

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
May 15, 2010

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Saturday May 15, 2010, in Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Mayor Buck.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Buck, Knol, McShane, Wiggins, Wright

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: City Clerk Halberstadt, City Manager Pastue

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

05-10-079 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wiggins, to approve the agenda as submitted. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CLOSED SESSION – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS

05-10-080 MOTION by Wright, seconded by Wiggins, to enter into closed session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Knol, McShane, Wiggins, Wright, Buck.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council entered closed session at 8:40 a.m.

05-10-081 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wiggins, to return to open session. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council returned to open session at 10:05 a.m.

Council took a break at 10:05 a.m. and returned to the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Fiscal Year Budget 2010-11 Review

City Manager Pastue confirmed with Council that a millage increase would *not* be approved if agreements are not reached with the collective bargaining units. Pastue advised that even if proposed concessions are achieved he may recommend eliminating the operating subsidy for the Civic Theatre. The theatre would remain open, but a number of changes would take place including greater

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use of volunteers. He advised a final decision cannot be made until the Civic Theatre Committee makes their recommendations regarding best use for the theatre.

Responding to a question from Buck, Pastue agreed with the option of raising ticket prices but preferred to wait until Council has heard from the Committee.

Discussion followed concerning no millage increase alternatives.

Pastue discussed budget changes that could result in a lower millage rate increase. He spoke about changes to the administrative functions including a 4-day work week. He discussed concessions that would be necessary to reduce the millage rate increase.

Wright stated the 4-day work week would be a good opportunity to realize greater efficiencies.

Pastue advised reductions to the Public Works Department could include eliminating three full-time positions, changing part-time seasonal to contractual and other changes.

Discussion followed regarding shared services. McShane suggested sharing cable programming services with Livonia or Farmington Hills.

Pastue indicated the City is in process of purchasing video cameras from Farmington Hills and that PEG money will be used for that purchase. Further discussion was held concerning where the cameras would be located in the chamber and other related issues.

Discussion followed regarding the elimination of street lighting and the public's perception that it is needed for safety reasons.

Pastue discussed the impact of job eliminations in the Public Safety Department and possible alternatives. He stated contracted services may be the trend going forward with or without concessions and/or millage increase.

Discussion followed regarding maintaining the road millage at 1.6 mills and how it has been historically applied.

Pastue summarized the elements of a revised budget plan that is based on a reduced millage increase:

- 4-day work week
- Elimination of Civic Theatre subsidy (not closing it down)
- Working towards contracting of DPW Custodial

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- Changing one full-time dispatch position to part-time
- \$5,000 reduction in miscellaneous line items

Pastue stated incorporating those changes would reduce the budget by \$123,000 resulting in an approximately 1 mill increase.

Discussion was held concerning the pros and cons of the leaf program.

Discussion continued regarding keeping the millage increase at less than 1 mill.

McShane indicated a reduced millage increase would show the City is making a good faith effort to bring that number down.

Wright stressed the importance of symbolism involved in the City's efforts to respond to residents' concerns and seek greater efficiencies.

Pastue stated the mindset of employees needs to start shifting and they must consider the reality of future challenges.

McShane expressed the need to draw more on the volunteer base to perform City services, noting the City of Naples as an example.

OTHER BUSINESS

He advised the church that uses the Civic Theatre on Sundays has an ongoing request for a permanent sign.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Mayor Buck commented a new business, "Hands on Therapy", was very complimentary of the service provided by Deputy Clerk Sue Wendell in registering their business. He pointed out they are very enthusiastic about the community.

Pastue stated Dr. Nocella will be recognized for 20 years of service at the next Council meeting. He suggested offering him the opportunity to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He noted this type of recognition should be ongoing for businesses in the City.

McShane suggested that maybe it should be a standard agenda item.

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Knol commented the Chamber Notes reflect businesses and their longevity in the community.

Mayor Buck reviewed a number of upcoming events filling Council's calendar.

McShane commented five volunteers were interested in serving on the Beautification Committee. She agreed to meet with them before appointments scheduled for the June 7th meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

05-10-082 MOTION by Wiggins, seconded by Knol, to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

J.T. (Tom) Buck, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: June 21, 2010