

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 1990

COMMENTS REGARDING
NOVEMBER 6, 1990 MUNICIPAL
ELECTION

CC 18

Mayor Pro Tempore **Hinchman** spoke about the November 6, 1990 election stating that the City Council Members he has worked **with** the last six years have been outstanding. Mayor Pro Tempore Hinchman again reiterated his feeling that the citizens of Lodi should have regular reports on what is happening in this **community** and feels the City should look into adopting some type of **communication** plan.

Council Member Olson congratulated candidates Phil Pennino and Jack Sieglock on their victory and urged the community to support them. She also urged the women of th'is community to seek **public** office.

Mayor Snider spoke about the illegal flyer that was circulated in our **community** just prior to the election and that **he** felt **it was** a disservice to all nine candidates. Mayor Snider then presented the following report of facts on the various charges that had been alleged.

Charge - Lodi has only five police officers on patrol at any given time.

Fact - From **12:00** noon to **3:00** am (**15** hours, and the busiest time) Lodi has 8 officers assigned, plus a sgt. and **1t.** and **10** are assigned between **10:00** p.m. and **3:00** am. The only time 5 are assigned is during the normally slow period of **3:00** am to **12:00** noon.

Charge - Lodi has reduced the police budget when compared to total spending.

Fact - The Police Department budget is 28.3% of the General Fund, the highest percentage **it** has been in the last ten years.

Fact - The Police Department budget has been increased 61% in the last 5 years, the highest percentage increase of all operating departments.

Fact - The number of police officers per 1,000 population is the highest **it** has been in the last 7 years, and the total number of police officers and support personnel is the highest **it** has been in the last 15 years.

Charge - Lodi is seeing the problems of crime and drugs threaten our way *of* life.

Fact - The increase in %heLodi crime rate during the last 8 years is actually lower than it was in the previous 8 years. I encourage you to review

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the numbers with the Chief of Police. In the past year, the crime rate is down by 6%.

- Charge - The Council is reducing police protection.
- Fact - Documented numbers prove this is a false charge.
- Charge - The **Council** has refused to live by the provisions of Measure A and instead adopted its own growth plan **allowing Lodi** to grow by 26,000 new residents over the next 17 years.
- Fact** - The City's growth management plan is part of the City's new General Plan which is in the process of being adopted. It provides for a 2% growth limit. This percentage increase was the result of a recommendation by a citizen task force appointed by the City Council to develop a growth management plan. The task force was comprised of an equal number of citizens in favor of and opposed to Measure A. This will result in an additional 19,450 residents in the next 17 years, not 26,000, an error in the charge of 34%.
- Charge - Measure A **would have** allowed just 3,000 new residents by the year 2007.
- Fact - There would have been **no way** to determine the growth rate of the City because each annexation would have had to have been approved by the voters.
- Charge - The Council allowed developers to convert property previously dedicated to single family homes to apartments, thereby putting a strain on the sewer system.
- Fact - The conversion from some single-family uses to apartments was consistent with the zoning ordinance adopted in 1968. It was **this** City Council that **put a stop** to these conversions by putting in place a moratorium prohibiting such action. This Council took that action 5 years ago. This Council listened and down-zoned the area thereby increasing the life of both the sewer and water systems.
- Charge - The State had to step in and order the City Council to update and renovate the sewer system.
- Fact State - The State has **never** issued such an order. Law requires that when the sewer plant reaches 75% capacity, the City must notify the State and move ahead with expansion. This we have done in

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accordance with State law.

Further, the Council adopted 2-1/2 years ago a moratorium on sanitary sewer connections for areas not in the City limits at that time.

This

was done to ensure that those parcels within the City limits would have **sanitary** sewer capacity.

- Charge - In order to pay for the improvements, the Council has dramatically raised sewer fees and hook-up charges.
- Fact - Part of the **sewer** fee increase is to pay for the improvements. The remainder of the sewer fee hike and the increased hook-up fees are to provide, on a pay-as-you-go basis, the funding for the next expansion 10-12 years from now. That's the cheapest financial approach. That represents good **planning**.
- Charge - The City is operating under a special waiver from the State Department of Health which allows **it** to use City wells that exceed the maximum contamination levels for DBCP.
- Fact - The new State requirements regarding DBCP levels went into effect in July 1989. All cities experiencing DBCP have been given the same direction **from** the State. This has been granted to allow time to install new filtration systems, and because the State's Department of Health Services acknowledges there are no short-term health concerns.
- Charge - The Council has been forced to rush to drill new **wells**.
- Fact - New water wells are being developed in accordance with a regular schedule set forth in the City's Capital Improvement Program. That schedule is in no way being altered or rushed.
- Charge - Lodi residents have no choice but to consume contaminated water.
- Fact - Lodi's water is safe to drink. The State Department of Health Services agrees with this statement. There are far less cancer-causing elements in one-half gallon of **Lodi** water than there are in:

A peanut butter sandwich

A raw mushroom

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A 12-ounce can of soda

Charge - A **comparison** of the budgets of four Central Valley Cities presents the cost of the budget per person is:

Sacramento	-	\$	976
Stockton	-		749
Modesto	-		596
Lodi	-		1,139

Fact - The other three cities do not have municipal electrical systems. The fact that Lodi has a municipal electrical system is of tremendous benefit to our citizens and our commercial and industrial communities. Lodi residents currently pay **for** electrical service about 35% less than they **would** pay **if** served by **PG&E**. When you subtract the Electric system budget **from** the total, Lodi's cost per person is \$511, the lowest of the other three cities listed.

Charge - Should the City have a certified and verified audit of its budget?

Fact - **The City of Lodi** has, annually for decades, **always** had an audit of its fiscal condition **performed** by an independent auditing firm. In addition, federal law requires cities to perform an annual audit because federal funds are part of the City's annual expenditures.

Charge - **The White Slough Sewer** Plant expansion was awarded this year to an "out of state firm".

Fact - The Council awards bids to the "lowest responsible bidder". To do so is to realize the completion of a project for the taxpayer at the lowest possible cost. This policy is clearly in the best interest of the tax paying citizen.

Council Member Reid spoke about the large number of political signs that had been posted on power poles, public rights-of-way, etc. during this past election. Council Member Reid indicated he would like to have the City Attorney draft a new ordinance regarding the placenent of such signs in order to remedy the situation.