

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES
August 25, 2009

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; Vice Mayor/Vice Chairman Smith; Mayor/Chairman Parris

Absent: Council Member: Sileo

Council Member Sileo arrived at the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

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; Assistant Finance Director; Economic Development Director; Housing Director; Human Resources Director

INVOCATION

Pastor Paul Chappell - Lancaster Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boy Scout Troop 76

PRESENTATION

CIF Football Championship-Student Video

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE REMOVED

None

APPROVAL OF AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairman Parris stated that he would need to recuse himself from Item Nos. RCC 3 and RCC 4, due to the proximity of the project to property that he owns.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Smith and seconded by Agency Director Mann, the Redevelopment Agency approved the Agency Consent Calendar with the exception of Item Nos. RCC 3 and RCC 4, 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 August 11, 2009.

**LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES
AUGUST 25, 2009**

RCC 2. RESOLUTION NO. 19-09

Adopted **Resolution No. 19-09**, consenting to and authorizing a joint public hearing of the City Council of the City of Lancaster (the "City Council") and the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency (the "Agency") in connection with the preparation of the Proposed Amendment No. 2 to the Redevelopment Plan for the Lancaster Fox Field Redevelopment Project (the "Project" or the "Project Area," as appropriate), and environmental documents prepared therefore, and directing notification of the same.

At this time Chairman Parris recused himself from these items and left the dais.

On a motion by Agency Director Sileo and seconded by Agency Director Marquez, the Redevelopment Agency approved Item Nos. RCC 3 and RCC 4, by the following vote: 4-0-1-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, NOES: None; RECUSED: Parris; ABSENT: None.

RCC 3. RESOLUTION NO. 21-09

Adopted **Resolution No. 21-09**, approving the Replacement Housing Plan for the Lowtree Neighborhood Project.

RCC 4. RESOLUTION NO. 22-09

Adopted **Resolution No. 22-09**, approving the Relocation Plan for the Lowtree Neighborhood Project.

At this time, Chairman Parris returned to the dais.

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 August 11, 2009.

CC 3. WARRANT REGISTER

Approved the Check and Wire Registers July 26, 2009 through August 8, 2009 in the amount of \$3,926,775.37.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2009

CC 4. ORDINANCE NO. 932

Adopted **Ordinance No. 932**, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, amending Title 13 of the Lancaster Municipal Code, modifying Chapter 13.07 Sanitary Sewers and Chapter 13.08 Sanitary Sewers and Industrial Waste Ordinance.

CC 5. ORDINANCE NO. 924

Adopted **Ordinance No. 924**, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, amending Title 17, of the Lancaster Municipal Code, (Zoning Ordinance) modifying the expiration date for Conditional Use Permits and increasing the number of extensions available for Site Plan Reviews and Conditional Use Permits.

CC 6. ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Approved the revised agreement of Acquisition of Real Property for 3603 Balmont Avenue between the City of Lancaster and Deutsche Bank National Trust Company. The staff report dated July 28, 2009 referenced the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency in the Acquisition Agreement. The revised agreement is between the City and the seller.

CC 7. ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Approved the agreement for Acquisition of Real Property located at 3623 West Avenue K-10 between the City of Lancaster and the Bank of New York as Trustee for the Certificate holders CWABS, Inc. Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-01.

CC 8. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PMC

Approved the Professional Services Agreement with Pacific Municipal Consulting (PMC) to prepare the 2010-2014 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and 2010-2011 Annual Action Plan in an amount not to exceed \$59,510.00. The 2010-2014 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and 2010-2011 Annual Action Plan are required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) pursuant to Title 24 of the Codified Federal Regulations, Part 91 for the entitlement of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

CC 9. RESOLUTION NO. 09-78

Adopted **Resolution No. 09-78**, consenting to and authorizing a joint public hearing of the City Council of the City of Lancaster (the "City Council") and the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency (the "Agency") in connection with the preparation of the Proposed Amendment No. 2 to the Redevelopment Plan for the Lancaster Fox Field Redevelopment Project (the "Project" or the "Project Area," as appropriate), and environmental documents prepared therefore, and directing notification of the same.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2009

CC 10. MONUMENTATION WORK

Approved the monumentation work for: Parcel Map No. 27057, located on the northeast corner of Avenue J-8 and 50th Street West, Owner: STG Regency, LLC; Parcel Map No. 061707, located on the northwest corner of 50th Street West and Avenue J-8, Owner: STG Regency, LLC; Tract No. 54286, located north of Avenue K-14, at Edson Avenue, Owner: Hill View Homes; and Tract No. 060780, located on the northeast corner of 25th Street East and Avenue K-4, Owner: K Street East, LLC.

CC 11. ACCEPTANCE OF STREETS FOR MAINTENANCE

Approved the developer constructed streets and accepted the streets for maintenance by the City for: Permit No. 04-03980, located at 30th Street East and Avenue J-8, Owner: Eastside High School; Site Plan Review No. 07-18, located on the southwest corner of Avenue L and 6th Street West, Owner: Toneman Properties Avenue L, LLC; and Tract No. 061078 (Phase I), located on the northwest corner of Avenue K-8 and 15th Street East, Owner: Richmond American Homes of CA, Inc.

CC 12. APPROVAL OF COMPLETED WATER SYSTEMS

Approved the completed water systems installed by the developers for: Site Plan Review No. 07-18, located on the southwest corner of Avenue L and 6th Street West, Owner: Toneman Properties Avenue L, LLC; and Tract No. 060889, located on the northeast corner of Avenue L and 60th Street West, Owner: Richmond American Homes of CA, Inc.

CC 13. PWCP NO. 08-001

Accepted the work constructed by Imperial Paving Company, Inc. for **Public Works Construction Project No. 08-001**, 2007/2008 Street Resurfacing, Phase 1; 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. PWCP NO. 08-008

Awarded **Public Works Construction Project No. 08-008, Avenue J-8 Widening SR2SL-5419(024)** to Zenitram, Inc. dba ANM Construction & Engineering, in the amount of \$458,544.36 (plus a 10% contingency) for the construction of minor street improvements on Avenue J-8 between 40th Street West and 35th Street West and authorized the City Manager, or his designee, to sign all documents.

CC 15. PWCP NO. 09-014

Awarded **Public Works Construction Project No. 09-014, 2007/2008 Street Resurfacing, Phase II**, ESPL 5419-(021), to Granite Construction Company, in the amount of \$4,500,415.00, plus a 10% contingency and authorized the City Manager, or his designee, to sign all documents. Appropriated \$2,324,875.00 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant funds to Capital Improvements Budget Account No. 383-12ST019-924 and transferred \$15,455.00 from Capital Improvements Budget Account No. 205-15SW006-924 to Capital Improvements

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2009

Budget Account No. 205-12ST019-924.

CC 16. RESOLUTION NO. 09-79

Adopted **Resolution No. 09-79**, declaring the City's intention to vacate a portion of the alley right-of-way, lying South of Avenue J from Fig Avenue to 153.24 feet east of Fig Avenue.

JPH 1. CONSIDERATION OF A DISPOSITION STRATEGY FOR PROPERTIES ACQUIRED BY THE LANCASTER REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY UNDER THE DESERT VIEW MASTER VISION PLAN

Mayor/Chairman Parris opened the Joint Public Hearing. It was the consensus of the City Council to waive hearing the staff report.

Hearing no further testimony, Mayor/Chairman Parris closed the Joint Public Hearing.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Smith and seconded by Agency Director Marquez, the Redevelopment Agency adopted **Resolution No. 20-09**, a resolution of the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency, Lancaster, California, approving a disposition strategy for the sale of single-family residences acquired in the Desert View Master Vision Plan area, 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 Marquez, the City Council adopted **Resolution No. 09-80**, a resolution of the City of Lancaster, Lancaster, California, approving a disposition strategy for the sale of single-family residences acquired in the Desert View Master Vision Plan area, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None.

PH 1. APPEAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION DENIAL - CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 07-05

Mayor Parris opened the Public Hearing. The Planning Director presented the staff report.

Questions and comments from the City Council included: clarification regarding the coffee house; seeing the original proposal; concerns regarding the ingress and egress; zoning clarification; type of car wash – full service.

Addressing the City Council on this matter:

Jude Aoun, Attorney for the appellant – recommended that this be approved; agrees with the information from staff; discussed adjacent uses; noise requirements have been met; medical facilities will not be affected by noise.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2009

PH 1. APPEAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION DENIAL - CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 07-05 (continued)

Mayor Parris stated that he disagrees that the disturbances will not affect the medical practices; many of the procedures require extreme concentration; this is a business friendly City; consider bringing this back to Council, showing the plans for the coffee shop as well.

Armen Hagobian – discussed the project; ready to move forward; concerns regarding the noise factor have been mitigated.

Nancy Schmidt – stated that she is opposed to this business being built; the coffee shop was ruled out by the Planning Commission; concerns regarding traffic flow; the plans have been changed several times and have never been satisfactory for the Planning Commission; concerns regarding safety issues; traffic signal should have been put in years ago and it is a dangerous intersection.

Upon further discussion it was the consensus of the City Council to continue this matter to the meeting of September 8, 2009.

NB 1. POLICY REGARDING INVOCATIONS

The City Attorney presented the staff report regarding invocations at City Council meetings. The draft policy is based on a policy that was provided to the City by the Christian Legal Association, represented by the David Gibbs law firm – a nationally recognized law firm that handles similar issues. He stated that he had made some changes to the policy which may better fit the procedures of the City Council. He discussed the issues regarding the case of Marsh v. Chambers, Lynch v. Donnelly and this policy would provide adequate advocacy of all religious faiths to provide the invocations at the Council meetings. There are a couple of provisions in the policy that need to be addressed - Section 2 and Section 8.

Section 2 provides that the prayer/invocation shall not be listed or recognized as an agenda item for the meeting so that it may be clear the prayer is not considered a part of the public business. Section 8 provides that shortly before the opening gavel that begins the meeting, the Mayor shall introduce the invocational speaker and the person selected to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and invite only those who wish to do so, to stand for those observances with the City Council. Additionally, Section 4 – d and e refer to November and December of each calendar year and this should be changed to either November or December of each calendar year, not both.

**LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES
AUGUST 25, 2009**

NB 1. POLICY REGARDING INVOCATIONS (continued)

Addressing the City Council on this matter:

Bishop Henry Hearn – stated that the invocation was incorporated into the meetings in 1990; he received letters from the ACLU then but just didn't respond. He discussed the creation of the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast; importance of asking for wisdom from God to help guide this City in the decisions that must be made; urged the City Council to approve the policy and move forward; stand tall no matter what but don't alienate or treat people bad.

David Paul – there will always be differences of opinion; it is important to find the things that unite us, not divide us; it is difficult to separate the differences between church and state; God is everything; does not want to see the City in a fight; ask for God's wisdom but don't do anything that could cause the City to be sued.

Anna Meneses – Commended Mayor Parris and Vice Mayor Smith for their faith, courage, humanity and prayers that include ending in the name of Jesus Christ; if this goes to a vote of the people, turnout would be low; tired of seeing things getting appealed that voters approved. She is proud that the Chambers displays the sign: In God We Trust; ACLU attempts to silence voices; approve the policy, it will allow all religions; concerned about organizations such as Wiccan, who may want to come and pray.

Robert Yapp – gave a brief prayer in the name of Jesus Christ; ACLU wants to restrict freedoms; the ACLU is bullying the City and should not be telling the City what they can and cannot do.

Mayor Parris clarified that this was not an indictment of the ACLU; the ACLU has done some remarkable things to bring about change; this should be a simple issue about allowing anyone to come and give an invocation and pray to their God and including praying in the name of Jesus Christ.

Darleen Peterson – the policy sounds good; if the policy is tweaked it might calm the waters or it might create a tsunami; this is about freedom of venue; do not politic this on the backs of religion.

Paul Chappell – stated that every president since George Washington has taken their oath with a bible and looked for guidance from God; thanked the City Council for taking a stand on this matter; he respects every religion in this City, but when he is asked to pray, he will pray in the name of Jesus Christ; freedom of speech includes this venue.

**LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES
AUGUST 25, 2009**

NB 1. POLICY REGARDING INVOCATIONS (continued)

Discussion from the City Council included:

Council Member Marquez stated that on Section No. 2, she does not agree and feels that the invocation should stay on the agenda.

Council Member Sileo stated that he agreed. In the case of a lawsuit, he doesn't think a judge will be fooled by the fact that Council isn't making the selection as well as not placing it on the agenda. He stated that it just does not feel right to not have the invocation and the pledge of allegiance on the agenda.

The City Attorney stated that the reason Section 2 was incorporated into the policy was to add an additional argument that could be made if challenged.

Mayor Parris stated that he has seen cases turn on less; however he feels the Council and the City agree that this is a City that believes in prayer. He suggested placing this matter on the ballot and letting the voters decide. No one is going to tell him how to pray and he isn't going to tell anyone else how to pray. If it's what the people of this City want, then it should be.

Council Member Sileo discussed sectarian prayer; stated that whoever is giving the invocation should be true to their conscience, true to their God; would like to see Section 2 and Section 8 deleted and continue to have the invocation and the pledge of allegiance during the meetings.

Council Member Marquez quoted the "whereas" regarding Marsh v. Chambers; the American values are slowly being chipped away; would like to see Section 2 and Section 8 deleted and continue to have the invocation and the pledge of allegiance during the meetings.

Council Member Sileo suggested that Section 4 (d & e) be stated as annually, possibly beginning in September.

Council Member Mann – would like to see Section 2 and Section 8 deleted and continue to have the invocation and the pledge of allegiance during the meetings; feels that the City has always, historically been inclusive for everyone and cannot remember a time when the invocations have made anyone uncomfortable.

Vice Mayor Smith stated that the one thing that stops the ACLU dead in its tracks is the comma right after the establishment clause. They can never make that jump to the free exercise clause; we should not restrict the citizens from their first amendment right to pray in the manner they feel is fit. He agrees with everyone else regarding the changes that should be made to the policy.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2009

NB 1. POLICY REGARDING INVOCATIONS (continued)

Mayor Parris inquired as to how the Council felt about placing this matter on the ballot.

Council Member Sileo stated that this is a fairly straight forward issue, does not need to go on a ballot; adopt the policy with the changes.

Mayor Parris stated that having it on the ballot gives this community a chance to say this is how they want the Council to pray and if they don't let them vote that way. This is an issue that has attracted the attention of people outside this community, so why not find out – do the citizens of Lancaster want the Council to do this or not.

Council Member Mann requested clarification on this matter. Council would approve the policy with the modifications and run with this until the next City election.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Council Member Sileo, the City Council approved the policy with the following changes – remove Section 2 and Section 8; under Section 4 (d), (*now Section 3*) this shall read annually by reasonable efforts of the City Clerk, by the following vote: 5-0-0-0; AYES: Mann, Marquez, Sileo, Smith, Parris; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None

Mayor Parris inquired as to placing this on the next ballot and Vice Mayor Smith suggested that when the next City election comes up, if there is an advisory vote that is different from this action, the Council that is seated can make that decision at that time.

Mayor Parris requested that the City Attorney prepare a ballot initiative for the next City election.

The City Attorney stated that he would bring something forward to the City Council in October.

COUNCIL AGENDA

None

CITY MANAGER'S / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Regarding the tobacco ordinance, the City Manager stated that the City has instituted compliance checks on all the businesses; the Sheriff's Department will begin the first compliance check soon, then staff will be proposing to the Council, possibly a fee increase to the tobacco ordinance that would fund two additional compliance checks throughout the year. Staff is also looking at other aspects of the ordinance in terms of penalties for not complying with the ordinance and that ordinance would come back to Council in October.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2009

CITY MANAGER'S / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT (continued)

The City Manager stated that the Neighborhood Impact House has been a tremendous benefit to the City; this house is in the Piute Neighborhood and with Grace Chapel and Pastor Christ Johnson, this Saturday, August 29, 2009 at 3 p.m., there will be a celebration at the house for the neighborhood. The thing that is so great about this project is that it truly is a very good public/private partnership. The City does not run the house, but the City facilitates and the faith-based community runs the house and provides tremendous benefits to that neighborhood.

Mayor Parris requested consensus from the City Council regarding speaker cards and engaging the speakers because there seems to be a lot of controversy about this.

Council Member Sileo stated that it would make for a smoother running meeting if the speaker was allowed an unfettered three minutes and if the Mayor has comments he would like to make after they sit down, this would prevent the back and forth banter.

Mayor Parris stated that there should be some rules that everyone understands and agrees to. If the speaker asks one of the Council a question, the Council will respond to it, but be advised, the citizens do not get to dictate his response. If a question is asked, Council may respond in any way that they want, but barring that, the rule should be that the citizens are given their three minutes uninterrupted. He suggested that the City Clerk enforce the rules and if the citizens want a discussion, then there can be a discussion. So, if a citizen wants three minutes uninterrupted, that is fine; if the citizen starts asking questions of the Council, they have waived that right and when a citizen wants to discuss an issue, they should let the Council know.

Vice Mayor Smith stated that if the citizen has an unfettered three minutes, but they ask questions, they should know that the clock is still ticking and if the answer takes two of those minutes, then they have waived their time.

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 City Council at this time:

Scout Master for Boy Scout Troop 76/Liberty Patrol - introduced the young men in the troop.

David Paul – discussed reckless driving at Walmart, expressed his frustration regarding trying to get security tapes of the incident.

Elaine Macdonald – representing the High Desert Cyclist Group; importance of having bike paths, routes and trails; encouraged the Council to consider seeking grant funds to complete the Amargosa Creek Pathway.

Michele Chavez – representing the High Desert Cyclist Group; bike transportation issues; Lancaster should become bike friendly.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2009

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

Darleen Peterson – people want revenge for the decision to build a new Walmart and some of these people have vowed to shop outside of Lancaster if it is built and the next time these citizens need help from the Sheriff’s Department, there won’t be anyone, so she hopes people are willing to wait a long time before someone comes to their rescue.

Michael Lemos – representing the High Desert Cyclist Group; this group performs a lot of charity work; twice a year they hold two major rides – the Century Bike Ride and a memorial ride; raise money for Easter Seals and for the Special Olympics.

Kevin Welch – representing the High Desert Cyclist Group; asked the City to raise awareness of bicycles on the road; place “share the road” signs throughout the City; bike paths need to be joined together, currently the paths do not go anywhere.

Michele Egberts-Greene – defining an ex offender and parolee; wants to gain the City’s partnership along with the Council and the Criminal Justice Commission; Sheriff’s Department; Parole Agents; come up with cost effective solutions; release of parolees into the community; rehabilitation programs; there is a waste of human potential; there are bridges of opportunity.

F. Sambrano – many problems in the area of 47th Street East and Avenue K; street sweeper does not do the job; individuals having continuous garage and yard sales; area of 32nd Street East – drainage from the soccer fields; the main street is very busy; traffic speeds are too high.

The City Manager stated that he will have staff look into Mr. Sambrano’s concerns.

Stacey Hummell – representing New Leaf Family; unlawfully denied business license for medical marijuana; denied because federal law preempts state law; her business is a non-profit cooperative; do not want to fight; instruct the Finance and Planning Department to issue the business license.

Mayor Parris stated that he is aware of the legal arguments; there was a lot of the testimony in front of the Criminal Justice Commission that was compelling and this matter will be heard by the City Council in October.

The City Attorney stated that if the City were to issue the business license now, it may or may not be subject to the ordinance and could potentially end up costing them a lot more money.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Vice Mayor Smith gave an update regarding AVTA college bus passes; there is some grant money for job training so they are looking at getting that money to pay for the bus passes not only for college students but anyone going to Los Angeles for technical training as well.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2009

COUNCIL REPORTS (continued)

Vice Mayor Smith stated that the City has come up with the Downtown Revitalization and one of the things that needs to be done is branding the boulevard. Branding would not only include the mark, the logo, the signage, but the whole feel. In working with staff in the Economic Development Department and the Deputy City Manager, an idea came about that would include more people in the downtown. Because of his unique situation of being on this Council, having a design firm and being an assistant professor at the college, the idea is – this semester get students from the college, form design teams, take them through the whole process, the same as professionals would do and create an advisory committee (the boulevard, not the City) of businesses, people downtown, get some younger, creative people together. This committee would be given a packet of information on the City's target audience, he will work with the students, making sure they stay on track and ultimately it would come down to a decision of a couple of Council Members, the City Manager, staff in Redevelopment to decide what the branding would be and those students would get a scholarship.

COUNCIL / AGENCY COMMENTS

Mayor Parris requested that Vice Mayor Smith work with qualifying people to recognize the artists of the community much like the athlete's of the month, create an award and have the Vice Mayor present this on a regular basis at the Council meetings.

Mayor Parris stated that in the last year the City has done some incredible things and he is truly honored to have had the opportunity to work with the City. He never dreamed that the City would have accomplished or had the vision that they have. What is going to happen downtown will be a City Center that will provide the foundation to accomplish even more remarkable things. It is important to recognize that there are members of the Palmdale media who would like the City to fail. Frequently there are stories on the front page that have no business being there and they tell stories that certainly did not occur in this room and are just factually inaccurate. He suggested that the City find other ways to get the true story out about what Lancaster is accomplishing. When Lancaster is attacked, it is not just the City Council, it is everyone, it is the hardworking families of Lancaster that pay the consequence. The media coverage of this community is directly responsible at times for the lack of success. The battle has been going on always which is the growth v. no-growth people.

Mayor Parris stated that this is a Council that wants this City to grow intelligently, compassionately and vibrantly. There are things in the works that should continue to be worked on such as the Eye in the Sky Program and this should be a priority. This program will truly make Lancaster the number one City in America and this is a great opportunity. The Federal Government is not our friend and perhaps it is time to pressure and request more from our Congressional Representatives. What the Federal Government is doing to this community is truly outrageous. They are giving the City all of their problems without any of the resources to fix it.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2009

COUNCIL / AGENCY COMMENTS (continued)

Mayor Parris stated that the true racists in this City are the people who work for the housing and urban development. They really do have a racist policy in that they are putting the poor in Lancaster but keeping all of the billions of dollars that are in downtown L.A. that are there to help these people. They keep the money downtown and encourage people to come to a place that has limited health care, no transportation and no resources to help them and they wonder why the only help that is given to these people is a prison cell. They have made it so that it is almost a certainty. If the Federal Government gave the City the resources, he has no doubt that this City staff would fix a host of problems and people would become educated and join the workforce.

Mayor Parris stated that there are things that the City has not yet started to work on such as having companies such as Ideal Labs. They will never come here unless the City solves one fundamental problem – there needs to be a school their children will go to. These people are incredibly brilliant and come from schools like Caltech, MIT and Stanford. The City Council needs to start thinking about a Charter School and if the City had the best school in America for the children that qualify for entrance into it, then the City would go a long way in attracting these corporations.

Mayor Parris stated that in the last 18 months he failed to start some type of health commission to study the deplorable mortality rate that continues to grow in this community. There are literally hundreds and hundreds of people needlessly dying because this community has the highest mortality rate in the County because we do not have the appropriate health care for any one, not just poor people. Many of the doctors in this community have contacted him about wanting to start a health commission, starting something to address this problem.

Mayor Parris stated that he has had the opportunity to work with some remarkable people that have incredible leadership ability that he hopes the citizens of the community will pay a lot more attention to. He stated that working with Vice Mayor Smith and Council Member Marquez has been truly remarkable. Vice Mayor Smith is incredibly bright; has incredible ideas and energy. He stated that Council Member Marquez has grabbed this job with no knowledge, embraced it, attacked it and kept all of us on the straight and narrow. Sometimes there are temptations to cut corners and Council Member Marquez is always the first to say that's a corner – we cannot cut it and he truly appreciates how she has grown into this job.

Mayor Parris stated that there are people coming up who have truly demonstrated a love for this City. Lee D'Errico is one of these people and if he were to get more involved with the Criminal Justice Commission he could do some incredible work for this City. Marvin Crist of the Criminal Justice Commission has some remarkable ideas and he is one of those people that actually gets things done. Sandy Smith of the Planning Commission has remarkable organizational abilities and these are people that should be given more opportunities in running this City.

**LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES
AUGUST 25, 2009**

COUNCIL / AGENCY COMMENTS (continued)

Mayor Parris stated that Larry Chappell is going to be a national leader someday and he should get more involved in the City than he is. Steven Derryberry of the Neighborhood Vitalization Commission is a remarkable young man and he hopes that Mr. Derryberry gets more and more committed to the City. Ashley Parris, Alex Wheeler - his daughter and son-in-law are truly remarkable individuals who he encourages to get involved in the City in ways that they never have before. In selecting the leaders to run this community, citizens should start recognizing just how difficult it is. People are negotiating multi-million dollar contracts with foreign corporations, with people who speak mandarin as their primary language. It really is not a job that should be entrusted to people who have not had a proven ability to do the job. It is a different level than ever before. The City is in the process of negotiating with companies to bring in car manufacturing plants to the City. People who do this - please pay close attention to what they have done in the past when electing them because this is not the small town that it used to be. Lancaster is becoming a major player in the State of California and the citizens should elect the leadership that is capable of doing that.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Parris adjourned the meeting in memory of the following individuals:

Tonya L. Burns - lost her long-standing battle with cancer on August 12, 2009. She is survived by her husband, their two sons and a host of family and friends. She was a Lancaster resident, a heroic firefighter and a true champion in every sense of the word. She was a former UCLA track and field All-American winner of the NCAA high jump championship and a 4th place winner in the U.S. Olympic trials in 1984. Mrs. Burns was the first African American female firefighter in the history of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Jennifer "Jenny" Gonzales – City employee who worked at the Lancaster Performing Arts Center, wife of City employee, Robert Gonzales, lost her long-standing battle with cancer on August 24, 2009. Jenny was a genuine true friend to all; she was compassionate and giving. Jenny has been described as being an angel – we just couldn't see her wings. She is survived by her husband and leaves behind many friends who will remember her always.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2009

Mayor Parris announced that the next regular meeting of the City Council/Redevelopment Agency would take place on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 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)
