

MINUTES**LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2011**

The City Council of the City of Lancaster, Texas, met in Regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on January 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum present to-wit:

Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Marcus E. Knight
Walter Weaver
Marco Mejia
Mayor Pro Tem James Daniels
Clyde Hairston
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Nina Morris

Councilmember Absent

Todd Love

City Staff Present:

Rickey Childers, City Manager
Opal Mauldin-Robertson, Assistant City Manager
Wes Blair, Assistant Police Chief
Dolle Downe, City Secretary

Call to Order:

Mayor Knight called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 10, 2011.

Invocation:

Pastor John Richardson gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Pro Tem James Daniels led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens Comments:

Vernon Scott, 282 Creekwood, commented that he has been a citizen of Lancaster since 1969 and wished to pay tribute to Todd Love; stated that he is the best councilman that District 2 has ever had; highlighted the improvements Mr. Love had made in the district and the City; commended him for his diligent efforts on behalf of his constituents and the City.

Sue Wyrick, 721 Sequoia Drive, spoke in support of Councilmember Love, describing him as a caring and diligent councilmember; stated that he was always prepared to discuss and vote on agenda matters; commented that he did his homework and talked with his constituents; noted several accomplishments including road repairs in his district, signs in the neighborhood, and water system improvements; commented that he served on the Lancaster Economic Development Corporation Board as President, and as council liaison to the Airport Advisory Board; stated that he is a strong supporter of development and encouraged new businesses in the community.

James Adams, 2459 Mallory Lane, commented that Mr. Love did not quit for no reason, and it was likely the allegations against him; stated that the City cannot be tainted by the actions of one person, saying that people place trust in councilmembers to do the business of the City; stated that if council knew he was doing wrong, council should have taken action.

Vivian Chastain, 920 N. I-35E, stated Todd Love will be missed, commenting that he voted with the City's interest at heart; commended Todd Love for stepping forward and standing in support of the beer and wine proposition; stated he participated in the campaign for beer and wine sales and even passed out literature; stated that in all her discussions and meetings with Todd Love he had never asked for one thing.

Sally Purvis, 1767 W. Main Street, stated she is saddened to see Todd Love be in the position to resign; stated he has done a lot of good for the City; stated that council should hold each other accountable for what they do; commented further that it is up to council to take care of the City's business with integrity and excellence.

Art Haffy, 1900 Watermill Road, commented on the poor condition of the property along Beltine Road near I-35 and along Ten Mile Creek, saying the area is a dump; asked why the City cannot clean up the area; stated it could be a great entrance into the City; commented that people serving community service hours have been told they cannot do clean-up in that area. Mayor Knight asked Mr. Haffy to speak with the Assistant City Manager regarding the matter.

B. C. Foreman, 2821 Tanglewood Drive, stated there is a Code of Ethics for the City and that Todd Love did not resign abruptly for no reason; stated there have been filings with the Texas Ethics Commission from Mr. Daniels and Mr. Love; stated they are all corrupt. Mayor Knight instructed Mr. Foreman to refrain from personal attacks and that he would speak with him further after the meeting.

Vic Buchanon, 1243 Margaret Court, stated that the City has a Code of Ethics ordinance and that the ordinance was from the fruits of his labor when he served on Council; commented that perhaps it is time for a review and update of the Code of Ethics to better define the benefits of the position and to give it some teeth; stated that Council cannot be afraid to use the ethics ordinance, saying it seems to be taken for granted and the City has become lax with regard to enforcement; stated that if every member of council and staff followed the ethics code, we would not have to worry about integrity; stated that no one should sit in a council seat and expect monetary gain.

Carolyn Morris, 887 Wintergreen, commented that an individual elected to council should serve for the full term as elected; stated that she knows Todd Love as a person and what he set out to do, he accomplished; stated that councilmembers are elected to make sound decisions for the City and to do it with integrity; asked Todd Love to serve the remainder of his term; stated that she is proud there are persons of color on the council now, because that has not always been the case.

Mayor Knight stated that some letters had been received from citizens who could not be present at the meeting and asked City Secretary Downe to read the letters into the record.

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From Firas Bishara, DDS, PA

Honorable Marcus Knight,

I would like to let you know that Mr. Todd Love has been greatly helpful during the past years. He met with me occasionally and has never demanded anything in return.

Sincerely,
Firas Bishara, DDS, PA

From Gordon Graves, 1244 Cedarbrook Trail

To: The Honorable Marcus Knight
Lancaster City Council

I am very saddened to learn that Councilman Todd Love has submitted his resignation. I have been most pleased with his representation of District II and consider him to be a good friend and neighbor.

Some may not know that during the past winters big snowstorm that Councilman Love used his personal vehicle to pull many of his neighbors home—that he cleared trees from the street so that emergency vehicles could operate—that he removed trees from my and my neighbors houses so that we could get out.

Councilman Love has responded when city services have been needed. He helped secure repaving of streets in area. Secured safety signs for streets when needed. He worked diligently for passage of beer and wine sales to increase tax revenue. He worked hard so that city police and firefighters jobs were not in jeopardy. He helped develop recycling program for the city of Lancaster.

Thanks to Councilman Todd Love for his representation of District II.

Gordon Graves
1244 Cedarbrook Trail

From Greg E. Stroud, DDS

To the Honorable Mayor, City Council members, and the citizens of Lancaster,

I wish to thank councilman Todd Love for the dedicated service to the citizens he represented in his district and to the citizens of Lancaster in general. I have had opportunity to know and work with Todd through my local neighborhood watch program and have admired his ever willingness to meet with us, hear us, and keep us informed about the important events of the council and the city. I was impressed with his vision and passion for a progressive, ever-improving city, his desire for involvement of its citizens, and his resistance to compromise on what he felt was right for the city. It will be a great loss for my district when Todd Love steps down from the council.

Sincerely,
Greg E. Stroud, DDS

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From Jerry and Sharon Dickinson

City Council of Lancaster
Lancaster, TX 75146

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Council:

We were quite disappointed to read in the Dallas newspaper this past week of Todd Love's decision to resign from the Lancaster City Council.

He has served above and beyond as our representative and will be irreplaceable in our opinion. We are most appreciative of his conscientious and dedicated service to our city and to our neighborhood and wish to publicly recognize him for that.

We shall miss him greatly. Thank you, Mr. Love.

Very truly yours,
Jerry and Sharon Dickinson

From Julio Sanchez

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing this letter on behalf of Mr. Todd Love, whom I met some time ago while holding Crime Prevention meetings in our neighborhood.

I believe Mr. Love to be an honest and sincere person. He had the interest of the public he served as a City Councilman, at heart.

I do believe he demonstrated such interest, by always being attentive to the complaints and requests of the citizens living in his district.

Personally, I appreciate his endeavors to keep our community safe and to promptly respond to the needs of those of us who depended and trusted his service.

Task expected from every conscientious "public servant"

Sincerely,
Julio C Sanchez
Dallas Police Officer (Retired)

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Mayor Knight announced that consent agenda item #4 was being removed from consideration pending further review by the City Attorney.

- 4C. Consider Resolution 2011-01-03 of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, Texas, approving the terms and conditions of a Mutual Aid Contract for emergency services between the City of Lancaster Police Department and the North Central Texas Regional Telecommunicators Emergency Response Task Force to provide telecommunicator mutual aid response to critical incidents requiring rapid response to jurisdictions listed in the contract; authorizing the City Manager to execute said contract; providing a repealing clause; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.**

Consent Agenda:

City Secretary Downe read the remaining consent agenda.

- 1C. Consider approval of minutes from the City Council Regular Meeting held December 13, 2010.**
- 2C. Consider Resolution 2011-01-01 of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, Texas, accepting the resignation for Councilmember District 2 and declaring a vacancy; providing a repealing clause; and providing an effective date.**
- 3C. Consider Resolution 2011-01-02 of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, Texas, approving the terms and conditions of an interlocal agreement between the City of Arlington and the City of Lancaster to provide law enforcement services to the City of Arlington upon request during special events; authorizing the City Manager to execute said agreement; providing a repealing clause; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.**

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mejia, to approve consent items 1C - 3C. The vote was cast 6 for, 0 against [Love absent].

- 5. Discuss and consider an appointment to the alternate position for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board / Lancaster Recreational Development Corporation Board.**

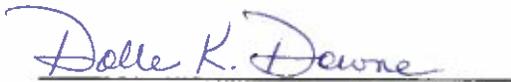
Councilmember Weaver nominated Marvin Mitchell. The vote was cast 2 for [Weaver, Mejia], 4 against [nomination fails]. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Morris nominated Kevin Allen. The vote was cast 1 for [Morris], 5 against [nomination fails]. Mayor Pro Tem Daniels nominated Abe Cooper. The vote was cast 3 for [Knight, Daniels, Hairston], 3 against [Weaver, Mejia, Morris] [tie]. Mayor Pro Tem Daniels re-nominated Abe Cooper. The vote was cast 5 for, 1 against [Morris]. Mr. Abe Cooper was appointed as the alternate member to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board / Lancaster Recreational Development Corporation Board with a term expiring July 2011.

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MOTION: Councilmember Hairston made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Morris, to adjourn. The vote was cast 6 for, 0 against [Love absent].

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

ATTEST:



Dolle K. Downe, City Secretary

APPROVED:



Marcus E. Knight, Mayor