

**LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
MINUTES  
February 24, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Parris called the regular meeting of the City Council/Redevelopment Agency meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Council Member/Agency Director: Sileo

**Staff**

Members: City Manager/Executive Director; Deputy City Manager/Deputy Executive Director; City Attorney/Agency Counsel; City Clerk/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 Director

**INVOCATION**

Bishop Henry Hearn

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chairman/Vice Mayor Smith

**PRESENTATIONS**

- Recognition of Mayor's Student Athlete - Kara Sherrard, Quartz Hill High School  
Presenter: Mayor Parris
- Commendation to Community Service Officer Josh Wagner  
Presenter: Mayor Parris

**AGENDA ITEMS TO BE REMOVED**

It was stated that Item No. PH 1 would need to be continued.

**APPROVAL OF AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR**

On a motion by Vice Chairman Smith and seconded by Agency Director Marquez, the Redevelopment Agency approved the Agency Consent Calendar with the exception of Item No. RCC 2, which was pulled for separate discussion and action, by the following vote: 4-0-0-1; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Sileo.

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**RCC 1. MINUTES**

See CC 2 for the approval of the Regular Redevelopment Agency Meeting minutes of February 10, 2009.

Chairman Parris recused himself from Item No. RCC 2 due to the fact that his wife owns property in the area.

**RCC 2. ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY**

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

On a motion by Agency Director Mann and seconded by Agency Director Marquez, the Redevelopment Agency approved the agreement for acquisition of Real Property between the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency and various agencies as part of the approved Neighborhood Foreclosure Preservation Homeownership Program and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, by the following vote: 3-0-1-1; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Smith; NOES: None; RECUSED: Parris; ABSENT: Sileo

**RCC 3. AGREEMENT WITH RBF CONSULTING**

Authorized a Professional Services Agreement with RBF Consulting to develop the Challenger Neighborhood Specific Area Vision Plan in an amount not to exceed \$66,946.00 for Phase I. The Challenger Neighborhood is bounded by Challenger Way to 20<sup>th</sup> Street East and from Avenue I to Avenue J.

**RCC 4. QUALIFIED LIST OF CONTRACTORS/SUB-CONTRACTORS**

Approved the "List of Qualified Contractors and Sub-contractors" for Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization Programs.

At this time, Chairman Parris returned to the meeting.

Council Member/Agency Director Sileo arrived at the meeting at 5:14 p.m.

**RNB 1. TREND TRACT MASTER VISION PLAN**

The Housing Director presented the staff report regarding the Trend Tract Master Vision Plan. A representative of RBF Consulting presented a power point presentation on this item. The presentation included, but was not limited to, information regarding age of residential structures; structural conditions; parking and driveways; fencing; neighborhood activities; neighborhood assets; vision plan recommendations; circulation and streetscape; traffic calming measures; recreation and amenities; purposed park/public plaza; successful efforts; future steps.

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**RNB 1. TREND TRACT MASTER VISION PLAN (continued)**

Further discussion took place regarding funding; foreclosures; acquisition of properties; community garden project; time lines.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Smith and seconded by Agency Director Marquez, the Redevelopment Agency concurred with the vision plan and directed staff to commence with the planning, environmental and redevelopment processes necessary to implement and complete the Trend Tract Master Vision 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 February 10, 2009.

**CC 3. WARRANT REGISTER**

Approved the Check and Wire Registers (January 25, 2009 through February 7, 2009) in the amount of \$12,196,962.26.

**CC 4. RESOLUTION NO. 09-09**

Adopted **Resolution No. 09-09**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, rescinding Resolution No. 07-204 in its entirety and establishing a policy for the investment of public funds for the City of Lancaster.

**CC 5. RESOLUTION NO. 09-10**

Adopted **Resolution No. 09-10**, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, approving the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Project Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), authorizing the City's membership in the L.A. RICS Authority and authorized the City Manager or his designee, to execute the JPA Agreement.

**CC 6. MONUMENTATION WORK**

Approved the monumentation work for Tract No. 54406, located on the southwest corner of Avenue J-12 and 5<sup>th</sup> Street East. Owner: Silver Oaks Estates, L.P.

**CC 7. COMPLETED WATER SYSTEMS**

Approved the completed water systems installed by the developer for: Tract No. 54366, located on the north side of Avenue K-8, approximately 667 feet east of Challenger Way; Tract No. 54368, located on the southeast corner of Carol Drive and East Avenue K-4; Tract No. 061079, located on the southwest corner of Avenue K-6 and Carpenter Drive. Owner: Richmond American Homes of CA.

**CC 8. TAX SHARING RESOLUTIONS**

Adopted the Tax Sharing Resolutions for proposed Annexation Nos. 14-357, 14-383, 14-394 and 14-397 into Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14.

**CC 9. PWCP NO. 08-014**

Accepted the work constructed by Bowe Contractors for **Public Works Construction Project No. 08-014**, Re-Bid of Prime Desert Woodland Trails Project, Phase II; 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 10. PWCP NO. 07-038**

Awarded **Public Works Construction Project No. 07-038**, Lancaster City Hall Space Plan 2 - Phase 1, to Hanes and Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$449,062.00 plus a 10% contingency and authorized the City Manager, or his designee, to sign all documents. The project is for the partial 1<sup>st</sup> floor renovation of City Hall to accommodate the increased number of Code Enforcement, Community Service Officer and other employees.

**PH 1. PARKING PENALTY SCHEDULE – RESOLUTION NO. 09-11**

Mayor Parris opened the Public Hearing and with a recommendation from staff, continued this item to a date uncertain.

**JNB 1. FISCAL YEAR 2008/2009 MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW**

The City Manager and Finance Director presented the staff report regarding FY 2008/2009 Mid-Year Budget Review. The presentation included, but was not limited to, economic overview; conservative policies; adequate reserves; financial planning; pro-active approach; budget adjustment highlights; project deferrals; position vacancies; optimizing restricted funds.

The City Manager discussed FY 2009/2010 budget; City is potentially facing a \$10 million reduction; City will continue with positive practices; strategically moving positions around; operating budgets are being cut; working very diligently to make sure that the impact on the public is minimal; funding strategies; review of scope of projects; the City will weather this economic downturn and will be in a good position for recovery.

**JNB 1. FISCAL YEAR 2008/2009 MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW (continued)**

Council comments and concerns included:

Vice Mayor Smith stated that he is excited about the mid-year budget adjustments; the City appears to be very stable; congratulated staff for all their hard work to achieve these reductions.

Council Member Sileo stated that the City is conservative with the City's money and in looking at other layers of government, it is just the opposite. It is with thanks to this Council; past Councils and staff in making difficult decisions that the City is able to weather this.

Council Member Mann stated that it is a breath of fresh air to be on this Council and to be presented with a budget that will continue to offer services to the community; no layoffs; protecting the City's reserves and that he 'tips his hat' to everyone for their hard work.

Mayor Parris stated that he is very impressed by the level of women in management; they are innovative, creative and fiscally responsible. The City has a superb management team compared to other cities; the Economic Stimulus Plan is an excellent program and it is a joy and privilege to be a part of all of this.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Sileo, the City Council/Redevelopment Agency adopted the City Council/Lancaster Redevelopment Agency proposed Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Mid-Year Budget Revenue and Expenditure Adjustments as shown on Attachments A & B of the staff report, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

**JNB 2. LANCASTER ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE**

The Economic Development Director presented the staff report regarding the Lancaster Economic Stimulus Package.

Council comments and concerns included:

Mayor Parris stated that costs will be cheaper than anywhere else; businesses in Lancaster are the partners of the City; everyone survives on the profits of these businesses.

Council Member Marquez stated that this is just one of the reasons why the City has won so many awards in the past years - staff jumps in and takes charge.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Mann, the City Council approved the appropriation and implementation of the Lancaster Economic Stimulus Package, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

**NB 1. ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO ESTABLISHED SPEED LIMITS**

The Public Works Director presented the staff report regarding speed limits.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council introduced **Ordinance No. 919**, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, to establish speed limits in the City of Lancaster based on the Engineering and Traffic Survey Report dated January 2009, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

**NB 2. ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

The Housing Director presented the staff report regarding property maintenance.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council introduced **Ordinance No. 920**, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, amending Section 8.28.200 of Title 8 to the Lancaster Municipal Code, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

**NB 3. ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO CARGO CONTAINERS**

The Housing Director presented the staff report regarding cargo containers.

Council comments and concerns included:

Mayor Parris requested clarification on the definition of temporary; why the ordinance is necessary; what is allowed in rural areas and other areas; concerns regarding visual blight.

Council Member Marquez stated that it is important to beautify Lancaster and she can show examples of where people have these containers in front of their homes, which causes visual blight.

Council Member Sileo stated his concern regarding storage containers with graffiti and containers that are very close to the 50 foot line – method in place to clean up containers.

The City Manager stated that the Planning Commission approved certain exemptions and the Planning Director presented further information regarding cargo containers; allowable footage; allowable visibility.

The Housing Director stated that this ordinance is fair to everyone; the City is asking people to be respectful of their neighborhood and their community; the City has received many complaints regarding these containers and is diligently fighting and tracking down the owners to help curb the blight.

**NB 3. ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO CARGO CONTAINERS (continued)**

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Marquez, the City Council introduced **Ordinance No. 921**, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, repealing and amending Sections 17.04.240, 7.08.050, 17.12.060, 17.16.050, 17.20.180, and 17.20.190 of Title 17 of the Lancaster Municipal Code to regulate the use of cargo containers, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

**CA 1. APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL/DESIGN PLANNING COMMISSIONER**

Mayor Parris requested consideration of nominee, Matthew Buchanan, to be appointed to the Architectural/Design Planning Commission.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Sileo, the City Council approved the appointment of Matthew Buchanan to the Architectural/Design Planning Commission, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

**COUNCIL AGENDA**

None

**CITY MANAGER'S / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The City Manager announced the opening of the Prime Desert Trail; thanked the City Council on behalf of staff for their support. The morale of employees is great when they are recognized by the public and the City Council. The Clear Choice Program will be rolled out soon and citizens will be able to nominate employees for exceptional work.

**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:

David Paul – Stated that it is a pleasure to be here; enjoys the process; feels very fortunate to live in Lancaster; confident that everyone will stick together; there is much to be done and much to be accomplished.

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**COUNCIL REPORTS**

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

At the February 17, 2009, meeting, the Governing Board discussed the following significant items with AVAQMD staff:

- Rule 403 - Fugitive Dust, Amendment Update. AVAQMD revisions were developed to compliment the City of Lancaster and other regional municipal entities, enhancing regional synergy and strengthening compliance/enforcement effectiveness. Parameters were updated, and defunct SCAQMD references were removed. Some details remain to be clarified. Agricultural dust control will be addressed separately, and the issue of proposed dust control bonds still must be resolved. AVAQMD Staff suggest bond issues are better administered and executed at the local municipal level, not necessarily by the Board.
- Honda Hydrogen Cell Pilot Project. Honda - America has proposed a conference call to discuss their future local hydrogen endeavors (e.g. hydrogen cell pilot project, CNG fill stations, etc.) and how the scope of the Antelope Valley fits into Honda's overall vision.

**COUNCIL / AGENCY COMMENTS**

Mayor Parris discussed certain avenues to be taken to take privileges away from people in gangs, such as education.

Mayor Parris stated that he hopes to have a Women's Commission in the future; the political process in cities works; there needs to be opportunities for women to grow and have a voice; would like to bring women and mothers together for the process of doing good; having their involvement would be beneficial and important.

**CLOSED SESSION**

None



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**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Parris adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m. in memory of Essie Mae Hearn, beloved former wife of Bishop Henry W. Hearn, Mayor Emeritus, and announced that the next regular meeting of the City Council/Redevelopment Agency would take place on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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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)

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