

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2011**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, December 20, 2011, commencing at 7:00 a.m.

Present: Council Member Hansen, Council Member Katzakian, Mayor Pro Tempore Nakanishi, and Mayor Mounce

Absent: Council Member Johnson

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

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Discuss Role of the Lodi Animal Advisory Commission (PD)

City Manager Bartlam provided a brief introduction to the subject matter of the role of the Lodi Animal Advisory Commission.

Linda Castelanelli, former Chair of the Commission, provided a brief presentation regarding the recommendations previously brought forward by the Commission and the need for follow-up direction from the City Council.

In response to Mayor Mounce, Police Chief Mark Helms stated the City's contract with People Assisting the Lodi Shelter (PALS) to operate the animal shelter is working well.

In response to Mayor Mounce, Mr. Bartlam stated the role of a liaison for any of the boards, committees, and commissions in the City is to act as a link between the respective group and the City Council by among other things communicating policy.

In response to Mayor Mounce, Lieutenant Steve Carillo provided a brief overview of the power and duties of the Commission as set forth by resolution, stating PALS through its contract is performing many of the stated functions.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Ms. Castelanelli stated the Abandoned Cat Team currently handles trap neuter and return programs.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Lt. Carillo stated the \$50,000 from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for spay and neuter programs is administered through PALS at the animal shelter according to CDBG requirements.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Lt. Carillo stated adoption and license fees are set by the City. Lt. Carillo stated that, according to the report from the County, the City of Lodi has the highest adoption rate, the lowest euthanasia rate, and the lowest fees with the exception of Tracy.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Bartlam stated the adoption fees would have been adopted by the City Council via resolution or ordinance.

A brief discussion occurred between Ms. Castelanelli and City Attorney Schwabauer regarding the existence of PALS as an individual non-profit organization and a separate arm of that group

known as Lodi Shelter PALS with whom the City's contract exists.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Lt. Carillo stated PALS exists separately as an organization and pulls animals from the shelter for adoption just like the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and other similar organizations.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Lt. Carillo stated the current staffing at the animal shelter includes three full-time animal control personnel, four part-time kennel assistants, and two additional people from PALS serving as a front office clerk and an office manager.

Discussion ensued between Mayor Mounce, Council Member Hansen, and Ms. Castelanelli regarding catch and release programs, staff flexibility to try successful programs from other jurisdictions, and fees for cat adoptions.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Lt. Carillo stated the existing fees, which have been in place for a long time, are for cost recovery only and are not revenue generating.

Hy Cohen spoke of the Commission's need to receive direction from the City Council after the recommendations in the annual report are brought forward.

Carol Evans spoke in regard to charging the City's adopted fees for pet adoptions at the animal shelter as a PALS volunteer.

Eunice Friederich spoke in regard to keeping the adoption fees low to encourage more pet adoptions.

Myrna Wetzel spoke in regard to chips being required for pet adoptions through PALS but not at the animal shelter.

The City Council provided general direction to the City Manager to bring the matter back as an agenda item at a future City Council meeting for formal action by the City Council on the previously presented recommendations of the Commission.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

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

ATTEST:

Randi Johl
City Clerk