

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL WAIVING THE FORMAL BID PROCESS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CITYWISE STRATEGIES, LLC, A LIMITED LIABILITY CORPORATION, FOR DEVELOPMENT SERVICES OPERATIONAL INITIATIVE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$115,000

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WHEREAS, the City of Lodi is entering an important period of organizational transition and opportunity. Continued development activity, implementation of the recently adopted Economic Development Strategic Plan, and planning for future growth and annexation present an ideal opportunity to evaluate and strengthen the City's development review process and organizational practices; and

WHEREAS, the City Council's recently adopted Economic Development Strategic Plan establishes a long-term vision for strengthening Lodi's economic competitiveness and identifies implementation strategies that emphasize improving the business climate, supporting private investment, and creating a more effective and predictable development approval process. Successfully implementing many of these initiatives will depend upon an efficient, coordinated, and customer-focused development review system supported by strong organizational leadership and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, CityWise Strategies LLC, specifically Aaron Busch, brings more than 37 years of executive leadership and management experience in California local government, specializing in city management, community development, planning, organizational improvement, and strategic implementation. Aaron Busch has served as a City Manager, Community Development Director, Planning Director, and Permit Center Manager, providing a unique combination of executive leadership and hands-on operational expertise in Development Services; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated outcome of this initiative is a comprehensive assessment of the City's development review process accompanied by practical recommendations to improve organizational effectiveness, strengthen interdepartmental coordination, enhance customer service, support implementation of the Economic Development Strategic Plan, and better prepare the City for future growth opportunities; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends waiving the formal bid process and authorizing the City Manager to execute a professional service agreement with CityWise Strategies, LLC for these services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lodi City Council finds that it is in the best interests of the City to waive, and does hereby waive the formal bid process and authorize the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with CityWise Strategies, LLC for Development Services Operational Initiatives in an amount not to exceed \$115,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 6.3q of the City Council Protocol Manual (adopted 11/6/19, Resolution No. 2019-223), the City Attorney is hereby authorized to make minor revisions to the above-referenced document(s) that do not alter the compensation or term, and to make clerical corrections as necessary.

Dated: August 5, 2026

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I hereby certify that Resolution No. 2026-_____ was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held August 5, 2026 by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS –
NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS –
ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS –
ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS –

WALFRED SOLORZANO
Interim City Clerk

2026-_____