

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

The Shirtsleeve Session of February 3, 2015, was called to order by Mayor Johnson at 7:00 a.m.

Present: Council Member Kuehne, Council Member Mounce, Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Chandler, and Mayor Johnson

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Schwabauer, City Attorney Magdich, and City Clerk Ferraiolo

NOTE: Mayor Pro Tempore Chandler arrived at 7:01 a.m.; Council Member Kuehne arrived at 7:04 a.m.

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Benefits of Returning Browned-Out Fire Engine 1 Back to Service (FD)

Fire Chief Larry Rooney provided a PowerPoint presentation on the benefits of returning browned-out Fire Engine No. 1 back to service. Specific topics of discussion included background; summary; engine/pumper and truck capabilities; Fire Station areas; benefits of staffing Engine No. 1; National Fire Protection Association 1710 recommended standards; Fire Department staffing; recommendations; and fiscal impact.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Chief Rooney stated that other communities have also browned out engines, adding that Stockton shut down three units, which have since been brought back to service.

At the request of City Manager Schwabauer, Chief Rooney explained that aerial capability is the ladder function, which includes a water pipe, on the fire truck that allows firefighters to access buildings over one story high.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Chief Rooney stated Lodi has a significant amount of two-story buildings, as well as three stories, and that District 1, which is the smallest district and includes the downtown area, is the most dense with the tallest buildings, oldest infrastructure, and inadequate or lacking fire systems in place. For those reasons, the Department is concerned about responding to that area with the appropriate resources and in a quick-enough manner.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Chief Rooney stated that, when responding to requests for mutual aid, the Department sends the most appropriate or requested apparatus, whether that be the engine or the truck.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Chief Rooney stated that a replacement fire truck would cost in the neighborhood of \$1 million. Mr. Schwabauer stated that the last truck was serviceable as a front-line truck for five or six years because it was running as an engine, and Chief Rooney added that a truck should typically last for 20 years.

Council Member Mounce stated she believed the City should be setting aside money to replace this asset, that a full response team should be available to the citizens of this community, and she supported putting the browned-out engine back in service. Mr. Schwabauer responded that the City has a vehicle replacement fund for all City vehicles; however, there is insufficient resources in that fund today and he believed it would not be built-up sufficiently if the engine needed to be replaced within the next five years. The primary reason is budgetary with the challenge being the

ability to provide levels of service and having the necessary capital.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Chief Rooney stated he would provide a breakdown of response calls per district.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Chief Rooney stated that the capacity of the fire engine is four, but is staffed with three firefighters, and the capacity for the fire truck is five, but is staffed with three.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Chief Rooney stated that the Department will be able to more efficiently staff the engine once the six new firefighters complete their academy training.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Chief Rooney stated that the Department has 46 funded firefighter positions, which includes the six new firefighters, with the total number of Fire Department personnel at 53.5.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Chief Rooney stated that the six new firefighters would enable the Department to maintain the minimum staffing level of 15, which was the level in 2009 prior to browning out Engine No. 1. In further response, Chief Rooney stated he has no plan to return to Council to request an increase to the staffing level and stated that the current recommendation is to meet the need using overtime dollars. Council Member Nakanishi expressed his support of the Fire Department recommendation to bring Engine No. 1 back to service.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Chandler, Chief Rooney stated that, prior to Stockton Dispatch taking over the dispatching in December 2014, Lodi Fire responded to all 911 calls, regardless of how severe the nature. Since the changeover, Stockton Dispatch pre-screens the emergency calls and dispatches the more appropriate unit. For example, lower level (Alpha) calls are dispatched to an ambulance at a longer response time instead of sending the engine or truck.

In response to Council Member Kuehne, Chief Rooney stated that the Department has a good working relationship with American Medical Response (AMR) and its assistance with the lower-level calls frees up firefighters to handle the bigger issues, thereby providing the best level of service. Chief Rooney stated that firefighters will often ride to the hospital in the ambulance if the paramedic requests assistance with a patient, and he believed this was an important part of providing a full complement to Lodi citizens and increasing survivability odds to patients. In further response, Chief Rooney stated that AMR's response model is based on volume, and he did not believe it would put two to three paramedics on an ambulance, but the company does a fine job and will ask when it needs assistance.

Council Member Mounce expressed support in continuing the practice of having firefighters ride along in the ambulance if it is deemed necessary and once again expressed her support of the recommendation to bring Engine No. 1 back to service in a permanent manner.

Mr. Schwabauer recognized the Lodi Fire Department for the tremendous job and service it has provided to the citizens of this community all while doing so with less people. He cautioned, however, about making priority decisions with only one priority on the table, pointing out that there are inadequate staffing and service levels in other departments, including the Police Department and Public Works Streets Division. Council will need to weigh this priority with others that will come before it in the near future.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Chief Rooney stated that Stockton Fire has reported a 28 percent reduction in call response; however, Stockton is also not answering lower-level calls, as well as next level calls. Chief Rooney explained the call levels: Alpha (lower-level) calls are for those who need a response for a minor injury, but are not in dire need; Bravo (next-level) calls are slightly more urgent, such as a non-life-threatening injury; Charlie (higher-level) calls are for those with life-threatening injuries. Staff is currently reviewing call data to determine if it should also eliminate responses to Bravo calls. The Fire Department is responsible for basic life support in the city, whereas AMR is advanced life support, and his goal is to ensure the Department is

available to support AMR. Chief Rooney estimated that, based on preliminary data, Lodi Fire has realized a 15 percent reduction in calls since eliminating the Alpha-type responses. In further reply, Chief Rooney stated that the City of Stockton has eliminated Alpha and Bravo calls; Lodi has eliminated Alpha calls only at this time; and Manteca is still responding to all calls but is considering a reduction.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Mr. Schwabauer agreed that the City has done better than budgeted since 2008 due to a combination of factors: expenditures were below budgeted amounts and revenues were in excess of what was expected. He stated that he will continue to be conservative in his recommendations, adding that his goal is to ensure employees receive their paychecks and that citizens receive the necessary services. Council Member Mounce stated that being conservative is a positive reflection of the community as a whole, but now is the time to begin to allow for growth.

Ed Miller expressed appreciation and gratitude to the Fire Department for its service to his family recently, as well as to the community as a whole. He believed that the costs were merely alluded to in the presentation, but were not quantified, adding that further discussion is necessary to include maintenance and depreciation costs along with all of the other financial aspects before making any decision.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 a.m.

ATTEST:

Jennifer M. Ferraiolo
City Clerk