

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2016**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, October 18, 2016, commencing at 7:02 a.m.

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

Absent: Mayor Chandler

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

NOTE: Council Member Nakanishi and Mayor Pro Tempore Kuehne left the meeting at 8:01 a.m.

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Presentation Providing an Update on Fire Department Staffing and Calls for Service (FD)

Fire Chief Larry Rooney provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding an update on the Fire Department staffing and calls for service. Specific topics of discussion included 2014 and 2015 fiscal year Fire Service calls, Lodi Fire Station areas, average response time, number of calls per station, total runs out of district, on scene and out of service times, Fire Engine No. 1 brownout, 2016 numbers, new technology, staffing, and new fire engines.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Kuehne, Chief Rooney stated that hazmat calls are in response to fuel spills or to determine unknown substances left behind, adding that a recent call investigated a 55-gallon drum of a white powder substance on Beckman Road. The team responded and determined it was non-hazardous and the property owner took care of the issue.

Council Member Mounce expressed concern about dealing with unknown substances and questioned what the training levels are for this type of response. Chief Rooney stated that staff receives appropriate training, maintains its certifications, and works with other agencies when it is determined that a higher level of expertise is necessary.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Chief Rooney stated it is a drain on the Fire Department when firefighters ride along with an ambulance, especially to a hospital outside of the jurisdiction, because it takes them away from servicing Lodi. In response to City Manager Schwabauer, Chief Rooney explained that the County hospital recently lost its status due to an inadequate number of trauma surgeons, which is prompting ambulance transport to Sacramento and a spike in Lodi's response times; however, he believed this was a temporary issue. Chief Rooney added that, even when transporting to the County hospital, the out of service times are still one to two hours.

Council Member Johnson questioned whether a Fire truck that is placed out of service when Lodi firefighters are busy transporting victims in an ambulance could be left in town for use. Chief Rooney confirmed that, in this type of situation, the Fire truck is not taken to the Sacramento hospital; instead, an engine is returned to Station No. 1 and another apparatus is utilized.

In response to Mr. Schwabauer, Chief Rooney stated that Fire Engine No. 1 had been browned-out since 2008, but the City committed dollars to address the issue and usage increased; however, cost of business increased, as well as the number of vacancies, which resulted in a decrease in service hours for the engine. Chief Rooney reported that all positions were filled a

few months ago, but now staffing is declining due to a vacancy and long-term injury. He expressed the difficulties in staying fully staffed 100 percent of the time, stating that the dollars normally entitled for staffing Engine No. 1 go instead into maintaining minimum staffing levels.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Chief Rooney stated that the reduction in training dollars has forced firefighters to train at Fire Station No. 1 instead of at their respective stations, which increases response times during training for incidents occurring outside of the Station No. 1 district. The response times presented are an average and includes walk-in calls as well as responses to calls to the outskirts of each district.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Chief Rooney stated that every Fire agency aims for a response time in the range of four to six minutes, but he was uncertain of the actual response times for other agencies and speculated that most are likely close to four minutes like Lodi. He added that Lodi is fortunate because of the shape of the community, it has four stations, and it is not subject to major gridlock, which aids in Lodi responsiveness.

B-2 Presentation Providing an Update on Police Department Staffing and Calls for Service (PD)

Police Captain Chris Jacobson provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding an update on the Police Department staffing and calls for service. Specific topics of discussion included Police districts, patrol shifts, calls for service, "a Day in the Life" of a patrol officer, and time spent during shift.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Captain Jacobson confirmed that Police Districts No. 1 and No. 3 are the busiest areas of criminal activity due to the high level of retail establishments and apartments versus the public perception that it is the east side districts.

In response to City Manager Schwabauer, Captain Jacobson explained that many of the shifts are filled using overtime hours and officers have had to cancel vacations and training opportunities in order to meet minimum staffing requirements. In addition, officers have been pulled from the AB109 Task Force, Detectives and Investigations Division, and the Auto Theft Task Force in order to cover the Patrol Division. Mr. Schwabauer further explained that the State imposes minimum mandatory leaves, such as the Family Leave Act that gives employees the right to be off work for six weeks, with which the City must comply. Such laws have a financial impact because those positions must continue to be filled, which negatively affects staffing levels. Captain Jacobson agreed, stating that the Traffic Unit is non-operational at this time due to staffing and yet the primary complaint from citizens is speeding and traffic violations.

Council Member Johnson suggested the Police Department implement the Fire Department's protocol, in which it stopped responding to specific types of non-life-threatening calls, by no longer performing bicycle and other routine stops. Captain Jacobson stated that the Police Department is proactive and aggressive in its approach to gang and criminal activity and he would not recommend eliminating vehicle, bicycle, or pedestrian stops of suspected or known gang members. He stated that the Police Department strives for excellent customer service and response times; however, services are forced to be reduced because of the staffing situation.

Council Member Mounce referenced the Governor's realignment law that was intended to save money for the State but ultimately pushed costs onto cities because crime increased and the homeless population intensified.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Captain Jacobson stated he does not have data on the effects legalized marijuana had on other states; however, the Colorado Police Chief gave a presentation recently on the negative consequences in Colorado and that the increase in taxes did not cover the increased cost of policing.

Council Member Mounce stated the League of California Cities is presenting a webinar on Thursday, October 20, 2016, regarding Proposition 64 and the impacts it may have on California. She encouraged the Police Department to participate along with the City Attorney.

Mr. Schwabauer informed the public that Proposition 57 on the November ballot is an effort to expand the current realignment law by increasing the types of crimes that would eliminate jail time. It is an effort to reduce costs to the State, but the question is what affect this legislation will have on local police departments.

Mike Lusk questioned if there has been an increase in the number of calls for injured or ill homeless individuals in the Fire Station No. 2 district; how area forest fires affect Fire Department calls; and whether the Police Department zones should be increased to address the growing population. Mr. Lusk stated he believed a visual police presence is needed because it may reduce crimes and traffic incidents and stated he supports the Police and Fire Departments.

Fire Chief Rooney stated the Fire Department has seen an increase in calls for the homeless, adding that the recent rains resulted in a surge of calls because individuals were wet, cold, and wanted to go to the hospital. With regard to mutual aid, the State agency makes those arrangements and the Lodi Fire Department assists when necessary, but Lodi does not have a major wild land issue. Mr. Schwabauer stated that when Lodi sends firefighters to assist with a wild land fire, staffing at the stations is backfilled using overtime; however, the State reimburses the City for the cost of the employee who assisted, as well as the cost of the employees covering the local shift. Assisting with wild land fires does create an overtime issue and a slight burden on overworked staff, but it does not result in a reduction in service or an increase in costs.

Alex Aliferis encouraged citizens to vote "no" on Proposition 57, which will put criminals, many of whom are violent, back on the streets in an effort to provide a second chance. He believed this legislation had harmful intentions and would be damaging to communities.

Myrna Wetzel questioned if it was State law that mandated there be three firefighters on each engine. Mr. Schwabauer explained that a Fire unit will not respond when it is understaffed. If, for example, a firefighter assisted with ambulance transport, leaving two firefighters in the unit, the engine is taken out of service because it does not meet the City's minimum staffing requirement of three personnel.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None

D. Adjournment

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 a.m.

ATTEST:

Jennifer M. Ferraiolo
City Clerk