

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CARNEGIE FORUM
305 WEST PINE STREET, LODI
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026 – 6:15 P.M.**

C-1 Call to Order / Roll Call

The City Council Closed Session meeting of February 18, 2026, was called to order by Mayor Yepez at 6:17 p.m.

Present: Council Member Craig-Hensley, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yepez

Absent: Council Member Bregman and Council Member Nakanishi

Also Present: Interim City Manager Lindsay, City Attorney Lucchesi, and City Clerk Nashed

NOTE: Council Member Bregman arrived at 6:48 p.m.

C-2 Announcement of Closed Session

- a) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT, Pursuant to Government Code § 54957(b). One Position: Interim City Manager.
- b) CONFERENCE ON LABOR NEGOTIATIONS – Regarding International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Lodi City Mid-Management Association, AFSCME General Services and Maintenance & Operators, Police Mid-Managers, Lodi Police Officers Association, Lodi Police Dispatchers Association, Lodi Professional Firefighters, Lodi Fire Mid-Management, Confidential General Services, Confidential Mid-Managers, Executive Managers, and Appointed Employees, Pursuant to Government Code § 54957.6 (HR)
- c) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION, Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9(d)(2). Two Cases.

C-3 Adjourn to Closed Session

At 6:19 p.m., Mayor Yepez adjourned the meeting to a Closed Session to discuss the above matters. The Closed Session adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

C-4 Return to Open Session / Disclosure of Action

At 7:05 p.m., Mayor Yepez reconvened the City Council meeting, and City Attorney Lucchesi disclosed that there was no reportable action.

A. Call to Order / Roll Call

The Regular City Council meeting of February 18, 2026, was called to order by Mayor Yepez at 7:06 p.m.

Present: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley, Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yepez

Absent: None

Also Present: Interim City Manager Lindsay, City Attorney Lucchesi, and City Clerk Nashed

B. Presentations

B.1 Presentation of Proclamation In Observance of the Month of Ramadan, February 17 – March 19, 2026 (CLK)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Proclamation](#)

Mayor Yepez presented a proclamation in observance of the Month of Ramadan, February 17 - March 19, 2026, to Masjid Ya Rasool-Allah, Khurram Shehzan Khan, Roger Khan, Mohsen Masood Khan, and Muhammad Sohrab Ali Khan.

B.2 Presentation of Recognition to Retiring Community Development Director, John Della Monica (CLK)

Retiring Community Development Director John Della Monica spoke regarding his time at the City of Lodi and his appreciation of staff and the community.

Mayor Yepez presented retiring Community Development Director Della Monica with a key to the City and a historical picture of the City signed by Community Development staff. Deputy Community Development Director Cynthia Marsh and Neighborhood Services Manager Jennifer Rhyne spoke about retiring Community Development Director Della Monica.

Council Member Nakanishi spoke regarding Community Development Director Della Monica's service to the City and the community.

B.3 Presentation of Recognition to Outgoing Interim City Manager James Lindsay (CLK)

Mayor Yepez presented outgoing Interim City Manager James Lindsay with an axe made by the Fire Department and a key to the City and spoke regarding his service to the City.

Outgoing Interim City Manager Lindsay spoke regarding his time with the City.

Council Member Nakanishi and Council Member Bregman spoke regarding outgoing Interim City Manager Lindsay's contributions to the City.

C. Consent Calendar (Reading; Comments by the Public; Council Action)

Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi made a motion, second by Council Member Craig-Hensley, to approve the following items hereinafter set forth, **except those otherwise noted**, in accordance with the report and recommendation of the City Manager.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yopez
Noes: None
Absent: None

C.1 Receive and File Treasurer's Report and Register of Claims (IS - FIN)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Treasurer's Report](#)
[Attachment 2 - Register of Claims](#)

Claims were approved in the amount of \$156,510,180.

C.2 Accept the Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ending September 30, 2025 (IS - FIN)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Quarterly Investment Report 9.30.25](#)

Accepted the Quarterly Investment Report for the quarter ending September 30, 2025.

C.3 Accept the Quarterly Report of Purchases between \$30,000 and \$60,000 through December 31, 2025 (IS - FIN)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - \\$30k to \\$60k Purchases for Quarter 4](#)

Accepted the Quarterly Report of Purchases between \$30,000 and \$60,000 through December 31, 2025.

C.4 Adopt a Resolution Waiving the Bid Process and Approving Renewal of Dental Claims Administration Agreement with Stanislaus Foundation for Medical Care and Further Authorizing the Interim City Manager to Execute Agreement (IS - HR)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Agreement with Stanislaus](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

Adopted Resolution No. 2026-17 waiving the bid process and approving the renewal of the Dental Claims Administration Agreement with Stanislaus Foundation for Medical Care and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the agreement.

C.5 Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving the Allocation of Public Benefit Funds of \$7,500 from District 2 Non-Profit Funds to Lodi Community Church ("Love Lodi") (Total \$7,500) (CLK)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Reso 2025-120 and Adopted Nonprofit Fund Policy](#)
[Attachment 2 - Proposal Letter](#)
[Attachment 3 - Resolution](#)

Adopted Resolution No. 2026-18 approving the allocation of Public Benefit Funds of \$7,500 from District 2 Non-Profit Funds to Lodi Community Church ("Love Lodi").

C.6 Adopt a Resolution Repealing and Replacing Resolution No. 2023-98 and Adopting a Revised Lodi City Council Strategic Vision (CM)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Updated Strategic Vision \(Clean\)](#)
[Attachment 2 - Updated Strategic Vision \(Redlined\)](#)
[Attachment 3 - Resolution](#)

This item was pulled at the request of Council Member Craig-Hensley.

Council Member Craig-Hensley stated that she would like this item on the Regular Calendar so that the public has the opportunity to provide feedback on prioritization, with her preference being to continue it to the March 4, 2026 agenda.

In response to Mayor Yepez, City Clerk Nashed provided information regarding continuing the item to the March 4, 2026 agenda.

Council Member Craig-Hensley made a motion, second by Council Member Bregman, to continue this item to the March 4, 2026, Regular Calendar agenda.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yepez
Noes: None
Absent: None

C.7 Adopt a Resolution Appointing Christina Jaromay to the Position of City Treasurer of the City of Lodi (CM)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Resolution](#)

This item was pulled at the request of Council Member Craig-Hensley.

Council Member Craig-Hensley spoke regarding the need for codification of the qualifications of the position of City Treasurer.

This item was included in the vote on the Consent Calendar.

Adopted Resolution No. 2026-19 appointing Christina Jaromay to the position of City Treasurer of the City of Lodi.

C.8 Adopt a Resolution Updating City Staff Signers on City of Lodi Farmers & Merchants Bank Accounts (IS - BUD)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Resolution and Signature Cards for F&M](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

Adopted Resolution No. 2026-20 updating City staff signers on City of Lodi Farmers & Merchants Bank accounts.

- C.9** Adopt a Resolution Accepting and Appropriating the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Round 5 Grant and Authorizing the Interim City Manager or Designee to Execute HHAP Round 5 Subrecipient Agreements in a Form Acceptable by the City Attorney (CD)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - CIP](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

This item was pulled at the request of Mayor Yepez.

Mayor Yepez requested that this item be voted on separately from the Consent Calendar.

Council Member Bregman made a motion, second by Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-21 accepting and appropriating the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Round 5 Grant and authorizing the Interim City Manager or designee to execute HHAP Round 5 Subrecipient Agreements in a form acceptable by the City Attorney.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, and Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi
Noes: Mayor Yepez
Absent: None

- C.10** Approve Lodi Tourism Business Improvement District 2025 Annual Report (ED)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Exhibit A - Visit Lodi Annual Report 2025 and 2026 Plan](#)

This item was pulled at the request of Council Member Craig-Hensley.

Council Member Craig-Hensley stated that she feels it is important that Council and the public are informed about the activities of the Lodi Tourism Business Improvement District and invited Visit Lodi President Wes Rhea to the podium.

Mr. Rhea provided a brief overview of the annual report.

This item was included in the vote on the Consent Calendar.

Approved the Lodi Tourism Business Improvement District 2025 Annual Report.

- C.11** Adopt a Resolution Approving Lodi Electric Utility Fee Schedule and Authorizing Annual Cost Based Adjustments (EU)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Resolution](#)

Adopted Resolution No. 2026-22 approving the Lodi Electric Utility Fee Schedule and authorizing annual cost-based adjustments.

C.12 Adopt a Resolution Rejecting All Bids for the Adore Pets Building Demolition (PW)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Resolution](#)

This item was pulled at the request of Council Member Craig-Hensley.

In response to Council Member Craig-Hensley, Interim Public Works Director Sean Nathan provided information regarding the rejection of bids for the Adore Pets building demolition and the Community Development Department's alternate plan for the demolition.

This item was included in the vote on the Consent Calendar.

Adopted Resolution No. 2026-23 rejecting all bids for the Adore Pets building demolition.

C.13 Adopt a Resolution Authorizing Interim City Manager to Execute Amendment No. 5 with West Yost & Associates, Inc of Davis, for Fiscal Year 2025/26 Regulatory Engineering Services at White Slough Water Pollution Control Facility (\$60,000) (PW)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Amendment No 5](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

Adopted Resolution No. 2026-24 authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute Amendment No. 5 to the Professional Services Agreement with West Yost & Associates, Inc., of Davis, for Fiscal Year 2025/26 regulatory engineering services at White Slough Water Pollution Control Facility, in the amount of \$60,000.

C.14 Adopt a Resolution Authorizing Interim City Manager to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding Between the San Joaquin Council of Governments and the City of Lodi Regarding the Coordination of Ongoing Transit Planning and Programming of Federal Funds that Support the Ongoing and Future Deployment of Transit Services in the San Joaquin Region (PW)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - SJCOG MOU](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

Adopted Resolution No. 2026-25 authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the San Joaquin Council of Governments and the City of Lodi regarding the coordination of ongoing Transit planning and programming of Federal funds that support the ongoing and future deployment of Transit services in the San Joaquin Region.

C.15 Accept Improvements Under Contract for 2024 DeBenedetti Park South Parking Lot Expansion (PW)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Exhibit A - Project Photos](#)

This item was pulled at the request of Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, Interim Public Works Director Sean Nathan provided information regarding the 2024 DeBenedetti Park South Parking Lot Expansion project, including the scope of work, the Building Code requirement for EV chargers, and the delay in installation of the chargers.

In response to Mayor Yopez, Interim Public Works Director Nathan provided information regarding the specifics of the EV chargers.

In response to Mayor Yopez, Assistant Electric Utility Director Melissa Price provided information regarding the installation of EV fast chargers.

This item was included in the vote on the Consent Calendar.

Accepted the improvements under the contract for the 2024 DeBenedetti Park South Parking Lot Expansion.

- C.16** Set Public Hearing for March 18, 2026, to Consider Resolution Adopting Pre-Approved, Proposition 218 Consumer Price Index-Based Annual Adjustment to Rates for Solid Waste Collection (PW)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Exhibit A - Proposed Rates](#)

Set a public hearing for March 18, 2026, to consider a resolution adopting pre-approved, Proposition 218 Consumer Price Index-based annual adjustment to rates for solid waste collection.

- C.17** Set a Public Hearing for March 4, 2026, to Repeal and Replace Resolution No. 2018-111 and Authorize the City of Lodi to Join the Statewide Community Infrastructure Program; Authorize the California Statewide Communities Development Authority to Accept Applications from Property Owners, Conduct Special Assessment Proceedings and Levy Assessments and Special District Taxes and to Form Assessment Districts and Community Facilities Districts Within the Territory of the City of Lodi; Embody the Terms of a Joint Community Facilities Agreement Setting Forth the Provisions for Community Facilities District Financings; Approve Form of Acquisition Agreement for Use When Applicable; and Authorize Related Actions (ED)

Set a public hearing for March 4, 2026, to repeal and replace Resolution No. 2018-111 and authorize the City of Lodi to join the Statewide Community Infrastructure Program; authorize the California Statewide Communities Development Authority to accept applications from property owners, conduct Special Assessment proceedings and levy assessments and Special District taxes and to form Assessment Districts and Community Facilities Districts within the territory of the City of Lodi; embody the terms of a Joint Community Facilities Agreement setting forth the provisions for Community Facilities District financings; approve form of Acquisition Agreement for use when applicable; and authorize related actions.

- D.** **Comments by the Public on Non-Agenda Items - None**

- E.** **Comments by the City Council Members on Non-Agenda Items**

Council Member Craig-Hensley spoke regarding her inability to read all of the agreements tied to Items G.8 through G.15 due to the delayed agenda posting. She requested that those items be continued to the March 4 agenda.

- F.** **Public Hearings**

- F.1** Public Hearing to Consider Adopting a Resolution Setting Pre-Approved Engineering News Record Adjustment Index for Usage-Based and Flat Water Rates for Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Customers (PW)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Exhibit A - Water Rates](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

Notice thereof having been published according to law, an affidavit of which publication is on file in the office of the City Clerk, Mayor Yepez called for the public hearing to consider adopting a resolution setting pre-approved Engineering News Record adjustment index for usage-based and flat water rates for residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

Public Works Management Analyst Rebecca Areida provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding setting pre-approved Engineering News Record adjustment index for usage-based and flat water rates for residential, commercial, and industrial customers. Specific topics of discussion included background, staff recommendation, Water Meter Program status, seven-year summary of rate adjustments, rate increase history, recommended meter rates, 2.4% increase amounts, rate comparison of local cities, planned Capital projects, and recommendation.

In response to Council Member Bregman, City Attorney Lucchesi provided information regarding Proposition 218.

In response to Council Member Bregman, Interim Public Works Director Sean Nathan provided information regarding the Water Treatment Plant capacity expansion planned for FY 29/30 and the separate issue of infrastructure for stormwater and wastewater.

In response to Council Member Craig-Hensley, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi and City Attorney Lucchesi provided information regarding the rate adjustment and ENR in 2021.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Interim Public Works Director Nathan clarified the process for rate adjustment.

Council Member Bregman requested additional information be provided to Council regarding the Water Treatment Plant capacity expansion project.

Mayor Yepez opened the public hearing for public comment at 7:57 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mayor Yepez closed the public hearing at 7:58 p.m.

Council Member Craig-Hensley made a motion, second by Council Member Nakanishi, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-26 setting pre-approved Engineering News Record adjustment index for usage-based and flat water rates for residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yepez
Noes: None
Absent: None

- F.2** Public Hearing to Consider Waiving the First Reading and Introducing Ordinance Revising Lodi Municipal Code, Section 13.20.240 Schedule G1-General Service-Group 1 Commercial/Industrial and Section 13.20.250 Schedule G2-General Service-Group 2 Commercial/Industrial (Community Benefits Incentive Discount) (EU)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Ordinance \(Redlined\)](#)
[Attachment 2 - Ordinance \(Clean\)](#)
[Attachment 3 - PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Notice thereof having been published according to law, an affidavit of which publication is on file in the office of the City Clerk, Mayor Yepez called for the public hearing to consider waiving the first reading and introducing an ordinance revising Lodi Municipal Code, Section 13.20.240 Schedule G1-General Service-Group 1 Commercial/Industrial and Section 13.20.250 Schedule G2-General Service-Group 2 Commercial/Industrial (Community Benefits Incentive Discount).

Assistant Electric Utility (EU) Director Melissa Price provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the introduction of an ordinance revising Lodi Municipal Code Section 13.20.240 Schedule G1-General Service-Group 1 Commercial/Industrial and Section 13.20.250 Schedule G2-General Service-Group 2 Commercial/Industrial (Community Benefits Incentive Discount). Specific topics of discussion included background on Community Benefits Incentive Discount (CBID), current situation, proposed ordinance changes, timeline, next steps, and recommendation.

In response to Council Member Craig-Hensley, Assistant EU Director Price provided information regarding the self-certification process, screening, and the Disadvantaged Community area.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Assistant EU Director Price provided information regarding the confidentiality of the organizations currently receiving the discount and the total value of the discount.

In response to Mayor Yepez, City Attorney Lucchesi stated the creation of a similar program for the private sector for companies which are relocating to Lodi would fall under the purview of the Economic Development Director. Assistant EU Director Price further provided information regarding the Economic Development Rate, the New Business Discount, and the New Jobs Discount.

Mayor Yepez opened the public hearing for public comment at 8:11 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mayor Yepez closed the public hearing at 8:11 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi made a motion, second by Council Member Craig-Hensley, to waive the first reading and introducing Ordinance No. 2046 revising Lodi Municipal Code Section 13.20.240 Schedule G1-General Service-Group 1 Commercial/Industrial and Section 13.20.250 Schedule G2-General Service-Group 2 Commercial/Industrial (Community Benefits Incentive Discount).

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yepez
Noes: None
Absent: None

G. Regular Calendar

G.1 Receive Presentation of the Lodi Economic Development Strategic Plan and Consider Resolution Adopting the Plan (ED)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Lodi Economic Development Strategic Plan](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

Interim City Manager Lindsay stated that Economic Development Director Luis Aguilar is prepared to provide a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Lodi Economic Development

Strategic Plan, however, at one-on-one meetings with Council Members this week, it appeared Council may wish to continue this item to March 4. He noted the consultant has made travel plans to attend the March 4 Council meeting.

Council Member Craig-Hensley stated her preference would be to receive the PowerPoint presentation, in the interest of providing the information to the public, and to evaluate any public comment for the need to continue the item to March 4.

Mayor Yepez concurred with Council Member Craig-Hensley's recommendation, in the interest of providing the opportunity for more public engagement.

Economic Development Director Aguilar provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Lodi Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP). Specific topics of discussion included background; introduction of Economic Development Ad-Hoc Committee; consultant team of The Natelson Dale Group, Inc., Economic Growth Strategies, and RRM Design Group; process; stakeholder engagement; SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) summary; regional context for economic development in Lodi; highlights of North Valley Thrive Strategic initiatives; potential target industries; eight strategy categories of EDSP; EDSP implementation; Action Plan highlights; key partnerships; and EDSP performance metrics.

Council Member Craig-Hensley commended Economic Development Director Aguilar, the steering committee, and the consultants on the thorough plan.

Council Member Bregman spoke regarding the loss of local businesses in the past due to the lack of Economic Development staff, the importance of the performance metrics, the mindset of pursuing new businesses and maintaining current businesses, and the good work of the Economic Development Committee.

Mayor Yepez spoke regarding the progress the City is making with this plan and the need for the City to be more customer friendly.

Mark Chandler, Chair of the Economic Development Committee, spoke regarding the well-done plan, opportunities for growth in higher level jobs in agriculture, and support for the Economic Development Committee remaining for the implementation phase of the EDSP.

City Clerk Nashed stated Council could make a motion and vote on either continuing the item to the March 4 agenda or accepting the plan.

Council Member Craig-Hensley spoke regarding the importance of maintaining the Economic Development Committee, partnership with the Lodi Chamber of Commerce, and her support of moving forward with acceptance of the plan.

Council Member Craig-Hensley made a motion, second by Council Member Bregman, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-27 adopting the Lodi Economic Development Strategic Plan.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes:	Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley, Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yepez
Noes:	None
Absent:	None

G.2 Consider Adopting a Resolution Extending the Term of Economic Development Ad-Hoc Committee for an Additional Year (ED)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Resolution No. 2024-20](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

Economic Development Director Luis Aguilar provided a presentation regarding the extension of the term of the Economic Development Ad-Hoc Committee for an additional year. Specific topics of discussion included recent expiration of the Committee's term, the Committee's recommendation to extend the term for at least one additional year to oversee the implementation of the plan, return in the future regarding an economic development-related committee, and recommendation.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, Economic Development Director Aguilar provided information regarding the expiration of the Committee term before the adoption of the Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP) and the Downtown Specific Plan, which is directly related to the EDSP, and the recommendation of current members to extend the term of the Committee.

Council Member Craig-Hensley expressed agreement with the two plans being directly related and stated she would like to have the Economic Development Committee comment on the Downtown Specific Plan in areas in which it overlaps with the EDSP.

Mayor Yepez stated that he felt that Council Member Bregman should focus on the Downtown Specific Plan as it encompasses more of his district. He further stated that Economic Development aligns more closely with his background, so he should be involved with the EDSP.

In response to Mayor Yepez, Council Member Bregman stated he would cede his seat on the Economic Development Ad-Hoc Committee.

JP Doucette, President of the Lodi Chamber of Commerce, thanked Council for adoption of the Economic Development Strategic Plan and spoke regarding the importance of the implementation, his support for the continuance of the Committee, the integration of the planning documents that are in progress, and the continued engagement of all of the people who have been involved in the EDSP to maintain momentum.

Council Member Craig-Hensley made a motion, second by Council Member Bregman, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-28 extending the term of the Economic Development Ad-Hoc Committee for an additional year, with Council Member Bregman ceding his seat to Mayor Yepez.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yepez

Noes: None

Absent: None

G.3 Discuss and Provide Direction on the Formation of a City Council Ad-Hoc Committee to Review and Make Recommendations on the City's Delivery of Services to the Community (CM)

Mayor Yepez provided a presentation regarding the formation of a City Council ad-hoc committee to review and make recommendations on the City's delivery of services to the community. Specific topics of discussion included the Council priority of creating a business-friendly environment; proposed group of two Council Members with people from the community to look at problems, such as how to make the permitting process more efficient; implementation of a customer service matrix for all City departments; an ad-hoc committee with a term of eight months; and committee recommendations for improvement to be brought to Council.

Council Member Nakanishi suggested having the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore as the two committee members.

Council Member Bregman suggested either Council Member Craig-Hensley or himself as being on the committee, due to their experience.

Council Member Craig-Hensley stated she felt she needed to step back from this committee as she is too invested in a personal and professional standpoint.

Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi stated he would defer to Council Member Bregman.

City Clerk Nashed clarified that Mayor Yepez has requested that staff bring an item to a future agenda for the formation of an ad-hoc committee.

JP Doucette, President of the Lodi Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of the formation of the ad-hoc committee and offered assistance in providing information on similar efforts.

Mayor Yepez noted that the Lodi Chamber of Commerce is listed as one of the partners to be represented on the committee and asked that the complete staff report be forwarded to Mr. Doucette and Council.

Interim City Manager Lindsay clarified information on the item that will be presented to Council on a future agenda.

In response to Council Member Craig-Hensley, City Attorney Lucchesi confirmed that a motion was not needed and there was a consensus to bring this item back for further consideration.

G.4 Adopt a Resolution Approving the Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Lodi and the Lodi Professional Firefighters for the Period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028 (IS - HR)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Memorandum Placeholder](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

This item was pulled at the request of staff.

Interim City Manager Lindsay stated that the union had requested more time to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding.

- G.5** Adopt a Resolution Approving the Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Lodi and the Lodi City Mid-Management Association for the Period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028 (IS - HR)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Memorandum Placeholder](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

Interim Human Resources Manager Cristina Gonzales provided a presentation regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Lodi and the Lodi City Mid-Management Association for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028. Specific topics of discussion included background, three-year term, a 3% one-time off-salary schedule payment, equity increases for classifications deemed below market; classifications deemed over market to be Y-rated, cost of living increases, increase in City contribution for medical premium, longevity pay, bilingual pay increase, temporary upgrade increase, elimination of CalPERS cost-sharing contribution, implementation of California State Disability coverage, and staff recommendation.

Council Member Nakanishi stated Council has spent a lot of time reviewing this item and is pleased to be able to raise employee compensation.

In response to Council Member Craig-Hensley, Interim Human Resources Manager Gonzales confirmed that information contained in the Blue Sheet had been included in the presentation.

Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi made a motion, second by Mayor Yepez, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-29 approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Lodi and the Lodi City Mid-Management Association for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yepez
Noes: None
Absent: None

- G.6** Adopt a Resolution Defining Benefits and Approving Benefit Modifications and Compensation for Unrepresented Mid-Management and General Service employees (CM)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Resolution](#)

Interim City Manager Lindsay provided a presentation regarding the definition of benefits and approval of benefit modifications and compensation for unrepresented Mid-Management and General Service employees. Specific topics of discussion included the benefit package mirroring what the other units received, item combined both the Mid-Management and General Services unrepresented employees, consistency with other bargaining groups to include CalPERS cost sharing, 90% medical premium sharing, alignment with compensation study, and COLA.

In response to Council Member Craig-Hensley, Interim City Manager Lindsay provided information regarding funding.

Council Member Craig-Hensley spoke regarding the choice of comparative cities for future compensation studies.

Interim City Manager Lindsay stated that the comparative cities are established through negotiation and cannot change through the term of the current MOUs.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Interim City Manager Lindsay provided information regarding the selection of cities for the compensation studies.

In response to Mayor Yepez, Interim City Manager Lindsay provided information regarding the number of employees in the unrepresented groups.

Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi made a motion, second by Council Member Craig-Hensley, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-30 defining benefits and approving benefit modifications and compensation for unrepresented Mid-Management and General Service employees.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yepez
Noes: None
Absent: None

G.7 Adopt a Resolution Approving Side-Letter Agreements Between the City of Lodi and Local 1245 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IS - HR)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Side-Letter Agreement \(Benefits\)](#)
[Attachment 2 - Side-Letter Agreement \(Apprentice\)](#)
[Attachment 3 - Resolution](#)

Interim Human Resources Manager Cristina Gonzales provided a presentation regarding Side-Letter Agreements between the City of Lodi and Local 1245 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Specific topics of discussion included term of current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); Side Letter No. 1: amendment to benefits to include a cafeteria plan, increase of City's contribution for medical premiums, elimination of CalPers cost-sharing contribution, and agreement that the City will not be implementing a health reimbursement plan; Side Letter No. 2: inclusion of the Apprentice Substation Technician position that was omitted from the MOU as a result of a scrivener's error; and staff recommendation.

Council Member Nakanishi commended Electric Utility Director Jeff Berkheimer on the performance of his crews.

Council Member Nakanishi made a motion, second by Council Member Craig-Hensley, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-31 approving Side-Letter Agreements between the City of Lodi and Local 1245 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yepez
Noes: None
Absent: None

- G.8** Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Addendum to the Employment Agreement with Jennifer Fontanilla, Library Director, Including Future Wage Adjustments to Bring the Library Director's Base Salary to \$172,010 Annually, effective January 4, 2027, Elimination of CalPERS Cost-Sharing, and Modification to the City's Contribution to Medical Premiums (CM)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Addendum and Exh A](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

JP Doucette, President of the Lodi Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding the long-range finance forecasting tool that was presented last year during the mid-year budget process, noting that he would be interested in the results produced by the tool in regard to the impact of the new salary ranges.

Council Member Craig-Hensley made a motion, second by Mayor Yopez, to move Items G.8 through G.15 to the March 4, 2026 agenda.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yopez
Noes: None
Absent: None

- G.9** Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Addendum to the Employment Agreement with Christina Jaromay, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, Including Future Wage Adjustments to Bring the PRCS Director's Base Salary to \$219,390 Annually, effective January 4, 2027, Elimination of CalPERS Cost-Sharing, and Modification to the City's Contribution to Medical Premiums (CM)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Addendum with Exh A Documents](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

JP Doucette, President of the Lodi Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding the long-range finance forecasting tool that was presented last year during the mid-year budget process, noting that he would be interested in the results produced by the tool in regard to the impact of the new salary ranges.

Council Member Craig-Hensley made a motion, second by Mayor Yopez, to move Items G.8 through G.15 to the March 4, 2026 agenda.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yopez
Noes: None
Absent: None

- G.10** Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Addendum to the Employment Agreement with Jeffrey Berkheimer, Electric Utility Director, Including Future Cost of Living Increases, Elimination of CalPERS Cost-Sharing, and Modification to the City's Contribution to Medical Premiums (CM)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Addendum](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

JP Doucette, President of the Lodi Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding the long-range finance forecasting tool that was presented last year during the mid-year budget process, noting that he would be interested in the results produced by the tool in regard to the impact of the new salary ranges.

Council Member Craig-Hensley made a motion, second by Mayor Yopez, to move Items G.8 through G.15 to the March 4, 2026 agenda.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yopez
Noes: None
Absent: None

- G.11** Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Addendum to the Employment Agreement with Ricardo Garcia, Police Chief Including a One-Point Two One Percent (1.21%) Equity Adjustment to Bring the Police Chief's Base Salary to \$269,921 Annually, effective January 5, 2026, Future Cost of Living Increases, Reduction in CalPERS Cost-Sharing, and Modification to the City's Contribution to Medical Premiums (CM)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Addendum and Exh A Original Agreement](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

JP Doucette, President of the Lodi Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding the long-range finance forecasting tool that was presented last year during the mid-year budget process, noting that he would be interested in the results produced by the tool in regard to the impact of the new salary ranges.

Council Member Craig-Hensley made a motion, second by Mayor Yopez, to move Items G.8 through G.15 to the March 4, 2026 agenda.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yopez
Noes: None
Absent: None

- G.12** Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Addendum #2 to the Employment Agreement with Luis Aguilar, Economic Development Director, Including a Five Percent (5%) Equity Adjustment to Bring the Economic Development Director's Base Salary to \$198,198 Annually, effective January 5, 2026, Future Cost of Living Increases, Elimination of CalPERS Cost-Sharing, and Modification to the City's Contribution to Medical Premiums (CM)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Addendum #2 and Exh A with Prior Addendum and Agreement](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

JP Doucette, President of the Lodi Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding the long-range finance forecasting tool that was presented last year during the mid-year budget process, noting that he would be interested in the results produced by the tool in regard to the impact of the new salary ranges.

Council Member Craig-Hensley made a motion, second by Mayor Yepez, to move Items G.8 through G.15 to the March 4, 2026 agenda.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yepez
Noes: None
Absent: None

- G.13** Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Addendum to the Employment Agreement with Kenneth Johnson, Fire Chief, Including a Five Percent (5%) Equity Adjustment to Bring the Fire Chief's Base Salary to \$236,752 Annually, effective January 5, 2026, Future Cost of Living Increases, and Modification to the City's Contribution to Medical Premiums (CM)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Addendum and Exh A Original Agrmt](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

JP Doucette, President of the Lodi Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding the long-range finance forecasting tool that was presented last year during the mid-year budget process, noting that he would be interested in the results produced by the tool in regard to the impact of the new salary ranges.

Council Member Craig-Hensley made a motion, second by Mayor Yepez, to move Items G.8 through G.15 to the March 4, 2026 agenda.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yepez
Noes: None
Absent: None

- G.14** Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Addendum to the Employment Agreement with Katie O. Lucchesi, City Attorney, Including Wage Adjustment to Bring the City Attorney's Base Salary to \$303,680 Annually, Elimination of CalPERS Cost-Sharing, and Modification to the City's Contribution to Medical Premiums (CM)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Addendum with Amend #1 and Original Agreement](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

JP Doucette, President of the Lodi Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding the long-range finance forecasting tool that was presented last year during the mid-year budget process, noting that he would be interested in the results produced by the tool in regard to the impact of the new salary ranges.

Council Member Craig-Hensley made a motion, second by Mayor Yepez, to move Items G.8 through G.15 to the March 4, 2026 agenda.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yepez
Noes: None
Absent: None

- G.15** Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Addendum to the Employment Agreement with Olivia Nashed, City Clerk, Including Wage Adjustment to Bring the City Clerk's Base Salary to \$162,842 Annually, Elimination of CalPERS Cost-Sharing, and Modification to the City's Contribution to Medical Premiums (CM)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Addendum and Exh A](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

JP Doucette, President of the Lodi Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding the long-range finance forecasting tool that was presented last year during the mid-year budget process, noting that he would be interested in the results produced by the tool in regard to the impact of the new salary ranges.

Council Member Craig-Hensley made a motion, second by Mayor Yepez, to move Items G.8 through G.15 to the March 4, 2026 agenda.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yepez
Noes: None
Absent: None

- G.16** Adopt a Resolution Appointing an Interim City Manager Candidate, a Retired PERS Annuitant, at a Rate of \$140 per hour and Not to Exceed 960 hours in a Fiscal Year (IS - HR)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - ICM Employment Agreement](#)
[Attachment 2 - Resolution](#)

Interim City Manager Lindsay provided a presentation regarding the appointment of an Interim City Manager candidate, a retired PERS annuitant, at a rate of \$140 per hour, not to exceed 960 hours in a fiscal year. Specific topics of discussion included approval of the agreement by the candidate, Aaron Busch; need for Council approval for staff to execute the agreement; rate; limit of 960 hours per fiscal year; start date; and continuance of the agreement until a permanent City Manager starts.

Council Member Nakanishi spoke regarding the choice of a retired annuitant over current department heads, due to the need for the department heads to perform important functions within their departments.

In response to Council Member Craig-Hensley, City Attorney Lucchesi clarified that the item includes execution of the Employment Agreement.

Council Member Craig-Hensley made a motion, second by Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-32 appointing Interim City Manager candidate Aaron Busch, a retired PERS annuitant, at a rate of \$140 per hour, and not to exceed 960 hours in a fiscal year.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yopez
Noes: None
Absent: None

H. Ordinances

- H.1** Waive the Second Reading and Adopt Ordinance No. 2044 Amending Lodi Municipal Code Chapter 15.44 "Off-Site Improvements and Dedications," by Updating Section 15.44.040 "Exemption or Deferment" (CLK)

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Redlined Ordinance](#)
[Attachment 2 - Clean Ordinance](#)

Council Member Nakanishi made a motion, second by Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi (following reading of the title) to waive reading of the ordinance in full and adopt and order to print Ordinance No. 2044 entitled, "An Ordinance of the Lodi City Council Amending Lodi Municipal Code Chapter 15.44 "Off-Site Improvements and Dedications," by Updating Section 15.44.040 "Exemption or Deferment," which was introduced at a regular meeting of the Lodi City Council held January 7, 2026.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yopez
Noes: None
Absent: None

H.2 Waive the Second Reading and Adopt Ordinance No. 2045 Amending Lodi Municipal Code Chapter 2.12 “City Manager” by Revising Section 2.12.050 “Removal” (CLK)

Attachments: [Attachment 2 - Proposed Changes to LMC 2.12.050 City Manager Removal \(Clean\)](#)
[Attachment 1 - Proposed Changes to LMC 2.12.050 City Manager Removal \(Redlined\)](#)

Council Member Craig-Hensley made a motion, second by Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, (following reading of the title) to waive reading of the ordinance in full and adopt and order to print Ordinance No. 2045 entitled, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lodi Amending Lodi Municipal Code Chapter 2.12 “City Manager” by Revising Section 2.12.050 “Removal,” which was introduced at a regular meeting of the Lodi City Council held January 7, 2026.

VOTE:

The above motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Member Bregman, Council Member Craig-Hensley,
Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Hothi, and Mayor Yopez
Noes: None
Absent: None

I. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

Olivia Nashed
City Clerk