

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2010**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, June 8, 2010, commencing at 7:01 a.m.

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

Absent: Council Member Mounce

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

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Receive 2009 Annual Report from the Lodi Animal Advisory Commission (PD)

Interim City Manager Rad Bartlam and Lt. Steve Carillo briefly introduced the subject matter of the Lodi Animal Advisory Commission 2009 Annual Report.

Commission Chair Linda Castelanelli provided a presentation regarding the 2009 Annual Advisory Commission report. Specific topics of discussion included background and Resolution 2007-161, report on previous goals, accomplishments for 2009, findings and recommendations for 2009, summary of Commission vacancies and under staffing, operations, spay and neuter programs, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, vouchers, and efforts with microchip scanning and pet licensing.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Bartlam stated once the CDBG funding is made available, it is disbursed immediately and should be spent as quickly as possible so that additional funding, if available, can be reallocated.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Ms. Castelanelli stated she would like to see the CDBG funding spent faster than it is being spent currently.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, City Attorney Schwabauer stated the City does not have a cat leash law but does have an ordinance that says animals cannot run loose.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Ms. Castelanelli provided an overview of the process by which cats are trapped and brought into the shelter on a regular basis by those who do not like them.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Ms. Castelanelli stated feral cats are also being trapped and those with tipped ears are being euthanized.

In response to Mayor Katzakian, Ms. Castelanelli stated the City of Stockton has a successful trap, neuter, and return program.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Ms. Castelanelli stated true feral cats are not usually seen by the public unless they are being fed and trapped.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Ms. Castelanelli stated when a pet is lost, many pet owners do not even look at the shelter or make an attempt to find the pet.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Ms. Castelanelli stated a drop-off fee would not be counter productive because it is the same people who are routinely trapping cats and bringing them into the shelter.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Animal Services Officer Diane Barney stated feral cats and stray cats act differently and feral cats are kept three days while community cats are kept five days including the day they were brought in.

General discussion ensued amongst City Council, Myrna Wetzel, and Ms. Castelanelli regarding a proposed drop-off fee for those individuals that continuously trap cats.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Ms. Castelanelli stated she was not aware that all money coming in from licensing is being given to the People Assisting the Lodi Shelter (PALS) organization. Council Member Hansen briefly described the City Council's former decision authorizing PALS to staff and operate the shelter and retain the related funding.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Ms. Castelanelli confirmed there is an ongoing dialogue between the Animal Advisory Commission and PALS.

In response to Council Member Johnson, PALS representative Nancy Alumbaugh stated there is no home check requirement for shelter animals, although PALS does do a yard check for animals that are transferred to them.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Lt. Carillo stated the total adoption fee is approximately \$100 for neutering, shots, and licensing.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Ms. Barney stated the spay/neuter fee for a cat is approximately \$30 to \$50, which may be reduced by a grant.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Lt. Carillo stated he is not sure about the work that is necessary to obtain an animal shelter grant, although he can confirm that the other grants he manages require a lot of work.

A brief discussion ensued between Mayor Katzakian, Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Lt. Carillo, Ms. Wetzel, and Ms. Castelanelli regarding the grants process, who can obtain grants, and what is necessary on an ongoing basis for grants.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Lt. Carillo stated he is not sure of the exact amount of micro-chipped animals in the City because several veterinarians perform the service, less than 25% of animals are chipped, and less than one-half of those that are chipped are properly registered.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Lt. Carillo stated the barn animals program is seeing some success.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Lt. Carillo stated he does have some mixed feelings about the spay/neuter and return program because the City's policy states animals should not be running loose and he does not want to be in violation of the City's own policy with such a program.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Lt. Carillo stated the City's policy regarding loose animals is somewhat unusual compared to other communities. Lt. Carillo confirmed that the City is not fixing feral cats and then setting them free. He stated only 10 of the approximately 1,400

cats brought in last year were feral tipped cats and they were turned over to the abandoned cat team.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Lt. Carillo stated the 500 block of East Elm Street is the primary location for trapped cats.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Lt. Carillo stated he believes people will simply handle trapped cats in another manner if a drop-off fee is charged.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Ms. Barney confirmed if an animal is a pet it may be kept longer than the five-day period to allow for the owner's retrieval of the pet.

In response to Mayor Katakian, Lt. Carillo stated staff is fully using the shelter website and a lot of information can be found on the same.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Lt. Carillo confirmed the animal services officers are providing more public education now that PALS is staffing the shelter itself.

In response to Myrna Wetzel, Ms. Barney confirmed animals that are kept as pets are allowed additional time for actual owner retrieval before they are adopted out.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Ms. Alumbaugh provided an update on the capital campaign for the construction of a new shelter at the Sycamore Lane Kennel, stating the project will cost approximately \$1.5 million, several services are being donated, and \$210,000 has been raised.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randi Johl
City Clerk