

**CITY OF LODI
SPECIAL JOINT INFORMAL INFORMATIONAL
MEETING "SHIRTSLEEVE" SESSION
WITH THE LODI IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2007**

A Special Joint Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council and Lodi Improvement Committee was held Tuesday, September 11, 2007, commencing at 7:00 a.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members – Hansen, Hitchcock, Katzakian, Mounce, and Mayor Johnson

Absent: Council Members – None

Present: Lodi Improvement Committee Members – Forkas, Jarrett, Ortiz, Takeuchi,
Yadav, and Chairperson St. Yves

Absent: Lodi Improvement Committee Members – Lesan and Spinelli

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

B. TOPIC(S)

B-1 "Discussion of Items of Mutual Concern"

City Manager King briefly introduced the subject matter.

Lodi Improvement Committee Chairperson, Eileen St. Yves, provided some introductory remarks. General topics of discussion included homelessness, affordable housing, shopping carts, Cherokee Lane, and Census dress rehearsal.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Chairperson St. Yves stated Lawrence Park is more of a problem during the evening because there is a larger gathering of homeless individuals and the new bus shelter is being used for sleeping purposes.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Chairperson St. Yves stated the church contributes to the homeless problem on Tuesday evenings primarily.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Chairperson St. Yves stated she is not sure if the problem of homelessness would be fixed if the bridge problem was corrected and the Police Department and Caltrans are working in the area on an ongoing basis.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Chairperson St. Yves stated the hours of use might be adjusted to address some of the park concerns. City Attorney Schwabauer stated park hours vary from park to park, are generally from dusk to dawn, and are established as posted. Mr. Schwabauer also stated the hours may be changed if necessary.

Committee Member Jarrett suggested researching solutions for assisting the homeless population on a long-term basis rather than focusing on enforcement mechanisms only.

City Manager King provided an overview of the 2008 Census dress rehearsal to be held in San Joaquin County. Mr. King specifically discussed utilizing the expertise of the Lodi Improvement Committee in conjunction with the Census request for a committee to assist with public outreach efforts.

Census Bureau representative, Jaime Hernandez, provided an overview of the requested partnership with the City for the 2008 dress rehearsal. Specific topics of discussion included public outreach, space for training, and direction for the Lodi Improvement Committee regarding the same.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Hernandez stated there are a variety of ways the City can partner with the Census Bureau including efforts related to public outreach, training facilities, and media usage. City Manager King stated the Census Bureau to date has requested the City's assistance with a full count committee.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Chairperson St. Yves stated Barbara Fary of the Census Bureau will be attending the Lodi Improvement Committee meeting on October 2, 2007, to provide additional information. She urged the City Council and public to attend.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Committee Member Jarrett stated the St. Mary's dining room and adjacent building in Stockton are an example of potential solutions to homelessness. Mr. Jarrett stated the Salvation Army has changed its direction and now serves as more of a transitional facility rather than a homeless shelter. Discussion ensued between Mr. Jarrett, Mayor Johnson, and Mayor Pro Tempore Mounce regarding options to address the homelessness in the City and the City's obligation regarding the same.

In response to Committee Member Takeuchi, Mayor Johnson stated it would be beneficial for the Committee to be involved with the Census because the Committee already reviews some of the general subject matter and it would prevent the formation of another committee for the sole purpose of the Census. City Manager King concurred, stating that it is a good opportunity for the City to engage in meaningful work and be visible.

Chairperson St. Yves provided general comments regarding affordable housing options within the City. Discussion ensued between Chairperson St. Yves and Council Member Hansen regarding the location of the potential affordable housing project.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Mounce, City Manager King stated staff can arrange for a bus tour to the affordable housing site if it is so desired.

Council Member Hitchcock requested copies of all of the affordable housing proposals by Friday. Community Development Director Hatch stated staff was planning to present summaries of all the proposals and will provide copies of the proposals themselves as well.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Mr. Hatch stated the location for each of the proposals is the same.

Chairperson St. Yves provided some general comments regarding abandoned shopping carts. Discussion ensued between Chairperson St. Yves, Mayor Johnson, Mayor Pro Tempore Mounce, and Council Member Hitchcock regarding partnering options available with the businesses, contract services for City sweeping of shopping carts, and the obligations of individual stores to maintain shopping carts.

City Manager King provided an overview of varying policies and regulations associated with shopping carts, homelessness, and affordable housing. In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Mounce, Chairperson St. Yves stated Cherokee Lane should probably be a top priority and the Committee does a prioritizing and goal setting workshop every year in April.

In response to Mayor Johnson, City Attorney Schwabauer stated the homeless individuals do have a constitutional right to beg; although, ordinances addressing aggressive solicitation are permissible. Mr. Schwabauer also stated he would need to research staff's ability to retrieve shopping carts from private property, but common areas were likely permissible.

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Constance Zweifel spoke of her concerns regarding abandoned shopping carts and PG&E and City barricades being utilized by children in her neighborhood. She also requested a listing of bus stops.

Myrna Wetzel stated the poor will always be among the community and the issue is how to work with them.

Chairperson St. Yves thanked the Council for their consideration. Committee Member Yadav thanked the Council for attending the Committee's meetings.

Council Member Hansen requested the Lawrence Park postings be reviewed as necessary.

Council Member Hitchcock and Mayor Johnson suggested reviewing successful enforcement activity and centralized locations in other communities in regards to homelessness.

C. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

D. ADJOURNMENT

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randi Johl
City Clerk