

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

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, July 8, 2008, commencing at 7:02 a.m.

**A. ROLL CALL**

Present: Council Members – Johnson, Katzakian, and Mayor Mounce  
Absent: Council Members – Hansen and Hitchcock  
Also Present: City Manager King, City Attorney Schwabauer, and City Clerk Johl

**B. TOPIC(S)**

B-1 "Lodi Animal Advisory Commission Presentation"

City Manager King briefly introduced the subject matter of the Lodi Animal Advisory Commission.

Special Services Manager Jeanie Biskup introduced the members of the Lodi Animal Advisory Commission.

Rose Hilliard provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding lifesaving shelter programs. Specific topics of discussion included lifesaving strategies, reducing shelter intake, increasing lifesaving, lifesaving model, feral cat program, spay and neuter, rescue groups, volunteer foster program, comprehensive adoption programs, pet retention, medical and behavioral rehabilitation, public retention and community involvement, volunteers, compassionate shelter director, and the need for change immediately.

In response to Mayor Mounce, Ms. Hilliard stated some of the ten suggested programs are being completed by volunteers, although to a lesser degree than is necessary through an organized program.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Ms. Hilliard stated there are three bona fide 501(c)(3) organizations in Lodi including the Cat Connection, Animal Friends, and People Assisting the Lodi Shelter (PALS).

In response to Mayor Mounce, Ms. Biskup stated the City transfers animals to PALS for adoption purposes and the animals are then pulled from PALS by Animal Friends, Cat Connection, and the city of Sacramento. She stated staff contacts and works with approximately 15 different facilities.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Ms. Biskup stated the city of Sacramento pulls adoptable dogs, of which 89% are directly adopted through the City as well. Ms. Biskup stated in general Sacramento has the same issues with cats as Lodi and other communities.

Linda Castelanelli spoke in favor of the programs as presented and requested a previous office clerk position be filled for assistance at the animal shelter.

Ms. Biskup provided a brief update on the funding that was approved through the 2008-09 budget process, stating staff is actively working on spay and neuter programs and physical improvements at the shelter as discussed.

In response to Mayor Mounce, Ms. Biskup stated shelter needs include bedding, food, leashes, and other items listed online. She stated monetary donations and assistance with fundraising for PALS, special needs animals, and spay and neuter programs is also helpful.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Police Chief David Main stated that, while the City continues to work toward a "no kill" goal and progress is being made, the numbers of animals involved make it somewhat unrealistic.

Michael Leach spoke in favor of marketing efforts by the City to increase public awareness of the animal shelter and its services.

In response to Mayor Mounce and Mr. King, Ms. Biskup stated previously the part-time shared position budget was reduced and full-time cleaning staff was retained as was necessary. Ms. Biskup stated Partners assist with office staffing at the shelter currently. Ms. Castelanelli stated it is important to have a full-time office assistant who is there daily, is trained, and knows the ins and outs of the shelter since volunteers do not have the ability to do that.

In response to Myrna Wetzel, Ms. Biskup stated she does not have the exact number associated with licensing revenue; although, she believes it was approximately \$196,000. She stated the shelter is working with a new licensing system and of the approximately 50,000 animals in the City about 3,000 are licensed.

Discussion ensued between Mayor Mounce, Mr. King, and Ms. Hilliard regarding the traditional function of disease control for shelters, animal control efforts, contracting for animal housing services, united effort between cities in the community in resolving animal control issues through a joint powers agreement or similar entity, the City's responsibility for a safe and clean shelter, the Commission's desire to work on a more detailed outline of the programs, and a possible mission statement from the City for the shelter.

Michael Leach spoke in opposition to contracting out animal shelter services based on his concerns of the level of service over an extended period of time.

Mayor Mounce asked the Commission to forward information regarding San Francisco's efforts in reaching its "no kill" goal to the City Manager.

Gina Mendes spoke in opposition to contracting out animal shelter services based on her concern that the shelter should be run like a business.

**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 8:02 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randi Johl  
City Clerk