

**CITY OF LODI
INFORMAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING
"SHIRTSLEEVE" SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2008**

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, January 8, 2008, commencing at 7:00 a.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members – Hansen, Hitchcock, Johnson, Katzakian, and Mayor Mounce

Absent: Council Members – None

Also Present: City Manager King, City Attorney Schwabauer, and City Clerk Johl

B. TOPIC(S)

B-1 "Mid-Year Review of 2007-08 Budget and Infrastructure Replacement Program"

City Manager King briefly introduced the subject matter of the mid-year review of the 2007-08 budget and infrastructure replacement program.

Deputy City Manager Krueger provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the mid-year budget review. Specific topics of discussion included general fund summary for adjustments and one-time expenses, electric fund summary, water fund summary, wastewater utility fund summary, vehicle replacement fund summary, self-insurance summary, community development fund summary, statements of changes in each fund, and position control for departments.

In response to Mayor Mounce, Mr. Krueger stated that the graffiti abatement funding and equipment purchase will be the equivalent of a full-time person.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen, Mr. Krueger stated the objective is to better prepare the City to respond to graffiti abatement.

Discussion ensued between Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen, Mr. Krueger, and Mr. King regarding the need and impact of the vehicle replacement policy on the general fund, the projected \$1.2 million revenue amount, the conservative expenditure estimates, possibility of higher savings, and the immediate need to address the vehicle replacement policy to stabilize large unexpected expenditures.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Mr. Krueger stated the process for filling vacancies was slower in the previous fiscal year because the Human Resources Department was not fully staffed and he does not anticipate that the level of vacancies will increase. Mr. King stated the budget does not actually take into account vacancies as savings or revenue; although, that may occur from attrition and retirements.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Mr. Krueger stated the Police Department identifies specific items for the asset seizure account and radio equipment was not identified. He stated staff will look into the option.

Discussion ensued between Council Member Johnson, Mr. Krueger, and Mr. King regarding an amended vehicle replacement policy, guideline review and modification, need to replace vehicles, corresponding charges to departments, and set aside money for the actual replacements.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Krueger stated there could be a security benefit to the proposed web cam installation in downtown.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen, Mr. King stated the proposed web cam is more of a tool for promotion and traffic generation, rather than a safety tool; although, it can be used for both purposes. Management Analyst Hood stated it is proposed that there be two wireless cameras with recording and streaming capacities to highlight the downtown area.

In response to Myrna Wetzel, Mr. Hood stated the cameras can be either stationary or sweeping depending upon what is purchased.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen, Interim Parks and Recreation Director Steve Dutra stated staff is working with John Brody on grant opportunities and other agency involvement with respect to the riverbank repairs.

Discussion ensued between Council Member Hitchcock and Electric Utility Director George Morrow regarding the use of money from the Roseville sale to balance the electric utility fund, sensitivity of electric sales to weather, effect of economy, disposable income for citizens, conservation efforts by business and industrial customers, uncontrollable expenses, and the possibility of fluctuation in numbers in the second half of the year.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen, Mr. Morrow stated the savings in maintenance and operation costs from the Roseville deal flows directly through the Energy Conservation Adjustment program to the customers on a real-time basis.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Morrow stated there is nothing specific on the ten-acre site.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen, Mr. Krueger confirmed the water fund has seen improvement and the summary is better because the deficit is no longer there.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen, Mr. King confirmed that the referenced amounts pertain to the general fund City vehicles only, not the entire City. He stated additional vehicles may need to be incorporated into other funds including the enterprise and street funds.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Mr. Krueger stated the \$790,000 was budgeted, staff is looking to transfer \$900,000 to the vehicle replacement fund, and he does not anticipate they will spend \$500,000, which is more of a historical number.

Discussion ensued between Mayor Pro Tempore Hansen and Mr. Krueger regarding the vacancies in the Finance Department, concerns regarding customer service, assisting customers in line, attrition, training possibilities, and the options associated with bill pay.

In response to Council Member Katzakian, Mr. Krueger stated there are certain peak times when there are more customers in line than at other times, that the percentage of customers who pay personally is small compared to the entire number of customers, and online bill pay options are being explored.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. King stated an increase of individuals paying online may reduce costs and improve collection and service delivery. Mr. Morrow stated a meeting on the subject matter of electronic bill pay and pay by phone is being held today. City Attorney Schwabauer stated he will continue to research and monitor cities in litigation regarding patent control for utility online payments. He stated indemnification will be necessary for such services from the contractors providing the service to the City.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Krueger stated the customer base paying personally is a mixture of all ages and not familiar with electronic media.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Mr. King stated that the three proposed position changes are not newly created positions, as they currently exist in the budget and are being changed in title only.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Mr. King stated the plan check engineer/senior building inspector change will not require a person physically moving from the Fire Department to the Community Development Department. Fire Chief Pretz stated the transition will allow for a more efficient, effective, and cost prohibitive process that eliminates the need to send out for plan check.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Mr. King stated the Code Enforcement Supervisor position is currently a contract position and will become an in-house position with a net zero effect on cost.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. King stated the position has been a contract position for some time and the in-house position will allow for closer communication with the Police Department.

A brief discussion ensued between Council Member Johnson, Mr. Krueger, and Mr. King regarding the number of contract employees and the policy decision to reduce the same over the past few years.

C. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

D. ADJOURNMENT

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randi Johl
City Clerk