



City Manager's Weekly Update – December 13, 2019

A fond farewell: Next week we will say a difficult and fond farewell to City Clerk Jennifer Ferraiolo. Jennifer has served the City, its Council and its citizens with distinction for over thirty years. In that time, she implemented



numerous improvements to the Clerk function including the move to a cloud based digital platform for recording Council meetings and agendas, a cloud based records management system, electronic Political Reform Act filing, improvements to the Council protocol manual, 15 elections, and of course thousands of council packets. Notwithstanding the significant stress associated with the never ending deadlines, Jennifer always managed to wear a smile and a positive attitude. Few probably stop to consider the immense personal challenge that faces a City Clerk. They must remain a neutral party representing all citizens equally. That often means swallowing their own personal opinions and representing to the world that they are fully impartial. Jennifer has stood up under that obligation like no City Clerk I have had the opportunity to serve with.

The Munis approval for Jennifer's separation is open on my desktop as I write this. It remains to be seen if I will be able to bring myself to check the approval today. I have tried twice with no success. Suffice it to say, I will miss her as a colleague, friend and coworker who can always be relied on to deliver.

A new beginning: The recruitment period for the City Clerk is now closed. The recruiting firm will now narrow down the pool and provide a list of candidates to Council sometime in January. During the recruiting period, we have an excellent team to continue the work with Assistant City Clerk Pam Farris agreeing to fill the role as Interim City Clerk and Peggy Nicolini agreeing to backfill the Assistant City Clerk position.

In other recruiting and retirement news: First round interviews for Community Development Director were held this week with five strong candidates. Final interviews with the City Manager and a representative from the Planning Commission will take place the first week of January. We hope to have the position filled sometime in February. PRCS Director remains open for applications and will close December 20th. We will also be saying adieu to Fire Captain Brian Jungeblut next week just shy of 23 years of service to the City of Lodi. Brian will be sorely missed by his crew who honored him for his dedicated service to them and our community at his farewell earlier this week. Police Officer John Nickel retired yesterday following a 22 ½ year career on the force protecting Lodi's community and its citizens. We all send a huge "Thank You" for your esteemed careers with Lodi and Congratulations on your Retirement.

A New Fried Chicken Sandwich contender enters the Ring: If you can't just limit yourself to the debate over Popeye's versus Chick Fillet... Staff met earlier this week with representatives of the Baton Rouge based Raising Cane's chicken tender restaurant. Raising Cane's prides itself on a simple but quality southern fried chicken menu and looks to locate in the former Wal-Mart center across from Farmer Boys.

Refinance: After closing an NCPA refinancing, staff will immediately jump into a new effort to reduce debt service costs in the water utility. The City is beginning the process of refunding the 2010 Water Revenue Bonds, Series B (Taxable BABs), which are callable June 1, 2020. Currently, \$29.65 million of these bonds are outstanding. The bonds are anticipated to close in early April 2020. The net present value savings right now are estimated at approximately \$5.6 million or more than 18% without extending the life of the debt and an annual savings of \$400,000.