LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL
LANCASTER, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING
June 24, 2019

PRAYER

CALL TO ORDER
President Uhl called the meeting to order at approximately 6:45 p.m., in Council’s Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
President Uhl led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL
The following members of Council were present:

Mrs. Bobbitt, Mrs. Downour; Mr. Groff, Mr. Hall, Mr. McDaniel, Mr. Schoonover, and Mrs. Tener, and Mr. Woodgeard.

President Uhl asked that the record reflect that eight of nine members are in attendance tonight.

Mrs. Downour made a motion to excuse Mr. Stoughton from tonight’s meeting, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt. The motion carried.

READING AND DISPOSING OF THE JOURNAL
The Clerk presented the Regular Meeting Minutes dated June 10, 2019.

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to receive and file the Journal, seconded by Mr. Groff. After no discussion, the motion carried.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

1. Email, dated June 11, 2019, regarding Inventories and Capital Improvements. Submitted by Stormwater Manager Denise Crews.
2. Email, dated June 13, 2019, regarding Public Works Agenda. Submitted by Mr. Schoonover.
3. Email, dated June 23, 2019, regarding Finance Committee Agenda. Submitted by Mr. Stoughton.
4. Email, dated June 24, 2019, regarding Tree Commission Appointment. Submitted by President Uhl.

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to receive and file the Reports of City Officials, seconded by Mr. Groff. The motion carried.
COMMUNICATIONS

There were no Communications before Council this evening.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION (Awards)

There were no Special Presentations before Council this evening.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

There were no Petitions or Memorials before Council this evening.

PERMISSION OF VOTERS AND TAXPAYERS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

President Uhl announced that the public hearing will be taking place later in the agenda, and if anyone is here to speak on that issue to hold their comments until that time. Anyone wishing to address council on anything else may come forward at this time.

1. Marsha Conrad, 1005 Zimmer Avenue, Lancaster. Ms. Conrad addressed City Council this evening in regards to the Bankruptcy notice she received for First Energy.

   President Uhl asked Law Director Ullom if he was able to address this, and if so, a motion to go outside the regular order of business.

   Mr. Groff made the motion, seconded by Mr. Woodgeard. Motion carried.

   Law Director Ullom explained in regards to the First Energy bankruptcy, everyone has received the notice that Ms. Conrad referred to receiving. There is nothing as individual customers that must be done. First Energy is going through bankruptcy court, and going through a reorganization process. They will come out on the other side of this bankruptcy, with a new name, but will be part of the same company. As far as the contract and what we receive from this contract, nothing will change.

   President Uhl asked, if there were any other questions or discussion on this item before we return to the regular order of business?

   Mr. Woodgeard made a motion to return to the regular order of business, seconded by Mr. Groff. Motion carried.

2. Kim Householder, 1907 Salt Lick Drive, Lancaster. Ms. Householder addressed City Council this evening in regards to the animal ordinance and nuisance ordinance.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Water/Water Pollution Control Committee Meeting minutes for June 19, 2019, submitted by Mr. Woodgeard.

   Mr. Schoonover made a motion to receive and file the Reports of Standing Committees, seconded by Mr. Groff. The motion carried.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

There were no Reports of Special Committees presented to Council this evening.
PUBLIC HEARING

President Uhl explained that tonight we have a public hearing on Temporary Ordinance 73-19, and explained how the hearing would be conducted. After the clerk reads the preamble, President Uhl stated that he will turn the floor over to the sponsor for opening comments, we will hear from Proponents of the legislation. Then, after proponents speak, we will hear from Opponents. Following comments from proponents and opponents, we will enter into a time for rebuttal, again hearing first from the proponents and then the opponents. Please note that in order to speak during the rebuttal, you must have spoken during the first round of comments as a proponent or opponent. You cannot speak in rebuttal without having spoken previously in this process. After the above process, President Uhl stated he would turn the floor back over to the sponsor for closing comments.

At this time, President Uhl requested the clerk to please read the preamble of the resolution.

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2020 TAX BUDGET OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020 AND SUBMITTING SAME TO THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY AUDITOR. Sponsored by Mrs. Downour

Mrs. Downour explained that this resolution is a requirement by the county, and that the City is required to file this budget. Mrs. Downour asked President Uhl if he would like to add anything at this time.

President Uhl stated that Mrs. Downour nailed it and opened the floor to any proponents who would like to speak in favor of this resolution, with none, he moved on and asked if there were any opponents who would like to speak. With none, there is no opportunity for rebuttal and turned the floor back over to Mrs. Downour for closing comments.

Mrs. Downour stated that she had nothing further.

President Uhl closed the public hearing.

READING OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Temporary 70-19 – Third Reading – Permanent Resolution 74-19
A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT TO THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT LANCASTER’S FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AND STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND AMENDMENTS

Mr. McDaniel made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 70-19, seconded by Mr. Groff.

Mr. McDaniel explained that this is the 2019 Fiscal Year Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant. There has been some discussion on this in the past and believes that Council has the opportunity to review the documents and asked that it be passed this evening.

President Uhl asked if there is any further discussion on the motion to pass?
Mr. Groff stated that based on the list, attached to this resolution, and those that are receiving money from the block grant, he will not support the legislation. There has been an issue with this over the past three years. Last year Mr. Groff stated that he was given the assurance, by the Service-Safety Director, on the same issue, and it will be looked into. This year, it was discussed before the resolution was ever introduced to Council, but has to do with one of those businesses receiving funding. He stated that he will not be mentioning the name, because it is irrelevant which business it is, but rather on the basis of our code. Mr. Groff stated that City Code should be met by anyone receiving funds. This is a business that is receiving money for the third time, which has never been in compliance with the City’s codes. Mr. Groff stated that he mentioned it last year and was assured it wouldn’t happen again, this year he mentioned it prior to the legislation being introduced and discussed it with both the Mayor and Service-Safety Director and there was discussion on it, but based on the fact that nothing has changed and it is still included in the list attached to the resolution, and is an ongoing thing, Mr. Groff stated that he is opposed to anyone receiving money who is not in compliance with the City Code, and therefore he will not be supporting this resolution.

President Uhl asked if there was any further discussion on the motion to pass?

Mrs. Bobbitt stated that she checked with the Mayor and Service-Safety Director, and was informed by both that everyone on the list is in compliance with the building code. She asked if that was correct?

Service-Safety Director Martin answered that that is correct.

President Uhl asked if there was further discussion on the motion to pass?

Mrs. Tener stated that she would be abstaining that she is on one of the boards that has requested funding and that her daughter actually works for one of the businesses. She encourages anyone that has a family member working for any of the businesses listed that they also abstain.

President Uhl asked if there was further discussion on the motion to pass?

Mr. Hall stated that he plans on supporting the motion, but thinks that Mr. Groff’s point about the recipients receiving CDBG funds be complaint and should formally be addressed. If it has not been done so, it should be.

President Uhl stated that it is his understanding that everyone is meeting expectation, but Mr. Hall’s point is well taken and we do need to ensure that that is the case. President Uhl asked if there was any further discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 5-1, with Mr. Groff voting no, and Mr. Schoonover and Mrs. Tener abstaining from the vote.

**Resolution Temporary 72-19 – Third Reading – Permanent Resolution 75-19**

A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE IN THE LDOT FUND (208), INCREASE RECEIPTS AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE LDOT IMPROVEMENT FUND (314) THEN AMEND THE CERTIFICATE WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 72-19, seconded by Mrs. Tener.

Mr. Schoonover explained that this resolution is to appropriate $45,000.00 for bridge repair on South Columbus Street from a hit and run that needs repaired, and $100,000.00 allocation for street repairs for the remainder of this year, which is separate from the levy funds.
President Uhl asked if there is any further discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 8-0.

Resolution Temporary 73-19 – Third Reading – Permanent Resolution 76-19
Public Hearing Held – Monday, June 24, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2020 TAX BUDGET OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020 AND SUBMITTING SAME TO THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY AUDITOR

Mrs. Downour made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 73-19, seconded by Mr. McDaniel.

President Uhl asked if there is any discussion on the motion to pass. President Uhl offered an update, he has had the opportunity to engage in conversation with one member of the Tax Commission and it was a fruitful conversation. In the future, President Uhl stated that he believes that Council will continue to have discussions as he has worked with the Tax Commission as we move forward and will continue to keep Council updated. He may also need assistance with the administration as the conversations continue with the Tax Commission. President Uhl requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 9-0.

Resolution Temporary 75-19 – Second Reading – Permanent Resolution 77-19
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LAW DIRECTOR’S OFFICE TO APPLY FOR THE VICTIMS OF CRIMES ACT (VOCA) GRANT

Mrs. Downour made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the third reading of Temporary Resolution 75-19, seconded by Mr. McDaniel.

Mrs. Downour explained in order to get the application in on time, we must ask for suspension.

President Uhl asked if there is any further discussion on the motion to suspend, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to suspend carried 8-0.

Mrs. Downour made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 75-19, seconded by Mr. McDaniel.

President Uhl asked if there is any discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 8-0.

Resolution Temporary 76-19 – Second Reading – June 10, 2019
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE MEMORIAL DRIVE CULVERT REPAIR PROJECT

Mr. Woodgeard stated that this is the second reading.

Resolution Temporary 77-19 – Second Reading – Permanent Resolution 78-19
A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE RECEIPTS, APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE IN THE STORMWATER UTILITY RESERVE FUND (619), AMEND THE CERTIFICATE OF OTHER SOURCES AND APPROPRIATIONS WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR
Mr. Woodgeard made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the third reading of Temporary Resolution 77-19, seconded by Mr. McDaniel.

Mr. Woodgeard asked Superintendent Mike Nixon to come forward with any comments on this resolution.

Superintendent Mike Nixon explained that this resolution actually is stormwater pieces.

Mr. Woodgeard stated that money is there and that it needs to be allocated.

President Uhl asked if there is any further discussion on the motion to suspend, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to suspend carried 8-0.

Mr. Woodgeard made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 77-19, seconded by Mr. McDaniel.

Mrs. Tener stated that she believes that this is from the Glassco Law suit.

Mr. Woodgeard stated that that is correct.

Mrs. Tener stated that she watched the last Council meeting, and did have concerns and expressed those with Ms. Crews. Maud Avenue had been done through the Glassco Project, and as she was listening to the meeting, at the end of Ms. Crews statement, she advised Mrs. Tener that Busby Avenue and Fifth Avenue would be fixed from the money from the suit, but after the end of the statement, Ms. Tener caught, per Ms. Crews statement if it hadn’t have been picked for paving, it probably would have been looked at differently, but it had already been picked for paving. It is Ms. Tener’s belief that money from the suit should go toward paving rather than levy funding. In a few years, the City will want another levy passed for street paving and if money isn’t used wisely, Ms. Tener has a feeling that it will be tough passing it. She believes that this project (lawsuit monies) should be used to pave those two streets, because there is also $25,000.00 going into the retirement fund.

Auditor Nettles clarified that the Ohio Revised Code prohibits that happening, because enterprise funds, when they come back, you have to be able to prove without a shadow of a doubt, as Councilman Woodgeard stated at the last meeting, in order for the state auditor to allow that to happen, they will come in after, and if they deem that that used erroneously, the City would then be in a finding for recovery.

Mrs. Tener didn’t understand how the $25,000.00 could be placed in this retirement fund from this lawsuit.

Auditor Nettles explained that it is still a Stormwater Project Fund and therefore is allowed and that is an ORC restriction.

Mrs. Tener stated with all the discussions Mrs. Crews never stated that.

Mr. Woodgeard stated that the City must be just as vigilant that the Stormwater money comes in from the citizens of Lancaster be used for Stormwater too. Ms. Crews did share with Council that the roads were in no worse condition when they were done with the project than it was prior, and if not a little better shape. It is Mr. Woodgeard’s belief that everything was covered by Ms. Crews. The City must be just as diligent with the street funds and stormwater funds.
President Uhl asked if there was any further discussion.

Mr. Groff stated that he supports Mrs. Tener with the construction at Glassco, there may have been some issue with the streets, but based on the discussion about the ORC, he doesn’t see a lot of choice.

President Uhl asked if there is any other discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 8-0.

**Resolution Temporary 78-19 – First Reading – Permanent Resolution 79-19**
A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE IN GENERAL FUND (101), INCREASE RECEIPTS, APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE IN THE .45 POLICE & FIRE LEVY FUND (247) AND AMEND THE CERTIFICATE WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Mr. Hall made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of Temporary Resolution 78-19, seconded by Mr. Woodgeard.

Mr. Hall explained that grant funds have been received, but that general funds were used while awaiting for the grant funds. The grant funds have now been received and therefore need to replenish the funds to be able to pay our personnel and overtime that are fairly urgent. This explanation applies to all three of the resolutions.

President Uhl asked if there is any further discussion on the motion to suspend, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to suspend carried 8-0.

Mr. Hall made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 78-19, seconded by Mr. Woodgeard.

President Uhl asked if there is any other discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 8-0.

**Resolution Temporary 79-19 – First Reading – Permanent Resolution 80-19**
A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE IN GENERAL FUND (101), INCREASE RECEIPTS, APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE IN THE .45 POLICE & FIRE LEVY FUND (247) AND AMEND THE CERTIFICATE WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Mr. Hall made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of Temporary Resolution 79-19, seconded by Mr. Woodgeard.

Mr. Hall stated that this is the same rational as the prior resolution.

President Uhl asked if there is any further discussion on the motion to suspend, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to suspend carried 8-0.

Mr. Hall made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 79-19, seconded by Mr. Woodgeard.

President Uhl asked if there is any discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 8-0.
Resolution Temporary 80-19 – First Reading – Permanent Resolution 81-19
A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE IN GENERAL FUND (101), INCREASE RECEIPTS, APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE IN THE .45 POLICE & FIRE LEVY FUND (247) AND AMEND THE CERTIFICATE WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Mr. Hall made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of Temporary Resolution 80-19, seconded by Mr. Woodgeard.

Mr. Hall stated that this is a money in situation and similar rational as the previous two resolutions.

President Uhl asked if there is any other discussion on the motion to suspend, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to suspend carried 8-0.

Mr. Hall made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 80-19, seconded by Mr. Woodgeard.

President Uhl asked if there is any discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 8-0.

Resolution Temporary 81-19 – First Reading – Permanent Resolution 82-19
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (OEPAL) WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND (WPCLF) PROGRAM AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED

Mr. Woodgeard made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of Temporary Resolution 81-19, seconded by Mr. McDaniel.

Mr. Woodgeard pointed out that due to Council only having one meeting in July, it is necessary to ask for suspension in order to meet the deadline. Mr. Woodgeard would like Council to consider having two meetings in July verses only one, due to the fact it puts a strain on departments. Mr. Woodgeard requested Superintendent Mike Nixon to come forward to explain the need for this resolution.

Superintendent Mike Nixon explained that this resolution allows the Mayor to submit the loan application and accept the loan for the Fifth/Sixth/Forest Rose Sewer Separation Project. This is one of the mandated sewer separation on our compliance scheduled required by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The City is eligible to receive a zero percent loan for this project. This project is estimated to be three million dollars. The application is due to the Ohio Environmental Agency at the beginning of July, and if possible, they would like to have this suspension.

President Uhl asked Superintendent Nixon if he knew the exact date that this is due.

Superintendent Nixon answered the beginning of July, but don’t have his notes with him.

Mrs. Bobbitt asked which side of Memorial Drive this project covers, east side or west side.

Superintendent Nixon answered east side.

President Uhl asked if there is any other discussion on the motion to suspend, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to suspend carried 8-0.
Mr. Woodgeard made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 81-19, seconded by Mr. McDaniel.

President Uhl asked if there is any other discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 8-0.

Resolution Temporary 82-19 – First Reading – June 24, 2019
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE FIFTH/SIXTH/FOREST ROSE SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT
Mr. Woodgeard stated that this is the first of three readings.

Resolution Temporary 83-19 – First Reading – June 24, 2019
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN ENGINEERING AGREEMENT FOR THE LAWRENCE STREET WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY UPGRADE PROJECT DESIGN
Mr. Woodgeard stated that this is the first of two readings.

Resolution Temporary 84-19 – First Reading – Permanent Resolution 83-19
A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE AND AMEND THE CERTIFICATE WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR IN THE PARKS AND RECREATION FUND (212)

Mrs. Bobbitt asked Superintendent Mike Tharp to come forward to the podium to explain to the viewing public about this piece of legislation briefly.

President Uhl asked while he is coming forward if we could get the motion to suspend.

Mrs. Bobbitt made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of Temporary Resolution 84-19, seconded by Mrs. Tener.

Superintendent Mike Tharp explained as he mentioned earlier, this was in the revenue projections for 2019, and he knew this was coming. The budget was prepared a little different for 2019, as has been done in previous years. They projected in the Park to need the additional $86,400.00, and this resolution is only asking for $80,000.00. The parks are in a better state then they have been in the last four years. The 13 line items are something they need to keep operating to get them through the end of the year.

President Uhl asked if there is any further discussion or questions.

Mr. Woodgeard asked if there are bills to be paid, or why are we asking for suspension tonight?

Superintendent Mike Tharp explained that over the last month and a half he has been moving funds from other line items to keep these going until he could get a good grasp on how much additional appropriation they would need in all the line items. This would allow him to just come before Council once rather than multiple times. They are at a point where they just need to get funds into these line items so that he doesn’t have to keep doing fund to fund transfers.
President Uhl asked if there were any further discussion on the motion to suspend, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to suspend carried 8-0.

Mrs. Bobbitt made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 84-19, seconded by Mrs. Tener.

Mr. Woodgeard would like to see legislation come to Council quicker, to have at least two reading on them.

President Uhl asked if there is any further discussion on the motion to pass?

Mrs. Bobbitt advised that she told Mr. Tharp to request suspension, due to the fact he didn’t think we would have enough meetings.

Mr. Woodgeard stated another reason to have two meetings in July.

President Uhl stated on one hand that is true, but as long as he has been on Council we have had only one meeting in July, and department heads are proactive and know that we have that one meeting in July and one meeting in December. Some of this may get backlogged, but there is so much that goes on with the Fourth of July and the festival and that is one of the reasons that there is a singular meeting in July. It is certainly something that can be discussed as we go forward.

Mr. Woodgeard can understand the one meeting in December, but in July a lot of pieces of legislation come through the summer from the Parks, Streets, and Water Pollution issues that come up, it puts a real stress on our department heads.

President Uhl stated that he thinks the administration would suggest the such about getting the budget ready to go and pass in one meeting in December, and there is an argument to be made both ways, but again Mr. Woodgeard’s point is taken and it can be continued to be discussed as the legislation for meetings is prepared for the October meeting for Council meetings moving forward.

President Uhl asked if there is any further discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 8-0.

Resolution Temporary 85-19 – First Reading – Permanent Resolution 84-19
A RESOLUTION FOR LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE JUNE 14, 2019 REVISION TO THE LPTS ZERO TOLERANCE DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING POLICY ADOPTED ON JANUARY 31, 2011, AND TO AUTHORIZE UPDATES TO BE MADE AS NEEDED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of Temporary Resolution 85-19, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt.

Mr. Schoonover explained that the preamble is self explanatory. There are some updates that the state required to Public Transit Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy, they need returned to them as soon as possible, and that is why he is asking for suspension.

President Uhl asked if there is any further discussion on the motion to suspend, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to suspend carried 8-0.

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 85-19, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt.
President Uhl asked if there is any other discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 8-0.

**Resolution Temporary 86-19 – First Reading – June 24, 2019**
A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) AND AMEND THE CERTIFICATE WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Mrs. Downour explained that this is the first of two readings.

**Resolution Temporary 87-19 – First Reading – June 24, 2019**
A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF APPROVING THE PASSAGE OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 183.012, 183.013 AND 183.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, OHIO, IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE CITY INCOME TAX RATE BY FORTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.45%) FROM THE CURRENT RATE OF ONE AND SEVENTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS PERCENT (1.75%) TO A RATE OF TWO AND TWENTY HUNDREDTHS PERCENT (2.20%), BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020, TO SPECIFY THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FROM SUCH TAX AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Downour stated that this is the first of three readings.

President Uhl explained that this is not for City Council to approve increasing the income tax. This resolution allows the City to place the issue before voters, so that they, the voters, can decide. There was a question earlier if the City was going to do this, and all City Council is doing is saying “yes or no” this issue can go on the ballot, and that is what this resolution does. A more robust discussion will take places in meetings to come.

**Resolution Temporary 88-19 – First Reading – June 24, 2019**
A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF APPROVING THE PASSAGE OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 183.012, 183.013 AND 183.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, OHIO, IN ORDER TO INCREASE AND REPLACE THE CITY INCOME TAX RATE FOR PARKS AND RECREATION FROM THE CURRENT RATE OF ONE AND ONE-HALF TENTH OF ONE PERCENT (0.15%) TAX FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2018 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022 ON EARNINGS AND INCOME TO A RATE OF TWENTY HUNDREDTHS PERCENT (0.20%) CONTINUING, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Downour stated that this is the first of three readings.

President Uhl stated that this resolution, again allows City Council to put the issue before the voters of Lancaster who will decide this. Also, Law Director Ullom stated earlier that this is still being researched as to how Council may go about this and Council may expect amendments on Temporary Resolution 88-19, as we continue forward.

President Uhl asked if there were any other resolutions to come before Council this evening. With none, we moved onto the next order of business.
READING OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance Temporary 9-19 – Second Reading – Permanent Ordinance 11-19

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the third reading of Temporary Ordinance 9-19, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt.

Mr. Schoonover stated we are asking for suspension due to a timing issue, to get a certified copy of this resolution to the state so that this can become effective January 1, 2020. This will be an additional $5.00 increase in license fee through the BMV, that will go directly to the City of Lancaster for street and bridge.

President Uhl asked if there is any further discussion on the motion to suspend, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to suspend carried 8-0.

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Ordinance 9-19, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt.

President Uhl asked if there is any other discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 8-0.

Ordinance Temporary 10-19 – Second Reading – June 24, 2019
AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-ONE (21) ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OF PROPERTY SITUATED IN SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 15, RANGE 19, TOWNSHIP OF GREENFIELD, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, OHIO FROM THE ESTATE OF D. MERRILL BOWERS

Mrs. Bobbitt stated that this is second of three readings.

Ordinance Temporary 11-19 – First Reading – June 24, 2019
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 183.012, 183.013 AND 183.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, OHIO, IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE CITY INCOME TAX RATE BY FORTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.45%) FROM THE CURRENT RATE OF ONE AND SEVENTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS PERCENT (1.75%) TO A RATE OF TWO AND TWENTY HUNDREDTHS PERCENT (2.20%), BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020, AND TO SPECIFY THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FROM SUCH TAX

Mrs. Downour stated that this is first of three readings.

Ordinance Temporary 12-19 – First Reading – June 24, 2019
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 183.012, 183.013 AND 183.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, OHIO, IN ORDER TO REPEAL THE CURRENT RATE OF ONE AND ONE-HALF TENTH OF ONE PERCENT (0.15%) TAX FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2018 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022 ON EARNINGS AND INCOME AND REPLACE WITH A RATE OF TWENTY HUNDREDTHS PERCENT (0.20%) CONTINUING, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020, ON EARNINGS AND INCOME FOR PARKS AND RECREATION, AS MORE FULLY SET FORTH HEREIN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
Mrs. Downour stated that this is first of three readings.

President Uhl asked if there were any other ordinances to come before Council this evening. With none, we moved onto the next order of business.

**TABLED LEGISLATION**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business before Council this evening.

**NEW BUSINESS/SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Mr. McDaniel stated that he was tasked, as Economic Development Committee Chairman, with the soliciting and receiving nominations for the CRA Housing Council. Mr. McDaniel received several names from Council members who wish to nominate for Council’s two positions that Council are tasked with. Mr. McDaniel asked, did everyone receive the email that he sent out in regards to the nominations, with attachments?

Mr. McDaniel nominated President Uhl and Donna Fox-Moore as the two CRA Housing Council members appointed by Council, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt.

President Uhl asked for discussion on the motion.

Mr. Woodgeard objects to one of the nominations. Mr. Woodgeard stated that he feels that President Uhl is part of City Council, even though he considers himself assistant Mayor. It is his opinion that Council Members are not allowed to be this committee and Council is just appointing what that person feels as additional administration person to the Committee and Council should have two people appointed by Council who that are not directly involved in Council activities. President Uhl does have the right to vote, which makes him a Council Member at certain times. Mr. Woodgeard feels that this is not appropriate and Council should be able to find to people that can represent Council.

Mr. McDaniel stated that advice was given by the Law Director about the President serving on this committee and it was an acceptable nomination and he could be appointed by Council. Mr. McDaniel stated that his reasoning behind this, last week Council spoke about transparency and Council being able to be involved in some of the housing council decisions, and that his the reason behind his nomination. It allows Council to have a person defending Council, of course we would expect Ms. Fox-Moore to do the same thing, but the access, information, and feedback that Council was able to get by having President Uhl appointed on Council’s behalf, is Mr. McDaniel’s consideration.

President Uhl stated that he considers himself President of Council, not assistant Mayor, and doesn’t think we have one of those. While the Ohio Revised Code provides the Council President the opportunity to serve as Mayor, if the current Mayor is indisposed, that happens infrequently. For purposes of this and any other business for the City, President Uhl states that he considers himself Council President. With this, President Uhl deferred the discussion and vote to Mr. Groff and asked that he run the rest of this vote and any discussion that will precede this.
Mr. Groff asked, if there were any other discussions?

Mrs. Tener stated that she understands that there were five nominations, and that Mr. McDaniel nominated only two, and asked if anyone can nominate anyone else, or if we are going by those two?

Mr. McDaniel answered that is what he was looking for when he seconded that legislation twice, he was looking for the ordinance. A motion to be made to replace either or both nominees, but that would be a separate motion, he believes.

Mr. Groff asked Law Director Ullom, does Council have to vote on one before other alternatives could be?

Law Director Ullom answered, Council could go about it several ways, but his suggestion would be yes, that is probably the cleanest way to do it. Council has a motion of nominations before them you can vote on those and if not successful, then start the process over again with another motion and nominations.

Mr. Groff asked, does he also have a motion to vote on these individually?

Mrs. Tener stated that was what she was going to ask

Law Director Ullom stated Council would have to amend the motion on the floor.

Mr. McDaniel stated that he would be willing to amend his motion to vote on the nomination separately.

Mr. Groff asked Law Director Ullom, can we go forward with making other nominations, and vote on them one by one? So that way, someone will know that there are other nominations.

Law Director Ullom suggested that for clarity purposes for the public watching, he is going to suggest that the motion made be withdrawn, and make several motions for the nominations for the individuals. This would be the better way to do this.

Mr. McDaniel stated, based on the recommendation, he withdraws his motion, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt.

Mr. Groff stated what he would like to accept a motion of nominees that can be voted on individually.

Mr. Woodgeard asked if we withdraw the amendment and second to it, both of these need done.

Mr. McDaniel made a motion to withdraw both the motion and amendment and the original motion, seconded by Mr. Groff.

Mr. Groff asked if this can be accomplished with a yea or nay? Mr. Groff asked for all of those in favor to say yes, the motion to withdraw the nomination carried.

Mr. Groff stated that we will now go forward with individual nominations at this point. Mr. Groff would suggest that it can before more than two, just so others will know, that there may be someone else to vote on.

Mrs. Bobbitt asked for clarification on how it can before more than two, when we just went through that.
Mr. Groff stated that we are going to vote individually, more than two can be nominated, but Council can only appoint two. A member can nominate three or four people, but we will vote individually on each nomination. The individuals approved out of that will be two CRA appointments by Council.

Mrs. Bobbitt request point of order, she stated she does not think that that was Law Director Ullom’s recommendation.

Law Director Ullom stated that his recommendation would be that Council do individual nominations and vote on those up or down as Council goes through the process.

Mr. Groff stated, so take one at a time.

Mr. McDaniel made a motion to appoint President Uhl to represent Council on the CRA Housing Council, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt.

Mr. Groff asked if we can have a roll call on that motion.

President Uhl stated that we can, but he would like all to know that he did not seek this, nor did he ask for it, and was nominated by Mr. Stoughton as this issue first came around. It does not matter to President Uhl one way or another, and appreciates the support that is being shown on this end, but would be happy to serve if approved.

Mr. Hall stated that he has tremendous respect for President Uhl and thinks that we need to balance two interests, one being transparency and the other is conflict of interest, and on the basis of that, Mr. Hall stated that he would be disinclined to support the candidacy for this position.

Mr. Groff asked if there was anyone else, with none, he requested a roll call vote.

President Uhl asked if at this point that his nomination be withdrawn, with not enough support around the floor this can be done very easily and go on to other nominees.

Mr. McDaniel withdrew the nomination, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt.

Mr. Groff stated that it would be a yea or nay across the board. Motion to withdraw the nomination carried.

President Uhl thanked Mr. Groff, and took back the chair at this point. President Uhl thanked Mr. Groff for serving in that capacity and appreciates the support of his colleges and comments as well. President Uhl was happy to serve, but if there are two others, that are eligible, he thinks that that would be just fine.

Mr. Groff nominated Brad Hutchinson, seconded by Mrs. Tener.

President Uhl asked, is there was any discussion? President Uhl asked, if anyone has been in contact with Mr. Hutchinson about his interest, ability, or willingness to serve on this commission?

Mr. McDaniel stated that the nomination came from Mr. Stoughton, and assumes that discussion has taken place, but cannot confirm this.
Mrs. Bobbitt has a concern that Mr. Hutchinson is a contractor. She states that she has nothing against Mr. Hutchinson. We are talking about transparency, and wanted to through that out there.

Mr. Groff stated that the CRA is for residential construction, and while he has had an apartment at the building that he did, his primary business is a contractor and is not a residential builder.

Mr. Woodgeard called for the vote, seconded by Mr. Groff.

President Uhl stated if there is no objection, we will move forward with a roll call vote on Mr. Hutchinson. President Uhl asked the clerk to call the roll. Motion carried 8-0.

President Uhl asked that this Council be prepared to should Mr. Hutchinson not accept and to be ready to appoint an alternative at a later date.

Mr. Hall asked, if there is an urgent need to pass and identify Council’s two nominations tonight? It does seem that there may be some value, because once they are appointed, other candidates may not get the same level of hearing and wondered if there is a process that could be put into place that would allow Council to more fully discuss either through a committee or some other process to make sure Council has a balanced discussion on this matter.

President Uhl said, he thinks that that is possible, the Mayor’s request was for Council to consider tonight, because the legislation was passed and is in effect. We are just trying to get this board in place because the administration has or will be making their appointments as well as the Regional Planning Commission.

Service-Safety Director Martin stated that the Planning Commission has this on their agenda for their next meeting as well. The Mayor has not discussed who is appointing.

Mr. Woodgeard believes that Council should go ahead and at least discuss Mr. McDaniel’s other nominee Mrs. Fox-Moore.

Mrs. Bobbitt made a motion to accept Donna Fox-Moore to the CRA, seconded by Mr. Woodgeard.

President Uhl asked if there is any discussion.

Mr. Groff would like to support Mr. Hall’s position of not necessarily voting on this tonight. Mr. Groff stated that he only received this list because he is not getting the emails that were forwarded to him, and only received the email 30 minutes ago before he left for Council. He states that he has not had enough time to review it. No attachments came with the email that he received and is not sure of the qualifications of a couple of the people on the list and would like more time to consider this.

President Uhl asked if there is some issue with his email that he is not getting them.

Mr. Groff stated that yes, there is.

President Uhl asked if we could get IT to this address.

Mr. Groff stated ever since the change to the City email, he has not been able to get emails. Mr. Groff stated that Mr. Stoughton agreed because Mr. Groff uses a Mac, there is an issue, and has not been resolved.
President Uhl stated that the Service-Safety Director could get IT to help out with this.

Mrs. Tener also agreed with Mr. Hall and Mr. Groff and hold off on, she just assumed that everyone on the list had been spoken to about serving on the board.

Mr. McDaniel stated that those nominations came from Mr. Stoughton. Mr. McDaniel stated that Mrs. Fox-Moore and Mrs. Secoy both have been spoken to by Mrs. Bobbitt, and both agreed to serve.

Mrs. Tener stated that Lindy Jackson was another one, and he would be a very good choice also, but doesn’t know if he was spoken to or sent anything to Council of his interest. This is not fair if others have been spoken to, and Council may need to wait to make the other appointment.

President Uhl stated that there is a motion and second on the floor and it will need to be addressed.

President Uhl asked if there was further discussion.

Mrs. Bobbitt stated that he only question would be, we have already approved one, and we Council should have had the discussion prior to the approval. When this was brought before Council was all advised by the Mayor, to have all resumes’ sent to Mr. McDaniel, that Council thought that would serve. Mrs. Bobbitt stated that is what she got the two resumes’ in and believes they were emailed to everyone.

President Uhl stated that he believes that that is accurate and verified that it was sent to City Council All several weeks ago. So, there was the opportunity for it to be addressed.

Mrs. Bobbitt stated that we would have to speak to the Law Director, because there was already a motion that passed, and doesn’t think that we can go back on that previous motion.

President Uhl stated that tonight, no we can’t.

Mr. Woodgeard called for the vote and see where to go from that.

Mr. McDaniel stated that a compilation of emails were sent to all members. Council should have had the resumes’ weeks ago. Mr. McDaniel stated that all he did was compiled for a sense of bringing it all together, in last night’s email. It is not like a new email appeared out of nowhere, it was compiling previous data and sending it forward.

Mr. Groff stated that the emails were never forwarded to him.

Mr. McDaniel stated that that is an IT problem.

President Uhl stated that Mr. Groff has a problem with that and that those were sent out several weeks ago.

Mr. Groff stated he thinks when IT made the change, and he doesn’t believe that he is the only one who is having problems getting the emails.
President Uhl reminded Mr. Groff there is a new process, you must either have it set up on your phone, because Council has to go into their City email, it no longer forwards to personal email account, which will never happen again. Council must get into the City email, so that you can see the emails. The administration will help to facilitate this issue as we go forward.

Mrs. Bobbitt stated, in the case the Mr. Hutchinson does not want the position, if no one has talked to him about it, then Council at their next meeting. Maybe between this meeting and the next someone could speak with Mr. Jackson to let him know his name was on the list.

President Uhl stated that he would have assumed that City Council members names of individuals that they have had conversations with about their willingness to serve. He thinks this is the assumption Council is making tonight.

President Uhl asked for further discussion on this issue as he looks at the opportunity to reconsider the motion previous.

Mrs. Downour asked, if it would be possible to accept an alternate in case one does not want to participate?

Mr. Woodgeard called for the vote, seconded by Mrs. Downour.

President Uhl asked if there was any further discussion or is Council ready to move ahead?

Mr. Hall does not feel strongly about holding off on the appointment, it was just a recommendation that Council have creditable candidates before Council. Mr. Hall stated that he is ready to vote.

President Uhl stated that there is a consensus that Council is ready to vote and asked if there is an objection to moving forward, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll be called on the motion to appoint Ms. Fox-Moore to the CRA Board as a representative of City Council. Motion carried 6-2, with Mr. Groff and Mrs. Tener voting no.

President Uhl thanked all for their work on the nominations and working through this process.

Mr. Woodgeard asked, is there a motion for an alternative?

President Uhl stated that yes, there can be.

Mrs. Bobbitt made a motion to nominate Lindy Jackson as the alternate, seconded by Mrs. Downour.

President Uhl stated if one of the two nominated to the CRA choose to not to serve.

Mr. Groff asked Law Director Ullom, with that nomination, and that individual serving on the BZA, if that is acceptable to be on both of those boards?

Law Director Ullom does not see any type of conflict.

Mr. Groff stated if something is done on the CRA and requires BZA zoning approval, he believes there would be a conflict.

Law Director Ullom answered that that would be remote and a separate department and doesn’t necessarily see that as a conflict.
President Uhl stated that the CRA would only get together is on an appeal. If an applicant is denied the tax credit, the CRA board would work through that appeal process.

Law Director Ullom stated that that is correct and that they would make a yearly review of the application that are submitted.

President Uhl stated that the CRA board’s is only deciding whether or not the tax is abated for the applicant appeal is upheld or not.

Law Director Ullom stated that that was correct.

Mr. Groff stated that he just wanted to be clear on this.

President Uhl stated that that is a good clarification, because he had a similar thought in his head, when Mr. Jackson’s name came up.

Mrs. Tener stated that she has known Mr. Jackson for many years, and if he thought there was a conflict, he would probably recuses himself.

President Uhl asked if we know where Mr. Jackson’s nomination came from?

Mr. McDaniel answered Mr. Stoughton.

President Uhl asked if there was further discussion on the motion to nominate Mr. Jackson as an alternate to the CRA board, should one of the two selected are not agree to serve. With none, he requested the Clerk to call the vote. Motion carried 8-0.

President Uhl stated there is a request from the Mayor to confirm his appointment to the Tree Commission, Brian Everett has been suggested and sits on the Historic Lancaster Commission. Mr. Everett is an attorney in town and is affectingely known around town as a “tree ninja”. The Tree Commission has vetted Mr. Everett and has requested his service upon the board. The Mayor has appointed him, and it takes the consent of this Council to move that nomination forward.

President Uhl asked, is a motion to appoint Mr. Everett to the Tree Commission? Motion made by Mr. Woodgeard with a second by Mr. Groff. President Uhl asked if there was any discussion, with none, the motion carried.

President Uhl asked if there was any further new business to come before Council this evening.

Mrs. Tener addressed Kim Householder, who spoke during Voter and Taxpayers portion of the meeting. Ms. Tener stated that she agrees with Mrs. Householder that there is a cat problem in the City. A lot of the problems are with owners who are not taking care of the cats. Unfortunately there is not enough enforcement. It is Ms. Tener’s belief that these cats should not be able to run free outside without being licensed, maintained, and controlled like dogs. The problem lies with enforcement. There is a city that if an individual feed a cat outside for so long, then they must take the bowls inside. There is someone in Ms. Tener’s ward that had two 9x 13 cake pans that she would fill up, and leave it outside, feeding up to 18 cats. Mrs. Tener stated that she met Mr. Schoonover in January 2014 and discussed the TNR Program and a lot of cats were taken care of at that point. The issue is not with just the feral cats, it is also with people who own cats. Mrs. Tener does not know who would
enforce, the dog shelter does not answer their phones until 11:00 a.m. to get a dog you now have to call the police department, and they won’t call unless the animal is vicious. The Humane Society is full and is always full with cats. Something does need to be done, but it all boils down to enforcement. Maybe this issue can be reviewed through Law Committee or Code Enforcement.

Mr. Groff stated that we know there is an issue with dogs and cats and we do not have animal control within the City. There are ordinances for barking dogs that the police department can handle, but we do not have animal control. Much like the health issues and the Health Department, we contract each year, with animals we do give the Humane Society a very minimum sum for some assistance from the Humane Society. Animal control is a county function with the dog shelter and because the City is part of the county and because we do pay taxes to the county, Mr. Groff’s question would be to Service-Safety Director Paul Martin, as far as any assistance that might be offered from a county level through animal control in situations like this?

Service-Safety Director Martin stated that he does not know of any agency that is obligated to deal with cats. The dog warden, on several instances where they are following up on investigation on dogs, and that they do provide the City help with dogs. Many police reports have been filed on dog bites and issues like that, so they do follow through their obligations within the City limits. Mr. Martin states that he is grateful for our dog warden, they treat the City like anyone else in the county. The ORC does have rules for dogs, but nothing for cats. Clearly the City’s ordinance is weak in regards to cats and doesn’t know what we can do. On a code enforcement perspective, the City doesn’t have any current codes that are being violated from there. As far as the odor of waste, the City has been checking on this and other issues such as that, but it could change down the road. The City does not have any regulations specifically addressing cats in this situation.

Mrs. Downour stated that this is not just an issue in River Valley Highlands. This is a citywide issue. Two years ago when Ms. Downour ran, she had been in contact numerous times with Mr. Schoonover on this issue trying to get the cats under control. It is great to look at an ordinance to help correct, but unless you are able to operationalize and police that ordinance, it is not going to do any good. The City does need to look at a way to start controlling cat population. Mr. Schoonover has looked at numerous opportunities. There is a charitable organization in Columbus called Colony for Cats, but it takes a lot of money because the population is so huge. This is not just an issue with feral cats, it is also an issue with people who let their cats outside. Until the City finds a way to control both sides of the spectrum the City is going to continue to have the problem.

Mr. Hall asked, if there is a committee that could review this or is it possible to appoint an ad hoc committee to explore this issue and bring forward recommendations back to City Council.

President Uhl stated that that was a fine suggestion and suggested that the Law Committee is probably where this would fall into or if Council feels that there are ordinances on the books that Code Enforcement.

Mr. Schoonover stated that he sits on both the Law Committee and the Code Enforcement Committee. He stated that when Mrs. Tener first came onto City Council is how they first met. This is when he started attending meetings or requested to come to Code Enforcement Meetings. This is a hot button topic; Mr. Schoonover has been the director of the Humane Society for nine years and never thought a private non-profit that does as much as they do for the county and city, would be cussed out because of a cat problem that realistically has been caused by the entire community. It gets a little frustrating and draining. Mr. Schoonover put together some numbers, and had a great conversation with neighbors of River Valley Highlands on Friday. There are things the Humane Society do to help, but Mr. Schoonover stated that he feels everyone seems to forget that the Humane Society is a private non-profit. They were established by the ORC in counties to handle abuse and neglect situations. The
definition can differ from one person to the next on abuse and neglect. Rounding up stray cats is not what the Humane Society is not what they are mandated to do. Are they willing to help, he answered absolutely, but it all boils down to a money issue and will explain this. All animals are vetted by the Humane Society as they come in. If LPD calls and a cat has been hit by a car or a dog hit by a car, and it is two in the morning, the Humane Society goes out and picks it up. If the owner is not located, the Humane Society handles the medical expenses and medical expenses for the Humane Society are not free, and this is the biggest thing to get a cross to people. In August of 2014, Mr. Schoonover wrote a grant and received that grant to fix feral cats “Trap, Neuter, and Return”. The cat problem is not going to go away by fixing every cat in the City, they are still going to be returned to where they were trapped and continue to use the restroom in property owner’s bushes and mulch. In 2014, through the end of 2016, grant money was used and the Humane Society funded and fixed 1,600 stray cats, most of those were in the City of Lancaster. The Humane Society fixed 600 in four months, just on the west side of town, and with those numbers Mr. Schoonover read to Council. The Humane Society intake numbers for the last five years are as follows: These numbers are after they did the TNR Program and after it stopped. Cat intake in 2015 they brought in 373 cats and in 2016 they brought in 421 cats, and the TNR Program stopped. 2017 they brought in 504; 2018 they brought in 478 and 2019 is on track to bring in 541 cats. Mr. Schoonover states that the reason he brings up these numbers up, is TNR does work in terms of controlling the population, so everyone gets fixed, the numbers will go down. He stated that 80% of what they intake whether it is dogs or cats are from inside the City of Lancaster, they service Fairfield County, but 80% of their intake is from within the City limits. In those five years, the Humane Society has brought in an intake of over 2,300 cats, but they offer low costs spay and neuter monthly. During the five years of that program, they fixed another 2,000 cats. With the intake, TNR, and spay and neuter, the Humane Society has fixed almost 6,000 cats in the last five years. Fixing that many cats and there is still a huge problem. Currently, the Humane Society has 72 cats and kittens in their care. There is no other way of doing this, and TNR makes the most sense. If legislation was brought forward to Council, that states that this would be a great opportunity to help pitch in for the issues within the City of Lancaster to show that City is putting forth some effort.

President Uhl asked Mr. Schoonover when he ran the program, how much did that cost?

Mr. Schoonover stated that the Humane Society spend about $60,000.00 to fix the 1,600 cats, which winds up to be about $38.00 a piece. He stated that that is the Humane Society going out and trapping or loaning traps out. This program was ran on a voucher program to fix your cat. The individuals doing that understand that what was going on, but even the with notices being handed out door to door, they had people calling and threatening to kill the Humane Society employees if they trap and neutered their cat. Traps have been sabotaged, so this is a hot button issue either way you go. Mr. Schoonover is okay discussing legislation at Law Committee, but it is a money issue and if Council does some type of legislation and becomes an enforcement piece, who is going to enforce it? As the Humane Society, if they licensed cats, which he thinks they should be, that means the City will have to go and pick them up. Who is the City going to ask to run that program; they are probably going to ask the Humane Society. If they go and pick up 3,000 a year, 95% of those cats will tear your faced off and will be unadoptable and will not be able to be in a shelter setting, so then they will have to euthanize them, and the Humane Society is not the one who is going to be the ones to euthanize this many cats a year. Mr. Schoonover acknowledges that it is a problem and the state does not want to touch it with a ten foot pole, and have left it on everyone else to deal with. Mr. Schoonover has plenty of examples of legislation that other cities use or have tried to eliminate the stray cat population, and it is not an easy task.
President Uhl thanked Mr. Schoonover for the background information. As outlined by Mr. Schoonover, it is a major problem not just in the City but also in the county. Within the City, just because something challenging or difficult or is going to require resource, probably isn’t a good enough reason not to consider. President Uhl recommended that it go to committee, and that he doesn’t want it to die in committee. President Uhl asked Mr. Groff to have the Law Committee to add to their Law Committee Agenda.

Mr. Groff stated that he would be willing to do that, but also thinks that Code Enforcement Committee and work together on this.

President Uhl tasked Mr. Groff with this and ask if he would consider pooling the Law Committee and Code Enforcement Committee, if that is what he thinks is best and report back to City Council at one of our August meetings where we are at as the committees move forward.

President Uhl thanked Mrs. Householder for coming and the issue may not be addressed immediately or comprehensively, but these discussions will continue to see what can be done.

President Uhl asked if anyone would like to add to this discussion before we move on, with none,

President Uhl asked if there is any other new business this evening, with none, we moved on to the next order of business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Regular Sessions of Council:
1. July 15th at 6:30 p.m.
2. August 12th at 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Committee Meetings for the next 30 days:
1. Safety – June 26th at 7:30 a.m. – CH (2nd Floor CR)
2. IT/Telecom – July 11th at 7:30 a.m. – CH (2nd Floor CR)
3. Service – July 12th at 7:30 a.m. – Gas Dept. Conference Room
4. Finance – July 15th at 6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers
5. Economic Development – July 25th at 7:30 a.m. – CH (2nd Floor CR)

Upcoming Special Meetings:
1. Council of the Whole – July 29, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

READING OF BILLS

PNC – MNCO - $4,872.35 (Publication of Legislation)

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Mr. Groff. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no requests for Executive Session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Groff. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.
Teresa Lee Sandy, Clerk of Council