

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
LODI IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**

May 10, 2011

6:00 P.M.

**CARNEGIE FORUM – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
305 W. PINE STREET
Lodi, California**

For information regarding this Agenda please contact:
JOSEPH WOOD
TELEPHONE: (209) 333-6711

NOTE: All staff report or other written documentation relating to each item of business referred to on the agenda are on file in the Office of Community Development Department, located at 221 W. Pine Street, Lodi, and are available for public inspection. If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. To make a request for disability -related modification or accommodation contact the City Clerk's office as soon as possible and at least 24 hours prior to the meeting date.

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Roll Call

Minutes April 19, 2011 – Special Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Announcements/Presentations

Agenda Items:

- A. Neighborhood Nuisance Issues
- B. Follow up on Issues from Previous Meetings

Department Reports

- Community Development
- Police Department
- Public Works

Comments by the Public on Non-Agenda Items (5 minute limit per speaker)

Comments from Boardmembers on Non-Agenda Items (5 minute limit per speaker)

New Business

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

Adjournment

Pursuant to Section 54954.2(a) of the Government Code of the State of California, this agenda was posted at least 72 hours in advance of the regularly scheduled meeting (or 24 hours in advance of a special meeting) at a public place freely accessible to the public 24 hours a day.

Joseph Wood
Neighborhood Services Manager

**LODI IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

April 19, 2011

7:00 P.M.
ROLL CALL

BOARD		STAFF
<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	
Robert Takeuchi (Chair)	Tim Litton	Joseph Wood, CDD
Fran Forkas		Kari Chadwick, CDD
Sunil Yadav		
Lisa Nixon		

MINUTES

March 24, 2011 – Special Meeting

LIC Member Forkas motioned to approve the March 24, 2011 minutes. LIC Member Yadav seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Mr. Wood stated that there will be an update at the next meeting. There was some materials purchased at Sherwin Williams and that will be a part of the next report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Appointment/Reappointments

Mr. Wood stated that the reappointment of Tim Litton and the new appointment of Jim Finch will be on the City Council agenda for tomorrow night. This will still leave one vacancy and the City Clerk’s Office will be posting for it, so if you know anyone that is interested please encourage them to apply.

B. Statements of Economic Interest

Mr. Wood encouraged the LIC Members that have not yet turned in their 700 Forms to do so.

AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Takeuchi asked for clarification regarding the Treasures position. Mr. Wood stated that once the funds have been dispersed there will be a trust fund set up through the City’s Finance Department to handle the funds that will flow through the Committee. This will make the Treasures position unnecessary.

A. Election of Officers

Chair Takeuchi opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

LIC Member Forkus nominated Bob Takeuchi for Chair, LIC Member Yavad seconded the nomination. There being no further discussion Chair Takeuchi called for the vote. The nomination of LIC Member Takeuchi for Chair passed unanimously.

Chair Takeuchi opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

LIC Member Yavad nominated Forkus for Vice Chair, LIC Member Takeuchi seconded the nomination. Member Forkus declined. LIC Member Forkus nominated Tim Litton for Vice Chair LIC Member Nixon seconded the nomination. There being no further discussion Chair Takeuchi called for the vote. The nomination of LIC Member Litton for Vice Chair passed unanimously

B. Follow-up on Issues from Previous Meetings

Main Street Project:

Mr. Wood gave a brief report regarding the Main Street project based on the information in the staff report. It was decided to get information from Mr. Litton before setting a new target date. Discussion regarding the Fire Fighters and General Services and Maintenance & Operators (ASFCME) groups as volunteers for the project occurred. It was the consensus of the Committee to give the Fire Fighters first option of volunteering before asking any other groups.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Community Development

Planning Commission – Past Action

Mr. Wood stated that during the last Planning Commission meeting the liaison for the Art In Public Places reported that there is going to be a Taco Truck Cook Off in the Smart and Final parking lot.

Neighborhood Services Division

Mr. Wood stated that typically cities have their fund allocation numbers from HUD for distribution by now, but with the continued discussions at the Federal level regarding cuts HUD has not been able to pass along any numbers. The word is that there will be a 16.5% cut from last year's allocation for Lodi. That is about \$675,000. The Harvest Food Bank has received an allocation of \$10,000 per year from the City of Lodi for the last few years and with the cuts that will more than likely drop to \$5,000 for this year. Mr. Wood also added that the Emergency Food & Shelter Program which he sits on the board is funded through FEMA and they will be seeing cuts of about 40%. The Federal Government has funded that program over the years with 200 million dollars and that has been cut to 120 million. Those funds go specifically to emergency shelters, Salvation Army, the Women's Center, and a number of other emergency centers.

Building Division

None

B. Police Department

- **District/Watch Commander & Community Improvement Unit/Code Enforcement**

Mr. Wood stated that due to funding and staffing the Police Department will not be able to send a liaison to the meetings, but have been asked to send information that will be pertinent through a memo. There is also the opportunity to send them a request for information if something comes up at the meetings.

C. Public Works

None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

A. Looking Ahead

- **May 10th – Trying again to get El Concilio**
 - Mr. Wood stated that staff is still trying to reach out to El Concilio for a presentation. Chair Takeuchi asked about other Mexican/American groups, like the group that is associated with the Chamber of Commerce.
- **Goal Setting Session – May 14th?**
 - Mr. Wood asked all of the members to look at their calendars and see if May 14th would work for the goal setting meeting. Mr. Wood will send out an email and get a consensus from the rest of the members.
- **June 14th**
 - Mr. Wood stated that he does not have anything for this meeting yet.

Discussion regarding the Celebration on Central event occurred.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Kari Chadwick, Recording Secretary



MEMORANDUM, City of Lodi, Community Development Department

To: Lodi Improvement Committee
From: Joseph Wood, Neighborhood Services Manager
Date: May 3, 2011
Subject: Staff Report for Regular Meeting of May 10, 2011

I. Treasurer's Report

Beginning balance, as of 3/24/11, was \$607.69.

There was one check (#1079) to Sherman Williams drawn on 3/31/11, for the paint supplies for the Main Street Project. A Service Fee of \$3.00 was assessed on 4/21/11.

Ending balance, as of 4/21/11, was 407.81.

II. Announcements/Presentations

A. LIC Goal Setting Session scheduled for May 14th, 9am.

III. Agenda Items:

A. Neighborhood Nuisance Issues

From time to time we receive inquiries from residents regarding what they can do to address nuisance activity within their neighborhood. Usually this refers to an unreasonable, unwarranted, or unlawful use of a neighboring property in a manner that substantially interferes with the enjoyment or use of another individual's property. The term "quiet enjoyment" is commonly used in this case and refers to a right to undisturbed use of your property. This private nuisance activity is a civil matter that is pursued by the individual, whereas a public nuisance is a criminal matter that must be pursued by the local enforcement authority.

In Lodi there have been several instances of both civil actions and criminal actions have been taken to address nuisance issues. In 1993, then-Eastside Improvement Committee member and current Council member JoAnne Mounce led other EIC members in a civil small claims nuisance action against the owner of a property at 220 E. Pine Street. In that case, the owner was ordered to pay judgments ranging from \$500 to \$1500 for failing to abate nuisance conditions at the property.

More recently, in 2010 Woodbridge resident Karen Soliz and a group of her neighbors filed a small claims action against a troublesome neighbor and were awarded \$7500 each.

These cases followed a process that was first tried in 1989 by Oakland resident Molly Wetzel and led to the formation of a program called "Safe Streets Now!" While there are licensing and training fees required to participate in the Safe Streets Now!

program, the process has been documented and information is available on the Internet to help residents pursue a civil action.

The actual filing of a small claims action against a property owner should be considered only as the last option and the success of such an action is based upon evidence that all other options have been pursued and exhausted. One such preliminary option is to seek mediation and in the most recent Woodbridge case, Ms. Soliz did invite the property owner to participate in a mediation talks with her and the neighbors, but the property failed to follow through.

As you may recall from a previous presentation to the LIC in September of last year, the Mediation Center of San Joaquin County is available to help facilitate that process. There is a nonrefundable case-development fee, ranging from \$35 to \$100 that is usually paid by the party requesting mediation.

Many if not all of these nuisance issues involve gang, drug or other illicit activities that are affecting the surrounding neighborhood. Those instances would of course involve the Police Department. On many occasions, we would facilitate a meeting with the affected neighbors and the District officers who were handling the calls to the property and in some cases the Lodi Police Department would assign a specific officer a Problem-Oriented Policing or POP Project to better coordinate the investigation and/or enforcement activities. As necessary, the POP Officer can bring in other resources such as code enforcement, parole/probation, etc. to address the issues found.

In several jurisdictions, the City actually provides guidance and coordination for these civil nuisance actions, as somewhat of a buffer or go-between for the parties involved. For Lodi, we are only allowed to provide the basic information that is available on the Internet and make referrals to the various departments, agencies and organizations that can assist neighbors in pursuing such an action.

For this meeting, I have made contact with and invited Woodbridge resident Karen Soliz to attend the meeting. She is very interested in sharing her experiences and providing insight for anyone else dealing with nuisance issues. In addition, I've asked Lt. Patterson from the Lodi Police Department to provide some written information for the meeting regarding current POP projects.

B. Follow up on Issues from Previous Meetings

Main Street Project

The paint and equipment was purchased and is in storage in the old Public Safety Building. I am still working on getting the Lodi Professional Firefighter's Association (LPFA) involved with this project. A new target date should be set for this project.

IV. Department Reports

A. Community Development Department

- **Planning Commission**
- **Neighborhood Services Division**
- **Building Division**

B. Police Department

- **District/Watch Commander**
- **Community Improvement Unit/Code Enforcement**

C. Public Works

V. New Business

A. Looking Ahead

- **May 14th – Goal Setting Session**
- **June 14th – *El Consilio/Hispanic Business Committee -CoC/Mexican-American Lions Club***
- **July 12th – *TBD***