000 of AB 2766 funds to assist local school districts in replacing school buses eligible under the Lower Emission School Bus Program, and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute any necessary agreements with the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

A resolution approving inter-district and inter-basin transfer of offsets for later use within the District.

Other items approved by the AVAQMD were routine and adopted as consent items. Additionally, AVAQMD staff presented a District Fee Restructuring Evaluation and suggested amendments to Rule 301(Fees). The District's fee structure has been heavily weighted on initial permit application fees and less on annual permit renewal fees. These fees cover the cost of managing permits (i.e. creating, renewing, enforcing, etc.), and should be structured to gradually increase relative to impacts on the air quality. Larger quantity emissions generators should pay more for their permit to operate than smaller generators because they emit more pollution and have a greater impact on the environment. The greater the air quality impact by an emission source - the greater the work required by staff to insure compliance and the greater cost to the District. Most of the State's other 35 air districts have fee structures based on this graduated air quality impact scale.

To date the AVAQMD has reduced initial permit application fees, eliminated annual emission fees and the final step would be to move to a graduated air quality impact permit renewal fee, but State laws caps annual permit fee increase to no more than 15%. Most large emissions sources in the Antelope Valley currently pay substantially less than they would under a graduated structure, and adoption of a fee structure similar to the other air districts in the State would result in an annual increase greater than 15% for many larger local sources. Therefore, the AVAQMD is exploring writing legislation that would allow either a one time or a graduated fee increase over a two or three year period to "right size" applicable fees.

CR 2. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE ANTELOPE VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Vice Mayor Smith reported on the activities of the Antelope Valley Transit Authority

The following items took place during the November Board meeting:

A public hearing was held to review a proposed commuter fare increase. AVTA reported an 18% increase in the cost of commuter service this year over fiscal year 2007/2008. The Board approved the staff recommended fare increase which will partially recoup the revenue loss.

The Board approved AVTA's recent job class and compensation study and authorized the Executive Director to implement the staff recommended salary increases and classification adjustments. Due to the salary increases, the City of Lancaster will contribute, in fiscal year 2009/2010, \$3,495.00 over the adopted fiscal year 2008/2009 budget. The objectives of the compensation and classification studies were, respectively, to better align AVTA with its competitive labor market and illustrate career ladders for current and future staff.

In a new business item, the Board authorized staff to analyze the feasibility of making vehicle maintenance a function of AVTA staff. Veolia Transportation undertakes this task under the current service contract with AVTA. This action requires a mid-year budget adjustment of \$50,000.00 to fund the study. AVTA projects Lancaster's share to be \$3,920.00.

CR 3. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

Council Member Sileo reported on the activities of the Edwards Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board.

At the November 20, 2008, meeting, the RAB members were presented the following environmental presentation:

Federal Register Recommended Updates to the RAB Charter and By-Laws. U.S. Air Force JAG (legal office) review has recommended revisions to the EAFB RAB Charter and By-Laws to bring them into alignment with the over-arching Air Force RAB program. The Base will propose new language to be voted on at the next RAB meeting. These changes will take a similar form to Lancaster City Council public comment protocols.

CR 3. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (continued)

Hydrology in vicinity of Operable Unit 1 Main Base Flightline. An overview of base hydrology, including regional aquifer and sub-basin groundwater levels detailed an approximate 150 ft drop in groundwater between 1915 and 1991 in the Antelope Valley, particularly in the shared Lancaster sub-basin that underlies Edwards AFB. Shrinking groundwater levels and subsidence has slowed (not stopped) as a result of reduced groundwater pumping regionally, in part because of the supply of state water project water to the base and Antelope Valley. However with projected state water allocations for next year slashed, renewed potable water pumping combined with existing remedial groundwater pumping may result in a resumption of falling groundwater levels in shared sub-basins (Lancaster) and land subsidence regionally.

COUNCIL / AGENCY COMMENTS

Mayor Parris would like an evaluation form to be made available on the website for citizens and staff to evaluate the Mayor and Council Members; financial situation in Palmdale is dire, would like staff to determine if the City can assist and if bankruptcy occurs, what effects it may have on the City of Lancaster.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Parris adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m., announced that the next regular meeting of the City Council/Redevelopment Agency would take place on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 - 5:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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

R. REX PARRIS
MAYOR/CHAIRMAN
Lancaster, CA

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2009

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)
