

**City of Lodi Public Works & Utilities Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes of July 9, 2019**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Stevenson called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

Committee Members Present: Rich Stevenson, Eric Hansen, Ann Groves Lloyd

Staff Present: Julie Ostrander, Kennan Buhr and Jennifer Sweeney

Others: Jim Ness, Suzanne Miller

**2. Public Input.**

None

**3. Approve Minutes of June 4, 2019 Meeting**

MOTION (Groves Lloyd/Hansen) to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

**4. Public Works & Utilities Financial Reports**

The committee reviewed the balance sheets and income statements.

**5. Review and Recommendation to Amend Ch. 234 Abatement of Public Nuisance**

MOTION (Hansen/Stevenson) to recommend to Council amending Ch. 234 Abatement of Public Nuisance. Motion carried.

Groves Lloyd shared concerns that property owners would not be informed from the outset if a nuisance tree needed removal from a property. Stevenson suggested a proactive approach notifying property owners that the city has a program to manage nuisance trees. Groves Lloyd stated she would like the program to be proactive instead of reactionary. Property owners should be made aware that they can take down a nuisance tree themselves or the city can remove the tree with payment in full at the time of removal or costs recovered through a special assessment on their property tax bill. Ostrander assured Groves Lloyd that a procedure for nuisance trees would be put in place where property owners can either pay up front or over a series of years, similar to the special assessments for sidewalk, curb, and gutter.

**6. Review and Recommendation to Amend Chapter 307, Trees**

MOTION (Stevenson/Groves Lloyd) to recommend to council amending Chapter 307, Trees. Motion carried.

Ostrander stated that these amendments were 'cleaning up' the ordinance, but the committee should note that, to improve efficiency, these changes remove the authority of the Parks Commission to decide which trees stay or are removed.

**7. Discussion on Drainage Ditch (from 925 Development Drive)**

Buhr noted that erosion from the adjoining farm field is filling the ditch near 925 Development Drive, not allowing water to drain. The business located near the drainage ditch is in the food industry and cannot have standing water on the property. The city has moved soil in the area to see if that helps keep water from pooling. However, he would like get a quote to dredge the ditch. Buhr noted that dredging the ditch is not a long term solution if there isn't a cover crop planted adjacent to it. Mayor Ness stated he would speak to the golf course, as they lease the property to a farmer who plants corn on the property.

**8. Discussion and Recommendation for Wayfinding Signs**

Ostrander explained that a plan needs to be submitted to the DOT, who also need to approve the sign colors. There are also rules regarding what poles can be used for the signs. The committee declined to make a recommendation until they receive more guidance from the DOT.

#### **9. Update: PSC Rate Increase**

The Committee discussed clarification of the content in the press release, as well as the public event planned on a future date. Groves Lloyd stated that the press release was difficult to comprehend and future press releases of this nature should avoid large blocks of text. Ostrander stated that the city wanted to stay consistent with the information provided by the PSC.

#### **10. Update: Planters on Main Street**

Buhr stated that the city will be ordering the planters this year. Stevenson stated that since poles are being painted this year, wait to install and plant flowers until next year.

#### **11. Discussion of Installing Public Water Bottle Refill Station**

The committee responded positively to the installation of a water bottle refill station. Stevenson and Groves Lloyd noted that it should be installed in the downtown area and should be accessible to the public at all times from spring through fall. Buhr and Stevenson will come up with some location ideas for discussion at the next meeting.

#### **12. Discussion on Lawn Seeding Netting**

The Committee noted that lawn seeding netting can take a significant amount of time to dissolve. Stevenson requested that other communities be contacted to see if they have restrictions on lawn seed netting.

#### **13. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items**

The next regular meeting is August 6 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. Agenda items will include

- Public water refill station
- Lawn seeding netting
- Update on the welcome sign
- Dir. of Operations projects report (recurring agenda item)

#### **14. Adjourn**

MOTION (Groves Lloyd/Hansen) to adjourn at 6:13 p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes by Jennifer Sweeney, Management Analyst