

**CITY OF LODI
INFORMAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING
"SHIRTSLEEVE" SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2007**

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, October 16, 2007, commencing at 7:01 a.m.

A. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Council Members – None

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

B. TOPIC(S)

B-1 "Presentation Regarding Options for a Heritage Tree Policy"

City Manager King and Community Development Director Hatch provided a brief introduction of the subject matter.

Planning Manager Peter Pirnejad provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding options for a tree policy. Specific topics of discussion included history of proposed policy, current practices, Tree City USA designation, types of policies for tree preservation, tree protection ordinance, view and/or solar access ordinance, process associated with implementation, examples of cities with Heritage Tree ordinance, and next steps.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Mr. Hatch stated the situation that gave rise to the discussion is the potential expansion of Mike's Muffler auto business on Central and Kettleman; whereby, the owner wanted to purchase adjacent land that had a significant number of trees on it.

Council Member Hansen provided general comments about the actual need for the tree enforcement policy and fees. He also suggested better promotion of the Tree City USA designation.

Discussion ensued between Council Member Hitchcock, City Attorney Schwabauer, and Community Development Director Hatch regarding a moderate ordinance focused on new developments and larger parcels that would not apply so much to existing small property owners. Specific topics of discussion included the possibility of enforcement prior to development, similar ordinances in other communities, community survey for new projects including Reynolds Ranch, the need to address infill sites such as the Gini project, and the helpfulness of a policy that encourages preservation.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Street and Drainage Manager George Bradley and Interim Parks and Recreation Director Steve Dutra stated individuals were not specifically contacted regarding the meeting.

City Manager King discussed flying the Tree City USA flag, prior experience with a Heritage Tree policy breaking down in the beginning, options associated with better tree designation, property owner participation, and the need for a committee to address potential conflict.

Council Member Hansen suggested there is a need to get input from stakeholders such as Joyce Harmon and Tree Lodi and stated any policy should include an appeals process.

City Manager King provided an overview of the process regarding current tree removal and discussed staff arborist involvement, replacement trees, procedure that has good checks and balances, and private property owner participation in removing trees for a variety of reasons, including sidewalk damage.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Mr. King stated that, although there are existing development agreements with the bigger projects as indicated by Mr. Schwabauer, mitigation measures and various regulations may still apply. Mr. Schwabauer stated the projects with development agreements are mostly exempt from fee programs.

In response to Myrna Wetzel, Mayor Johnson stated any tree could be included in the potential policy.

Steve Dutra stated the first step is designation, along with early involvement, especially with examples such as the PAM Company development and the 13-acre Lodi Lake site. He stated Tree Lodi would be happy to assist on a Committee level.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Mr. Dutra stated there is no designated method of replacement as it varies with the opportunities for replacement that present themselves. Mr. King stated in some cases a replacement tree may be planted prior to another tree being removed to allow growth, while in other cases a replacement tree may be planted in the vicinity but not at the same location, such as at the Armory.

George Bradley stated surrounding property owners are contacted when trees are removed and moving trees is sometimes an option, but it is expensive.

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 7:52 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randi Johl
City Clerk