

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
September 15, 2008

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, September 15, 2008, 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 7:23 p.m. by Mayor Knol.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: City Manager Pastue (arrived 7:50 p.m.), Deputy Clerk Pohto, Attorney Schultz (arrived 7:50 p.m.).

LIBRARY BOARD PRESENTATION

Present: Director Tina Theeke and Boardmember James Moran

Director Theeke provided a brief update on the activities of the Library. She indicated the financial status of the Library is strong. She stated the Board continues to review the impact of financial issues like State Aid and the proposed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). She noted an upcoming meeting with DDA Director Knowles to discuss the proposed TIF Plan and its impact on Library revenues. She stated the Board has always been supportive of a vibrant community and looks forward the planned streetscape changes. She discussed the many benefits of the Downtown for Farmington branch employees.

Director Theeke stated Library usage was up last year with over 700,000 residents using both facilities. She noted there were 101.2 million items checked out including films and music. She asked Council to promote Library services when and wherever possible.

Director Theeke discussed future plans including conducting an Output Measure Survey in October that would use a concept developed for public libraries for data collection and evaluation. She stated the survey data and community feedback will be used for the strategic planning process.

Director Theeke discussed use of new technology, services and collections including: the Museum Adventure Pass and Standard & Poor's Net Advantage that offers business and finance information.

Director Theeke discussed a collaborative effort with the Warner Museum in the preservation and access to Museum photos. She stated through the Summer Reading Program 3000 children read books. She also noted the Library hosted the "Hands-On Museum" from Ann Arbor.

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James Moran thanked Council for his appointment to the Library Board.

Councilmember McShane asked regarding the impact of the economy on the Library. Director Theeke responded they have seen a few homeless people and residents are seeking resources for economic assistance. She noticed a recent increase in bounced checks.

McShane asked regarding services for homebound seniors. Director Theeke stated through the information exchange a senior can be matched with a "book buddy."

Responding to a question from Councilmember Wiggins, Director Theeke stated on a typical day there are 1600 patrons at the Farmington Hills Library and 800 patrons at the Farmington location.

Discussion followed regarding parking lot issues.

Councilmember Buck was very impressed with the Library and its services.

Councilmember Wright recognized the Library for its innovations and making the Library an exciting place to be.

Mayor Knol encouraged Director Theeke to continue the Library's great programming for children and providing assistance to residents who are struggling in this economy.

OTHER BUSINESS

SEPARATION AGREEMENT – ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

City Manager Pastue noted a few minor changes to the Separation Agreement with the Assistant City Manager approved at the September 2, 2008 meeting. He stated these changes were made to provide clarity to the agreement.

2009 COUNCIL CALENDAR

Regarding the 2009 Council calendar, Pastue requested that through June of 2009 the special meeting prior to the regular meeting be used as a study session to follow up on Council items and then revert back to the special meeting format beginning in July or September.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Wiggins, Pastue stated meetings with Boards and Commissions would still occur but later in the year.

ESTABLISHING AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Pastue advised the resolution regarding the establishment of an Industrial Development District will be limited to the property (Roush Enterprise) located at the northeast corner of Nine Mile and Gill Roads.

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Attorney Schultz noted that since this process started out as a petition by the owner, Roush Enterprise, the District should be confined to their property only.

Discussion followed regarding the practicality of extending the District given the petition was confined to the Roush property only.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Wright, Pastue stated the establishment of an Industrial District gives the property owners the ability to apply for a tax abatement.

Discussion continued regarding the value to business owners of establishing an Industrial Development District.

Attorney Schultz advised the City will need to develop a written policy concerning the administration of an Industrial Development District.

Mayor Knol recommended the City continue moving forward to extend the District along Nine Mile Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None were heard.

COUNCIL COMMENT

None were heard.

ADJOURNMENT

09-08-172 MOTION by Wright, seconded by McShane, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Valerie S. Knol, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Susan Pohto, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: November 17, 2008