

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2010**

A. Roll call by City Clerk

A Special Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, November 16, 2010, at Fire Station #4, 180 North Lower Sacramento Road, commencing at 7:08 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 Site Visit and Discussion Regarding the Phased Removal and Replacement of 39 Raywood Ash Trees on Lower Sacramento Road Between Elm Street and Tejon Street (PW)

Public Works Director Wally Sandelin reminded Council that it previously directed staff to look into alternatives for addressing the Raywood Ash trees along Lower Sacramento Road between Elm Street and Tejon Street that have caused damage to the pavement and water and sewer lines.

Streets and Drainage Superintendent Curt Juran stated that the trees were planted 20 years ago and have an aggressive root system. One alternative suggested was the use of a root barrier, which could cost up to \$39,000; however, arborists with West Coast Arborists, the City's current contractor, recommended against this option as it would be a temporary solution. Staff met with Tree Lodi and developed a phased approach of removing and replacing every other tree this year, followed by removal and replacement of the remaining trees the following year, which would soften the impact to the area.

Mr. Sandelin added that the plan is to begin the work after the leaves drop this year, and Mr. Juran stated West Coast Arborists will do the work both years as part of the current contract, which includes removal and replacement of the trees.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Juran stated that the trees in downtown Lodi have a similar root system to the proposed replacement trees and in researching the trees staff has found they have a low rating on roots and disease. Park Superintendent Steve Dutra, also representing Tree Lodi, added that Raywood Ash and Liquid Amber trees have very aggressive root systems and Tree Lodi no longer supports the planting of those species.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. Juran stated that simply cutting back the extensive root system may result in the tree no longer being fully supported or could kill all or part of the tree.

Mr. Dutra stated that this phased approach is a long-term solution; otherwise, the trees will require trimming time and again and the trees in question are still relatively young.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Interim City Manager Bartlam and Mr. Sandelin confirmed that there is money budgeted to absorb the cost of the phased removal and

replacement of the trees.

Mr. Juran stated that the issue with the trees became more apparent when the sewer lines were installed and he estimated it would cost in excess of \$100,000 to save the trees plus the cost of continued maintenance.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Juran stated that the roots are destroying the water and sewer lines by getting into the gaskets and pipes and breaking the joints and the concern is they could wrap around the pipe and break the line completely.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Mr. Dutra confirmed that Tree Lodi supports and recommends the phased approach; however, he believed the two-year time frame was a bit aggressive and would like to see it stretched over a slightly longer period. Mr. Juran stated that staff's recommendation is two years because of the damage potential.

Council Members were taken on a walking tour along Lower Sacramento Road to view the trees in question.

Mr. Sandelin summarized that staff will continue to work with Tree Lodi and, should Council provide direction at tomorrow night's meeting to move forward, staff will return to Council with a final plan.

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