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PRESS RELEASE

July 20, 2007

Lodi City Council gives go-ahead to redevelopment studies

LODI – Lodi’s City Council took the first step Thursday, July 19, toward a possible redevelopment project in the city.

The City Council, acting as the city’s redevelopment agency board, voted 4-0 to give City Manager Blair King the authorization to hire professionals needed to handle the complex process of forming a redevelopment project area.

The joint meeting with the city’s Planning Commission was held at the Lodi Boys & Girls Club instead of the council chambers at the Carnegie Forum in order to be closer to those residents living in or near a likely project area. About 65 residents attended. The project area is tentatively scheduled to be identified in early 2008 only after a series of meetings in which the public will have an opportunity to participate.

Thursday’s vote put in motion a series of steps that, with City Council consent, could result in Lodi’s first redevelopment project. Four other San Joaquin County cities have redevelopment projects, as well as 155 of the 163 California cities with populations over 50,000.

Adopting a redevelopment project would allow Lodi to increase its share of future property tax paid by property owners within the project area. The money can be used to improve the area’s economic and physical condition, and at least 20 percent must be spent on affordable housing projects. Redevelopment does not increase taxes and, in Lodi, it can not be used to force property owners to sell for a private party’s use.

Lodi officials intend to hold a community forum in September so residents can ask questions about the redevelopment process and discuss their hopes and concerns. The time and place have yet to be determined.

For more information about redevelopment in Lodi’s future, call the City Manager’s office at (209) 333-6700.

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