

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2010**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, June 29, 2010, commencing at 7:02 a.m.

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

Absent: Council Member Hansen

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

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Receive Presentation on FY 2010/11 Facility Use Rates for Parks and Recreation and Labor Rates for the Fire Department, Public Works Engineering Division, and Community Development Department (CM)

With the aid of a PowerPoint, Interim City Manager Rad Bartlam introduced the subject matter of facility use rates for Parks and Recreation and labor rate modifications for Fire, Public Works, and Community Development, stating that this matter will come back before Council on July 7 for action. The facility rates for Parks and Recreation were last updated in 2006, and the labor rate model currently being utilized was established last year by Council for Community Development.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Bartlam stated that the facility fees were constructed by Parks and Recreation, but the hourly rates were based upon the MGT America, Inc. methodology.

Interim Parks and Recreation Director Jim Rodems stated that nine cities were surveyed for facility use fee methods and practices, the best structure was selected which would allow the fees to remain competitive in the local market, and the rate includes a component for facility maintenance. The proposed system changes from three fee categories to two: community groups and residents (i.e. 501(c)3 organizations and individuals with a Lodi mailing address) and non-resident and commercial (i.e. individuals and entities without a Lodi mailing address and for-profit entities regardless of mailing address).

Council Member Johnson suggested amending the language regarding the Lodi mailing address as some addresses are listed as Lodi but are technically outside the City limits. Mr. Rodems and Mr. Bartlam stated that residency is verified with a City utility bill.

Myrna Wetzal pointed out that some Lodi residents have a Woodbridge address, to which Mr. Bartlam responded that the physical address, not a PO Box, is used to determine residency.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Rodems stated that rates for Hutchins Street Square were adjusted a number of years ago and staff determined that they were still competitive and did not need to be changed at this time.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. Rodems stated that the Grape Bowl fees are changing from a flat rate to an hourly rate because of the reduction in maintenance due to the type of field that is being installed and to move to hourly rentals versus all-day rentals as it is now,

which would also increase the frequency of use.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Mr. Rodems stated that, with regard to the Lodi Unified School District (LUSD) running events, staff did not differentiate between weekday and weekend meets, LUSD is now categorized as a community group, and there is no longer a separate rate. Staff is currently in negotiations with LUSD for the next ten-year joint use agreement, which may be ready for approval by the end of July.

Fire Chief Kevin Donnelly reviewed the Fire Department labor rates, stating that the rates were first implemented in 2005, they were calculated similar to those in Community Development, and since that time plan check was moved into Community Development and the rates were adjusted accordingly. The current proposed model is for full cost recovery and includes administrative overhead.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Chief Donnelly stated that typical fees would be for inspections by captains, engineers, firefighters, and fire marshal, determinations by the Fire Chief, licensing, and fire investigations. Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock requested Council be provided with both the prior and proposed cost of services.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Chief Donnelly stated that approximately 25 percent of the services provided by the Fire Department are billable.

Council Member Johnson stated he provided Council with copies of an article from the Sacramento Bee regarding fire departments that are charging for some forms of emergency services and suggested Council discuss this type of approach.

Public Works Director Wally Sandelin reviewed the Public Works Engineering Division labor rates, adding that having this rate would be beneficial when seeking reimbursement for state or federal projects and emergencies. He believed the proposed rates were fair and stated that the department would use them diligently.

Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock stated she would like to see how Lodi's rates compare with other cities. Discussion ensued amongst Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Council Member Johnson, Mayor Katakian, and Mr. Bartlam regarding fees and policies in various communities, reasons for the variety among cities, current economy, and discounted fees.

Mr. Bartlam reviewed the Community Development Building Division and Planning Division labor rates, stating that there are decreases in a majority of the proposed hourly rates for both divisions and that the department is now picking up the full cost of the Community Development Director position due to the fact that the General Plan is complete.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. Bartlam stated that the cost for professional services is folded into the overhead for the past year and into the next; however, the department will no longer be contracting out many of its services as the staffing level is adequate and there is a structural engineer on staff who can handle the technical plans.

Mr. Bartlam stated that at the July 7 Council meeting staff will provide a comparison with adjacent cities and information regarding what types of services are being billed.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Chief Donnelly outlined the different models among agencies regarding cost recovery for emergency services, stating that some departments charge for services such as vehicle accidents, DUIs, and hazardous materials spills and that some bill the insurance company while others bill the individual directly. Council Member Johnson stated that perhaps taxpayers in the community should not be billed for emergency services but those

who reside outside of the community should be. Chief Donnelly stated there is an option to charge those who are not currently paying for the service.

Council Member Mounce stated she would not support charging Lodi citizens for emergency services, but would for those coming into the community.

In response to Myrna Wetzel, Chief Donnelly stated that Lodi is a partner in the State's master mutual aid program and also participates in one locally for emergency response.

Council Member Johnson suggested there be a Shirtsleeve Session to discuss possibilities for charging for emergency response services.

Mr. Bartlam introduced newly appointed Electric Utility Director, Liz Kirkley.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 a.m.

ATTEST:

Jennifer M. Robison
Assistant City Clerk