



NOTICE OF WORK SESSION AGENDA

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL CENTER CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
211 N. HENRY STREET, LANCASTER, TEXAS



Monday, January 26, 2015 – 6:30 PM

DEFINITIONS:

Written Briefing: Items that generally do not require a presentation or discussion by the staff or Council. On these items, the staff is seeking consent from the Council or providing information in a written format.

Verbal Briefing: These items do not require extensive written background information or are an update on items previously discussed by the Council.

Regular Item: These items generally require discussion between the Council and staff, boards, commissions, or consultants. These items may be accompanied by a formal presentation followed by discussion and direction to the staff.

[Public comment will not be accepted during Work Session
unless Council determines otherwise.]

Regular Items:

- 1.** Receive a presentation and discuss Quarterly Financial Report for first quarter of FY 2014/2015 the period ending December 31, 2014.
- 2.** Discuss Report of City Council Five Year Goals and Strategies established during the annual City Council Strategic Planning Session in June 2014 for the 1st quarter of FY 2014/2015.
- 3.** Receive a presentation and discuss city-related bills introduced at the 84th Session of the Texas Legislature.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Council reserves the right to convene into executive session on any posted agenda item pursuant to Section 551.071(2) of the TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE to seek legal advice concerning such subject.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT: The Municipal Center is wheelchair-accessible. For sign interpretive services, call the City Secretary's office, 972-218-1311, or TDD 1-800-735-2989, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Reasonable accommodation will be made to assist your needs.

Certificate

I hereby certify the above Notice of Meeting was posted at the Lancaster City Hall on January 23, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m. and copies thereof were provided to the Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tempore, Deputy Mayor Pro-Tempore and Council members.

Sorangel O. Arenas
City Secretary

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Agenda Communication
January 26, 2015

Item 1

Receive a presentation and discuss Quarterly Financial Report for the first quarter of FY 2014/2015 period ending December 31, 2014.

This request supports the City Council 2014-2015 Policy Agenda.

Goal: Financially Sound City Government

Background

The broad purpose of the City's Financial and Investment policy statements is to enable the City to achieve and maintain a long-term stable and positive financial position, and provide guidelines for the day to day planning and operations of the City's financial affairs. The following information is representative of the first quarter of fiscal year 2014-15, October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. The reports will be distributed, presented and reviewed during the work session.

Submitted by:

Cynthia A. Pearson, Director of Finance

Baron A. Sauls, Assistant Director of Finance

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

Work Session Agenda Communication

January 26, 2015

Item 2

Discuss Report of City Council Five Year Goals and Strategies established during the annual City Council Strategic Planning Session in June 2014 for the 1st quarter of FY 2014/2015.

This request supports the City Council 2014-2015 Policy Agenda.

Goals: **Financially Sound City Government**
 Civic Engagement
 Healthy, Safe & Vibrant Community
 Professional & Committed Workforce
 Sound Infrastructure
 Quality Development

Background

City Council conducted an annual Strategic Planning Session in June 2014. This report represents activity for the first quarter of FY 2014/2015 (October 2014 – December 2014). This is a review of implementation and progress on strategies and initiatives outlined in the 2014/2015 strategic plan and how said strategies connect to continued progress toward the realization of the Lancaster Vision.

Financially Sound Government - The City has a long-range financial plan and has prudent fiscal policies and processes in place. It has met or exceeded all fund reserve goals, has funds available to address the needs of the community, and responsibly manages its debt. The community continues to move toward a more competitive tax rate.

1. Debt Policy

- Finance is preparing for the Fiscal Year FY 2014 annual audit and working on the statistical portion of **Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)** for FY 2014. It is our intent to submit our CAFR to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for consideration of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting in March.
- Finance is in the process of documenting all operational policies and procedures.
- Staff negotiated a Lease Purchase Financing Agreement for the purchase of a fire truck and ambulance.

- Staff performed an audit (review and analysis) of Impact Fees.
 - Staff will present a debt policy to Council for consideration in the second quarter of FY 2014/2015.
2. **Ensure the City's Tax Rate is Competitive** – during the FY 2014/2015 budget planning, presentation and town meetings, staff presented information regarding the correlation between property values and the tax rate in comparison to neighboring and survey cities. This information demonstrated the city tax portion of the average Lancaster resident's tax bill is less than our comparison cities. We will continue to seek strategies to improve our property values as there is a direct correlation between values and rate. Staff is also in the process of re-evaluating the criteria for comparable cities.

Quality Development - The City encourages high quality construction in its housing, commercial buildings and public facilities. The City employs sustainable building practices and encourages conservation and the use of alternative energy sources. The City has a diverse housing stock with walkable neighborhoods and other high quality neighborhood amenities. A diversity of commercial businesses includes corporate business parks and distribution facilities, which make use of the expanded airport, rail, and highway system. Retail areas have grown because of growth in industrial, commercial and residential development.

1. **Promote Development of a Hotel/Convention Center**

Staff continues to contact hoteliers and identify trade shows to work that are attended by members of the hotel industry. As a next possible step, staff will plan to host a Hoteliers Symposium in similar manner to the upcoming Spring Development Symposium to market the City of Lancaster as a viable site for hotels to locate. In the second quarter, staff will update the community brochure as well to include in the next set of contact letters for hoteliers.

2. **Development of I-20 and Houston School Road & Campus District**

Staff continues to include information about new business opportunities within the Campus District when making sales calls on prospects and responding to other inquiries suitable for that district in Lancaster.

The following projects have been completed or planned to be completed as part of on-going efforts in the development of this corridor. Those projects are: Quick Trip, In and Out Manufacturing facility (Southpointe Business Park), two 350,000± square foot warehouse facilities, redevelopment of the Conway trucking site, and Daniieldale Road reconstruction (right-of-way acquisition).

3. Downtown and Other Strategic Areas Tax-increment Financing (TIF) Strategy

Staff will utilize previously conducted study by the University of Texas at Arlington, on the Historic Downtown District Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone viability to provide an update to City Council in the third quarter. Staff will provide a comprehensive review of the study along with possible next steps in the creation of a TIF/TIRZ District to address future re-development of the Historic Square, construction of a City Hall, much needed infrastructure improvements, inclusion of future way finding assets as we continue to promote the City of Lancaster as a tourism destination.

Economic Development staff continues working toward the attraction of projects creating commercial, industrial and retail development in order to create a growing tax base and growth in the community's daytime population ensuring the financial sustainability of government in Lancaster and jobs for our residents.

- Staff conducted 15 sales calls on commercial/industrial brokers, developers and potential end users promoting Lancaster as a location for the logistic solutions to their customers.
- Staff conducted 2 community tours for a developer unfamiliar with the opportunities in Lancaster.
- Staff responded to 8 inquiries for information regarding Lancaster as a potential location for the inquirer's expansion or relocation needs.

Economic Development staff will develop and implement efficient and effective marketing programs designed to solicit and secure the interest of the commercial, industrial and retail development-brokerage communities to promote Lancaster as a profitable marketplace for their client's future relocation or expansion needs.

- Staff participated in 2 commercial-industrial broker and developer events promoting Lancaster as a location for their customers.
- Staff hosted the visits of 2 end user companies interested in Lancaster as a location for their expansion plans.
- Staff attended 1 trade shows calling on commercial-industrial users, brokers and developers exhibiting at the show to promote Lancaster as a location for the logistic solutions to their customers.
- Staff contacted 20 retail and restaurant end users soliciting their evaluation of Lancaster as a future location for their businesses.

4. Cementitious Building Materials

Council amended the Lancaster Development Code, Article 14.500, Section 14.503 Residential Districts (a) (2) (1) to amend the exterior wall materials to define wood based products, exclude the use of wood based products, and include cementitious materials as a masonry product that can be used as an exterior architectural element.

5. Rental Registration Program

Council authorized implementation of a rental registration program that will require annual registration and inspection of properties that are rented/leased in the community. Information regarding program implementation has been communicated to property owners January 2015 utilizing the list received from Utility Billing. Inspections and collections have commenced and are conducted on Tuesdays by the Building Official until the Building Inspector that was allocated for this program has been hired. To date, an estimated 2,500± properties will be impacted by this program as a result of Council approval. Staff will continue to monitor new utility accounts to ensure that all landlords are being identified and notified as the program continues to grow.

6. High-end Home Development

In the second quarter, staff will send out another round of marketing letters along with the updated community brochure to continue to recruit new custom builders in the City of Lancaster. As in the past mailings, staff will include available lot inventory to assist in the process of informing builders. Custom builders will also be invited to the Development Symposium that is planned in the spring.

7. Additional Considerations:

Commercial Code Violations

Business Name	Address	Violation	Status
American Auto Plaza	1010 Katy St Suite No. A	High Grass	Compliance
American Auto Plaza	1010 Katy St Suite No. A	Parking on Unapproved Surface	Compliance
American Auto Plaza	1010 Katy St Suite No. A	Commercial Dumpster	Compliance
American Auto Plaza	1010 Katy St Suite No. A	Trash	Compliance
Ashley's Pawn Shop	1460 N I-35E Ste. B	Illegal Banner	Pending
Bella Wood	1810 N I-35E	Illegal Banner	Pending
Blackhands Holding	3436 N I-35E	High Grass	Abatement
Blackhands Holding	3440 N I-35E	High Grass	Abatement
Blackhands Holding	3444 N I-35E	High Grass	Abatement
Blackhands Holding	3450 N I-35E	High Grass	Abatement
Blackhands Holding	3454 N I-35E	High Grass	Compliance
Blue Grove Plaza	1450 W Pleasant Run Rd	Commercial Dumpster	Compliance
Dollar General	2253 W Belt Line Rd	Commercial Cargo Container	Compliance

Dry Cleaners	1514 W Pleasant Run Rd	High Grass	Abatement
Hotel Liquidation	3334 N I-35E	Illegal Banner	Pending
Independent Plastic Recycles	103 Industrial St	Trash	Compliance
Independent Plastic Recycles	103 Industrial St	Outside Storage	Compliance
Independent Plastic Recycles	103 Industrial St	Commercial Dumpster	Compliance
Jeff Steck	400 Jefferson St	Inoperative Motor Vehicle	Compliance
Jeff Steck	440 Jefferson St	Inoperative Motor Vehicle	Compliance
Jeff Steck	440 Jefferson St	Accumulation of Vehicle Parts	Compliance
Jeff Steck	440 Jefferson St	Parking on Unapproved Surface	Compliance
Jeff Steck	440 Jefferson St	Minor Auto Repair-Outside Storage	Compliance
LaSoto Self Storage	1920 N I-35E Ste. 118	Illegal Banner	Pending
Loopnet Properties	1452 N I-35E Ste. 200	Maintenance of Signs	Pending
Old Minyards	919 N Dallas Ave Suite 103	High Grass	Compliance
Old Minyards	919 N Dallas Ave Suite 103	Sign	Compliance
Old Minyards	919 N Dallas Ave Suite 103	Light Pole	Compliance
Snar Lodging	930 N I-35E	Commercial Dumpster	Compliance
Snar Lodging	930 N I-35E	Trash	Compliance
Swift	3250 N Longhorn Dr	High Grass	Abatement
Truck Repair	2408 N I-35E	CO Violation	Pending
Valero	3160 W Pleasant Run Rd Ste B	Commercial Dumpster	Compliance
World Harvest Church	520 N Dallas Ave	Parking on Unapproved Surface	Compliance

Healthy, Safe, & Vibrant Community - Lancaster is a place where we enhance public safety in our neighborhoods. The community unites at city-wide events and participates in recreational and cultural activities that keep residents involved and engaged in their respective neighborhoods. Compassionate enforcement personnel help to sustain vibrant residential and business communities. All residents have access to Parks and leisure facilities where they live.

1. Assess Community Policing Strategy

The Hillard Heintze group was retained to complete an assessment of the Police Department. The initial evaluation has been completed and a final report will be completed by second quarter FY 2014/2015.

2. Bathrooms at Bear Creek Park

Staff has begun evaluating infrastructure requirements and facility cost for construction of bathrooms at Bear Creek Nature Park.

3. Expand Police visibility and involvement in the community through community oriented policing, and teen/youth activities and education.

The Police department has begun to introduce crime prevention tools available to the neighborhoods such as Nextdoor.com, Reportit.com, and Raidsonline.com. We continue to reemphasize the public safety resources and services available such as house checks, police2citizens and security checks.

The department continues to identify trends in the community and deploy proper resources to deter, prevent and reduce crime in the city such as crime prevention tips, surveillance methods of policing, brochures, house checks and encouragement of new community watch programs.

In addition, the Lancaster Police Department has performed 11,474 close patrols and 64 total house check request and calls this quarter.

During the period of October 1, 2014 thru December 31, 2014, the Police department responded to 112 accidents. There were a total of 82 residential burglaries reported, which is a decrease of 18% since last quarter. A total of 141 motor vehicle burglaries were reported which is an increase of 4% over last quarter. The department will continue to implement proactive strategies to reduce property and vehicle crimes within our community.

During this quarter four new officers were hired and are currently in the Lancaster Police Department Field Training program for the next four to five months. We are proud to welcome Officer's McKinney, King, Hanks and Warren. During the month of October four officers completed their Field Training program and now patrolling the community as a single unit.

Recycling Program	October	November	December	1st Quarter Total
Residential Tonnages	94.83	79.44	106.92	281.19

Professional & Committed Workforce - Lancaster city government is an employer of choice with competitive pay that attracts an engaged, responsive, customer-oriented, innovative, and effective workforce. Some employees live in the City and all have a sense of ownership of the community. City employees feel needed and appreciated by elected officials, residents and businesses and are respectful to and appreciative of their customers and the City's governing body. The City's executive staff is engaged with residents and attends community events, upholds strong customer service, and uses technology to aid them in working smarter.

1. Increased Council Training Funding

The FY 2014/2015 budget reflected an increase to \$3,000 for each councilmember and \$3,500 for the Mayor. Council coordinates training opportunities through the City Secretary's office.

2. Update Compensation Survey

City Council identified the city compensation plan as an area to continuously review and amend. City Council expressed a desire to be at the middle average of the city survey cities.

Council has taken steps towards implementing action by providing a 5% pay plan adjustment with the budget adoption. While the City of Lancaster has not met the goal of the established pay policy, City Council has taken steps towards this goal.

Sound Infrastructure - The City has well-maintained streets and well-planned preventative maintenance programs for infrastructure; including streets, water, stormwater, wastewater and other assets.

1. Prioritize street maintenance initiatives based on Pavement Management Program.

Staff is in the process of updating the pavement management program software, updating the system with data from repairs and routine maintenance, and re-evaluating the streets. This process is expected to be completed by the third quarter FY 2014/2015.

2. Increase Street Maintenance Funding.

City Council authorized increased funding within the FY 2014/2015 operating budget. The Public Works staff is coordinating with Finance to utilize the funds within the areas in coordination and compliance with the street pavement management program.

3. Plan for new Fleet Maintenance Facility.

A request for proposal was initiated to select a consultant for the purpose of planning and designing for the needs of the fleet maintenance division. The agreement will be presented to City Council for consideration during the second quarter of FY 2014/2015.

Civic Engagement - The City provides a variety of opportunities for involvement through special events, boards and commissions, youth and parent volunteer opportunities in recreation, sports teams, City elections, Civic Academies, Schools and City-wide celebrations.

1. Support Lancaster Neighborhoods in the creation of Public Improvement Districts (PIDS) throughout the city to strengthen and connect neighborhoods.

Public Improvement District Advisory Board Members are scheduled to complete Open Meetings Act training on January 28, 2015. An all PID Advisory Board meeting is being scheduled for mid-February. Staff is scheduled to present information regarding PID policy implementation at the March 16, 2015 work session at the request of Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Harris.

Recreation Division

October 2014

- The S.A.F.E. After School participants worked on living science and getting to know their surroundings. Outdoor play for youth is now becoming a thing of the past; children are consumed with video games. Outdoor activity has been connected to decreasing the risk of children developing type II diabetes and becoming obese. S.A.F.E. participants also enjoyed a work session on bullying (October is National Bullying Prevention Month).
- The Jr. Mavs Program - numerous youth joined the team on opening day and were excited about expanding their skills and knowledge of the game of basketball.
- The Dog's Day Out Obedience Training Event provided dogs with much needed exercise and stimulation. This provided a positive outlet for dog owners and their dogs. Each owner received tips on obedience training, animal wellness and chip identification in case their dog is ever lost or stolen. Each lovely pooch received doggie treats and their owner received coupons for free checkups from VCA Animal Hospital.
- Cedar Valley College conducted a youth soccer camp for Lancaster Soccer Association (LSA), Kick Start, and U6 soccer programs. Lancaster players received instruction on CVC soccer fields.
- Lancaster Soccer Association participants were able to attend FC Dallas professional soccer competitions. The tickets were donated as part of FC Dallas' "Kicks of Kids" Program. As part of our partnership with FC Dallas, LSA players attend 8 - 10 games per season.
- The 2014 Annual Fall Festival and Inaugural Craig L. Shaw 5K Run/Walk was held at the Helen Giddings Amphitheater at Lancaster Community Park. The event featured food, games, costume contest, program demonstrations, information on health and wellness and programs.
- The children enjoyed arts and crafts and pumpkin decorating. The highlight of the evening was the outdoor movie showcase "ParaNorman" under the stars. The Inaugural Craig L. Shaw Memorial Run took place prior to the Fall Festival at 1pm. Participants had the opportunity to run or walk a 1K child's run/ walk was also provided along with a car show displaying public safety vehicles from various surrounding cities, car clubs from around the metroplex and more. All proceeds benefited the Craig L. Shaw Memorial Foundation and Lancaster Youth Programs and Initiatives.
- The Lancaster Recreation Center "Open House/Instructor Fair" included demonstrations on Zumba, our new Spin Class, our Jr. Mavs Program, as well as, our newest multi-generational program offering "Pickleball" which is a racquet sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis.

November 2014

- Spin bikes (cycling classes) were added as one of our newest amenities! Spin Classes were offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays (6:30pm – 7:30pm) for FREE in the month of November for current and new adult Recreation ID Cardholders. This high impact program provides a fast paced, high intensity workout for cycling enthusiasts.
- The Jr. Mavs and Winter League Basketball teams participated in a free basketball camp, conducted by the Cedar Valley College Head Coach and team, held at the Lancaster Recreation Center. Lancaster youth received a collegiate perspective of game and skill preparation. Players were lectured on attitude and mental focus as well as physical talents.
- The 2014 Turkey Bowl opened our official holiday season. Community partners played a major role in this event to include Lancaster Police Officer Association, Craig L. Shaw Memorial Foundation, Cedar Valley College, Girl/Boy Scouts, RBI Baseball Association, and Lancaster Soccer Association. Turkeys were distributed to the public at the event sponsored by the Craig Shaw Memorial Foundation.

December 2014

- The Healthy Heart for the Holidays Christmas Festival was the perfect place to create wonderful Christmas memories with your family and friends this season. Activities included: Christmas tree lighting, pictures with Santa, Santa's Workshop, a Puppet Show, tractor drawn hayrides, wellness checks, Christmas theatre (movies), letters to Santa, live entertainment, cookie baking, fitness demonstrations, vendor booths, and much more. Whether you were looking for a night out with the family, an opportunity to enjoy the holiday with someone special or a unique holiday getaway, Lancaster offered some of the most magical moments of the season.

Senior Services Division

- A Fall Festival Celebration was held for the Seniors in October, which included a costume contest. Top contestants who competed were awarded prizes. The members enjoyed refreshments as they celebrated the fall harvest.
- Veterans Day was celebrated at the Senior Life Center in November. During this celebration program, seniors were honored with a flag processional, posting of colors and performance by the members of the ROTC Junior Drill Squad students from Lancaster High School. Veterans, who were in attendance, shared their military history and experience. Each one had a different story to share. We applauded them for their unselfish love and courage. Other senior members in the audience provided encouragement and shared similar family sentiments and experiences.
- The Senior Life Center held its Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon with most of the traditional trimmings. Mayor Knight, gave remarks, and shortly thereafter, he and Councilwoman Nina Morris volunteered their time to serve our seniors. Door prizes were also awarded to lucky winners.

- The Annual Senior Life Center Christmas Legacy Ball was held in December with over 75 seniors in attendance. The dining hall area was transformed into sheer elegance. Seniors danced the night away while enjoying performances from the LISD Jazz ensemble. The senior members enjoyed the “Twelve Days of Christmas” in which each table was assigned a number (one through twelve) to represent the twelve days of Christmas, and were required to join in and sing, table after table. Individual and couple pictures were provided and all were amazed and amused with the magician Brian Michel Masters.
- Our senior members look forward to Groom and Glamour Day. Twice a month, they are given the opportunity to sign up to attend the Cosmetology Clinic at the Lancaster High School. During this time, they are entitled to one free cosmetic service such as a manicure, pedicure, facial, eyelash tabbing or artificial eyelash strips, eyebrow or lip waxing, nail art, shampoo/roller set, shampoo/flat iron, shampoo/up do, shampoo/press, shampoo/style (curls), and women haircuts.
- This quarter 2,838 meals were served through the senior meal program.

Cultural Services Division (State Auxiliary Museum and Visitors Center)

- The Lancaster Visitors Center and State Auxiliary Museum was taken under city management during the first quarter of this fiscal year. This involved staffing, updating the technological infrastructure, inventorying and organizing displays and developing operational procedures. An audio/video room has been established for patrons to view historical videos with local or state connections.
- The featured video currently available includes “Cowboys of Color” which highlights the history of the American Cowboy, namely Cleo Hearn; a 35 year resident of the City of Lancaster has been a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association since 1959.
- The Visitors Center and State Auxiliary Museum has also been made available for private rentals, as well as, various training opportunities.
- In December 2014, City Council appointed Museum Advisory Board Members. The first meeting will be held in January 2015 and the stated meeting date will be established along with initiating the creation of by-laws.
- The State Auxiliary Museum and Visitors Center will plan a Grand Re-opening for the second quarter of FY 2014/2015 to reintroduce the Community to one of the most historic, fascinating facilities in the City.

Library Division

October 2014

- Monthly the Library provides programs for children and parents at Pajama Time, Toddler Time and Family Story Time, Teen and Tween programs.
- The Teen Club had their Monster Mash Annual Halloween Party.
- Classes in MS Word, Pinterest, MS PowerPoint, MS Excel, computer basics, internet basics, Intro to Databases, Photoshop, Genealogy and Food for Thought Book Club and Senior Center outreach.

November 2014

- The Library participated in “Game On!” An American Library Association’s International Games Day, and hosted a week of gaming. Over the course of the week, 69 young people came in to play a variety of games including board games and card games. The youngsters who participated expressed a renewed interest in the Library; a place that had more to offer than just books.
- The Library provided classes in Intro to Databases, Genealogy and Food for Thought Book Club, Basic Computer, Using Publisher, MS Word, MS Excel, Basic Internet, and Senior Center outreach classes.

December 2014

- The Library provided classes in Searching Google, Photoshop, and Intro to Databases, MS Word, MS Excel and Creating a Digital Recipe Box and Senior Life Center outreach classes.
- The Library started a new service called Freegal which allows music downloads and streaming to IOS (Apple), Android and other devices including laptops.

This quarter:

Patrons checked out 9,971 items including 25 eBooks, and 22 individuals volunteered logging 105 hours.

We continue working through the stated goals and objectives to realize the vision. Staff will be available to answer any questions.

Submitted by:

Opal Mauldin-Robertson, City Manager

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Communication

January 26, 2015

Item 3

Receive a presentation and discuss city-related bills introduced at the 84th Session of the Texas Legislature.

This request supports the City Council 2014-2015 Policy Agenda.

Goal: Healthy, Safe & Vibrant Community

Background

Each year as you know, numerous bills get introduced at the legislative session, which ultimately impact municipalities. January 13, 2015 marked the beginning of the 84th Texas Legislative Session. After a thorough review of the city-related bills filed for this year's session as presented by the Texas Municipal League, those with the highest potential to directly impact the City of Lancaster were selected for monitoring with the goal of providing council a periodic update on their progress.

The following city-related bills introduced at the 84th Session of the Texas Legislature were selected for monitoring and update:

- **H.B. 365 (Elkins) and S.B. 182 (Bettencourt) - Revenue Cap:** Lower the property tax rollback rate from eight (8) percent to four (4) percent, except for cities or any part of the taxing unit located in an area declared a disaster area by the Governor or President of the United States during the current tax year.
- **H.B. 455 (Johnson) and S.B. 158 (West) - Body Cameras:** Would provide, among other things, that a law enforcement agency in this state shall apply to the Department of Public Safety for a grant to equip officers with body cameras if the agency employs officers.
- **H.B. 273 (Miles) – Illegal Dumping:** would provide minimum terms of confinement for the offense of illegal dumping committed inside a city's boundaries.
- **H.B. 274 (Miles) – Illegal Dumping:** would increase the maximum fine for violation of an illegal dumping ordinance from \$2,000 to \$4,000.
- **S.B. 253 (Ellis) – Environmental Justice Communities:** would: (1) require a person applying for a permit for a new facility that requires approval from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) or the expansion of such a facility to submit to the TCEQ a report stating whether the facility is to be located in an environmental justice community; (2) require a facility in an environmental justice community to consult with the mayor in the city in which the facility is to be located; (3) require a permit applicant to publish notice of and hold a public hearing to provide information on the potential environmental impacts of the facility; and (4) allow a city and an owner or developer of an affecting facility to enter into a community environmental benefit agreement.

- **S.B. 87 (Ellis) –Statewide Smoking Ban would:** (1) prohibit smoking in most public places, in places of employment, and in seating areas at outdoor events; (2) preempt a city ordinance that prohibits smoking to a lesser degree; (3) provide that a city ordinance that prohibits or restricts smoking to a greater degree is not preempted; (4) require the Texas Department of State Health Services to annually request other government agencies, including cities, to establish local operating procedures to comply with the bill; and (5) require a city as an employer or an owner of a public place to post a no smoking sign at each entrance of the public place or place of employment.
- In addition to the above bills, any bills advocating for the increase in funding for the local park grant programs will also be closely monitored.

Considerations

- **Operational** – The City Manager will provide a briefing on the 84th Texas Legislative Session highlighting bills of interest to the City of Lancaster. Going forward Council will receive a periodic update on the progress of the selected city-related bills.
 - **Legal** – There are no legal requirements at this time.
 - **Financial** – There are no direct funding implications at this time.
 - **Public Information** – This presentation is being considered at a work session of the City Council posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.
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Submitted by:

Fabrice Kabona, Assistant to the City Manager
Rona Stringfellow, Assistant City Manager
Opal Mauldin-Robertson, City Manager