

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2011**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, March 15, 2011, commencing at 7:00 a.m.

Present: Council Member Hansen, Council Member Katzakian, Mayor Pro Tempore Mounce, and Mayor Johnson

Absent: Council Member Nakanishi

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

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Present Water Plant Staffing Plan and Recommended Water and Wastewater Rate Adjustments (PW)

City Manager Rad Bartlam provided a brief introduction into the subject matter of the water plant staffing plan and rate adjustments.

Public Works Director Wally Sandelin and Deputy Public Works Director Charlie Swimley provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed water plant staffing plan and recommended water and wastewater rate adjustments. Specific topics of discussion included commissioning cycles, staffing plan methodology, overview of tasks, current operations, future operations, new positions, water treatment superintendent, plant operators, equipment mechanic, electrician, maintenance worker, administrative clerk, summary of positions, recruitment schedule and estimated costs, and facility organization.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Mr. Swimley stated commissioning of the plant occurs in about 18 months.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Mounce, Mr. Swimley stated those who are sensitive to chlorine may taste a difference in the water.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Mounce, Mr. Swimley stated the chlorine dosing is legally required as a result of the new plant.

In response to Council Member Katzakian, Mr. Swimley stated the City has been doing a low level dosing for over a year through a metering pump connected to the solution to condition the pipes.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Mounce, Mr. Swimley stated the current chlorine dosing will increase when the new plant comes on line per State regulations.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Mr. Swimley stated the City will still need to maintain the filters on the wells.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Mounce, Mr. Swimley stated there may be years when there is less water available but he does not anticipate ever having a complete dry year with no water available.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Mr. Bartlam stated he anticipates a net increase in operating positions as a part of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System transfer from Electric Utility to Public Works.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Mounce, Mr. Swimley stated there may be some challenge in finding experienced personnel that are in high demand in the industry.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Swimley stated the superintendent is certified through a combination of education, experience, and testing through the State. Mr. Swimley stated over time staff may be able to look at internal promotional programs similar to the lineman program in Electric Utility. He stated the superintendent will be hired from the outside and the preference is a high level of experience operating a membrane facility.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Swimley confirmed the new plant in Stockton is approximately three times the size of Lodi's and there will be some competition in recruiting personnel for the plants.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Mr. Swimley stated there are retired personnel from other communities that may be interested in part-time or temporary positions at the new plant.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Swimley stated the plant will be operating at 16 hours a day when fully operational and will be automated so operators can respond as needed if something fails or reaches a certain set point.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Swimley stated security at the new plant will consist of fencing, alarms, cameras, and motion sensors.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Mr. Swimley stated currently the Electric Utility system is manned until midnight, at which time an answering service takes over.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Mounce, Mr. Swimley stated there may be some opportunity to transfer existing employees to the new plant.

Ed Miller spoke in support of reviewing options for privatizing the new plant operations in light of the difficult economic climate and a potential cost savings. In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Mounce, Mr. Swimley stated he is not sure of the number of agencies that privatize plant operations but he will provide that information when the matter comes back before the Council.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randi Johl
City Clerk