

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 4, 2011

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, April 4, 2011, 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 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Buck.

PRESENT: Buck, McShane, Wiggins, Wright.

ABSENT: Knol.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: City Manager Pastue, City Clerk Halberstadt, Treasurer Weber.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

04-11-050 MOTION by Wiggins, seconded by McShane, to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

WATER/SEWER FUND BUDGET & REVIEW

Pastue reviewed budget report for the Water & Sewer Fund covering past, current and projected activity.

Weber reviewed 10-year history of Water & Sewer costs.

Pastue reviewed fixed Water & Sewer charges that will be passed on to customers. He approximated a mid-to-high teen rate increase.

Discussion followed regarding debt service.

In response to a question from Wiggins, Pastue stated owners of vacant homes continue to receive a water bill due to fixed costs.

Pastue stated part of the reason for increasing costs is due to higher fixed costs from Detroit and recognition of continued lower consumption. Further discussion was held regarding reasons for lower consumption.

Pastue confirmed the proposed rates are not attempt to reserve cash as previously discussed.

Discussion was held regarding installation of new meters. Pastue advised current meters are reading accurately. He pointed out Farmington's water loss is low in comparison to other cities.

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Discussion followed regarding a hand-out on water and sewer rates for FY 2011-12. Pastue indicated the format clearly identifies how rates are applied and the changes over last year's rates. He stated the City will attempt to explain rates to residents through a cable show.

Mayor Buck suggested the cable show could also include offering tips on how to conserve water.

Responding to a question from McShane, Weber stated a different charge is applied from Detroit for industrial waste on commercial and industrial properties.

McShane stressed the importance of educating the public on water and sewer rates. She expressed concern regarding the age of Detroit's infrastructure and what that means for the future.

Further discussion was held regarding opportunities to contain costs.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS REGARDING WORK-PLAN UPDATE

Wright asked about the status of an updated comparison of millage rates for surrounding communities. Pastue responded that he needs to contact each jurisdiction for comparables in order to complete an analysis.

McShane advised that the use of volunteers is critical in meeting challenges faced by the City. She recommended Council participate in a regular cable show to report on City activities and goals.

Wright suggested this could be done in a session prior to a regular Council meeting.

Wiggins suggested televising future meetings like the one recently held for Floral Park residents concerning water and sewer line repairs.

McShane advised ordinance enforcement is now more important than ever given the decline in property values. She stated it is imperative to ensure all properties are well maintained.

Wright asked for clarification regarding the application for grant money related to additional streetscape work. Pastue responded that it is connected to a Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) enhancement grant.

Pastue discussed the benefit of remaining in the Oakland County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program where funds may be repurposed for economic development.

Wiggins noted the City would lose that option if it didn't remain in the current

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CDBG program and Pastue agreed.

Further discussion was held concerning the advantages and disadvantages of the State and County CDBG programs. Wright noted the City of Brighton used State CDBG funds for their streetscape.

Wright stated that as part of the budget process he had questions regarding the cost of services from Farmington Hills. He would like to see an analysis listing services provided and related costs.

McShane would like to see an updated analysis on all shared services including those from Farmington Hills, Oakland County and the State.

Further discussion was held concerning the benefits of privatizing City services.

Wright, referring to the sidewalk replacement program, noted current repairs need to take place.

Buck talked about council members being available for neighborhood association meetings.

McShane suggested meetings could be arranged as part of the Neighborhood Watch program where more people are in attendance. It would be a conduit for presenting information.

Pastue noted Council could also attend annual homeowner meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was heard.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Angela Wolfin, Farmington Area Jaycees President, stated her organization is a good source for volunteers. She announced the annual Jaycee Easter egg hunt will be held on April 17th in Heritage Park beginning 2:00 p.m.

COUNCIL COMMENT

McShane recommended a representative from the City take a list of the City's concerns to a meeting scheduled by Congressman Gary Peters on April 11th.

CLOSED SESSION – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Mayor Buck requested a motion to enter into closed session.

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04-11-051 MOTION by Wiggins, seconded by Wright, to enter closed session to discuss collective bargaining.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: McShane, Wiggins, Wright, Buck.

Nays: None.

Absent: Knol.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council entered closed session at 8:20 p.m.

04-11-052 MOTION by Wiggins, seconded by McShane, to return to open session. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

04-11-053 MOTION by Wright, seconded by Wiggins, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

J.T. (Tom) Buck, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Approved: April 18, 2011