

**City of Lodi**  
**Common Council Meeting**  
**Minutes – April 21, 2020**

**Present:** Alderpersons Hansen (remote), Miller, Stevenson, Tonn, Mayor Groves Lloyd

**Others:** Julie Ostrander, Dawn Collins, Chief Smith, Lt. Nichols, Pat Staszak (remote), Director Schafer (remote), Mike Goethel (remote), Steve Clemens, Nick Strasser

Oath of Office was administered to Mayor Ann Groves Lloyd.

Oath of Office was administered to Alder Peter Tonn.

Mayor Groves Lloyd called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM in the Council Room at City Hall, 130 S Main, Lodi.

Roll call was taken – Mayor Groves Lloyd, Alders Hansen (remote), Miller, Stevenson, and Tonn were present.

Mayor Groves Lloyd reviewed the etiquette for the combination remote/in-person meeting - providing one registration for public input, the conduct to follow when speaking, and identified elected officials and staff attending remotely.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Input.** Mike Goethel offered a number of questions to the Council relating to the Top of Lodi property. An email was provided asking the following - 1) what was asked of the property owner and what is done 2) what is needed formally from the neighborhood to weigh in on any decision 3) does a written process exist for the larger community to participate. (His email will be incorporated into the record.)

Chief Wayne Smith introduced PD's new Lieutenant Bill Nichols, who officially started April 11th. A ceremonial oath was administered to Lt. Nichols.

**Resolution to Approve Appointment to Fill Alderperson Term. MOTION** (Stevenson, Miller) to approve Resolution 20-23 to appoint Steve Clemens to fill the Alder term from Groves Lloyd through April 19, 2021. **Motion carried.**

**Resolution to Approve Appointment to Alderperson. MOTION** (Stevenson, Miller) to approve Resolution 20-22 to appoint Nick Strasser as Alderperson for the two-year term ending April 18, 2022. **Motion carried.**

The Oath of Office was administered to Alders Steve Clemens and Nick Strasser.

**Elect Council President. MOTION** (Tonn, Hansen) to nominate Rich Stevenson as Council President. Tonn closed nominations. **Motion carried.**

**Consent Agenda. MOTION** (Stevenson, Miller) to approve the consent agenda including minutes from the March 17 Council meeting, the March 20 Special Council meeting and March 20 Closed Session, as well as Resolution 20-20 approving agent change for Kwik Trip (Kearney) and Resolution 20-21 approving agent change for Log Tavern (Fitzgerald). Alder Miller requested a resolution about recording the attendance of Alders at meetings. Tonn explained these minutes were reflective of the proceedings. Stevenson suggested that her request be discussed at Finance and HR. **Motion carried.**

**Department Update Relating to the Health Emergency Order.**

EMS - Director Russ Schafer provided an update on the modification of operations since the order, mentioning the effect on staff emotionally, assessing from a distance, altering how EMS responds in a more methodical manner, assessing prior to any transport as hospitals are limiting admission, directly daily health screening of staff. He stated call volume is 27%

less than last year. Challenges include planning for potential loss of staff, cross-staffing, lack of PP equipment and, depending upon decisions of the state, funding going forward.

Police Department – Chief Wayne Smith stated that staff are using masks and, with a closed lobby, have less contact with public and less in-person service and distancing as necessary, as well as evaluating over the phone similar to EMS. He stated that area Chiefs have met to determine emergency staffing plan, partnering with other agencies if necessary to pool staff. Challenges are the limited PP equipment, regular sanitizing of vehicles, decreased regular calls but more COVID inquiries of restrictions.

Utilities/Public Works – Director Pat Staszak stated that he and a few crew members spent some time in self quarantine due to similar symptoms. Crews are keeping distance, often using additional vehicles to conduct work, and sanitizing equipment. He stated there is some citizen pushback relating to parks being closed; although all efforts are to move forward to prepare to open as planned but will depend upon decisions from the state.

Administration – Director Julie Ostrander stated all staff are well and met daily while our doors were open to the public for voting purposes. City Hall doors are now closed; however, business continues by telephone and email and utilizing the utility drop box outside City Hall entrance. The city website and social media are kept current with changes. New hire activity is moving forward for seasonal positions. A new FMLA policy addendum with extended guidelines was issued to all employees. The PSC directed to waive late fees for utilities, although it will display on the bill and also show as a credit in order to track fees, and utilities will not disconnect at this time. City staff spends more time utilizing Gotomeeting and webinars for PSC, League, FEMA as well as tracking COVID expenditures. Grants are being sought for business and additional surveys relating to COVID are completed.

Spring Election – Clerk Collins reviewed the election activity at City Hall. Doors remained open to the public for in person absentee voting three weeks prior to the Spring Election. Lobby restrooms were propped open and citizens entering City Hall were instructed to wash hands prior to conducting business. For Election Day, Collins modified the polling location to the lobby in order to reduce touch points, utilize restrooms as hand washing stations, keep voters outside properly distanced, and set up work stations for poll books and ballots behind the customer service counter/glass. Collins expressed gratitude for five Election Inspectors, who gave their time over the course of Election Day, for Deputy Clerk Lanette Mayberry sworn to act as an Inspector and City staff, including Peggy Richards and Julie Ostrander, who assisted in sanitizing, monitoring voters and processing absentee ballots. Sanitizing the work and voting areas took place every 15 minutes of the 13-hour day. The election wrapped up on April 13, as instructed by the WEC, with a total turnout of 1,174 voters with 942 being absentee ballots. A few election related questions were responded to.

Tonn suggested this overall update would be appropriate to share with media as well as a constructive reminder to the public.

**Preliminary Resolution Declaring Intent to Levy Special Assessment. MOTION** (Tonn, Stevenson) to approve Resolution 20-16 for the Pond Street project. Stevenson stated this is common when assessing improvements for curb, gutter and sidewalk. He stated the assessment is a 50/50 split between City and residents. **Motion carried.**

**Set a Public Hearing – Special Assessments for Public Improvements.** Mayor Groves Lloyd stated that MSA suggested the date of May 19 for the public hearing. A time was discussed. The public hearing will be scheduled and noticed as required for Tuesday, May 19, at 5:30 PM.

**Resolution to Appoint City Representative to the CCEDC. MOTION** (Stevenson, Tonn) to approve Resolution 20-17 to appoint Julie Ostrander, Director of Administration, to the Columbia County Economic Development Committee for one year. **Motion carried.**

**Resolution to Appoint Members to Standing Committees. MOTION** (Stevenson, Tonn) to approve Resolution 20-18 as presented, including Chairs of Committees. **Motion carried.**

**Resolution to Appoint Members to Boards, Commissions. MOTION** (Stevenson, Strasser) to approve Resolution 20-19 as presented. **Motion carried.**

**Next Meeting Date.** The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2020, at 6 PM.

**Adjourn. MOTION** (Miller, Stevenson) to adjourn at 7:25 PM. **Motion carried.**  
Minutes by Dawn A. Collins, City Clerk