

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, September 19, 2005, 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 6:17 p.m. by Mayor Campbell.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Campbell, Knol, McShane, Mitchell.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Bush.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, City Manager Pastue, Assistant City Manager Richards, Attorney Schultz.

GALA RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER

City Manager Pastue advised that the Public Safety Department has completed their investigation of the proposed ownership transfer of a 2005 Class C Licensed Business to Natives LLC (Gala Restaurant) and has recommended approval.

Pastue stated that a resolution approving the transfer would be added to the regular meeting agenda.

INTERVIEW FOR PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY – LEONARD GYSELINCK

Interview for the Planning Commission was delayed until Mr. Gyselinck's arrival.

DISCUSSION – EXPANDING DDA BOUNDARIES AND UPDATE OF PLAN

Pastue advised that one of Council's goals was to consider expanding the boundaries of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and update its Master Plan. He noted that the current plan adopted in the late 1980's is scheduled to expire in 2008. He advised that if the DDA participates in any long-term financing for future capital projects in the Downtown area the plan would need to be updated to at least cover the financing period.

Pastue advised that the Principal Shopping District (PSD) special assessment levy would expire after FY 2006/07 with the last levy in December 2006. He stated that along with consideration of changing boundaries other issues such as the PSD should be reviewed. He proposed keeping the PSD assessment short term in order to keep options open. He noted that this process would provide a great opportunity for the new DDA Executive Director to participate in the financial planning for the DDA.

Pastue noted that after almost three years of participating in the Main Street Program, the DDA has a clearer direction of the program. He stated that updating the DDA Plan

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and the PSD Plan with the Mainstreet Program made sense. He noted that a link has been established between the older commercial areas along Grand River and the Downtown area. He stated that an update of the DDA plan would strengthen the link as it pertains to design, marketing and promotions.

Council delayed further discussion of this agenda item until after the interview with Mr. Gyselinck.

INTERVIEW FOR PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY – LEONARD GYSELINCK

Council interviewed Leonard Gyselinck for an open position on the Planning Commission.

DISCUSSION CONTINUED REGARDING EXPANDING DDA BOUNDARIES AND UPDATE OF PLAN

Pastue advised that the DDA has more flexibility in providing direct financial and marketing incentives to businesses than City government and as a result expanding the boundaries to serve older commercial areas is worth consideration.

Pastue noted that the DDA has three revenue sources including: Tax Increment Financing (TIF), two mils, and the Principal Shopping District (PSD). He stated that Oakland County would likely support continuation of the TIF in the current district, but not an expansion. He suggested expanding the boundaries of the DDA without the TIF District, leaving the opportunity to levy two mils and the PSD. He stated that the PSD would have to be used for promotion, marketing and property maintenance. He noted that a limitation of the current boundaries is the inability to spend money outside of the district.

Pastue suggested the development of a study committee to review DDA expansion and update the plan. He recommended that the Committee include the City Manager, City Clerk/Treasurer, City Attorney, City Council member, DDA Executive Director, representative from Main Street Oakland County and at least two DDA Board members or representatives.

Pastue confirmed that it would be unlikely that the County would oppose a DDA expansion if it were done without including TIF.

Responding to an additional question, Pastue stated that the review process would include whether or not the expansion would be contiguous.

Councilmember McShane expressed her support for an expansion noting that it would strengthen the DDA. She also expressed support for including the Warner Mansion in the expansion.

Councilmember Knol asked about the process once the study committee has made their recommendations to Council.

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Pastue responded that there would be at least one public hearing and a review by Oakland County would be required.

City Attorney Schultz noted that the actual changes to the plan and ordinance would not be extensive.

McShane expressed her desire to serve on the study committee.

Mitchell stated his support for expanding the DDA to include the Mansion to the west and businesses up to and north on Orchard Lake Road. He stated that the City should not give up on the idea of possibly recovering some taxes from Oakland County for the expanded district.

Pastue suggested that once the district has been expanded, a special project could provide the impetus to seek expansion of the TIF as well. He noted that the City would be forgoing any tax growth as well.

Campbell advised that membership on the DDA Board would need to increase with an expansion.

Pastue confirmed that residents in a DDA District are not subject to the two mils or the PSD.

McShane suggested including a Planning Commission member on the committee.

Knol suggested including at least one of the new Councilmembers on the study committee. Pastue suggested allowing two members-at-large in order to accommodate an additional Councilmember and possibly an interested resident.

Council concurred to schedule a special meeting on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

Discussion followed regarding zoning issues.

Council took a break at 7:06 p.m. and returned at 7:15 p.m.

MEETING WITH 47TH DISTRICT COURT

Present: Judge Brady, Judge Parker, Deputy Court Administrator Parke, Court Administrator Walsh.

Mayor Campbell requested an update on Court activities from Court Administrator Walsh.

Walsh stated that the primary areas he would cover included: revenue to the City of Farmington, caseload from the Farmington Public Safety Department, collections and adding Government Payment Services to the Farmington website.

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Walsh discussed revenues to Farmington, noting that for the first two months of FY 05-06, the City is up approximately \$15,000 over the same period last year. He discussed last year, noting the lower caseload number.

Walsh discussed a five-year breakdown of case filings, noting that drunk driving and traffic cases were the primary source of revenue.

Walsh discussed the collections program implemented by the Court. He stated that a primary collections focus of the Court is scheduling showcause hearings for individuals who owe money to the court.

Parke discussed the success of the showcause hearings citing the high collection rates going back to 2003. She noted that there is no cost associated with collections since the Court staff administers the program.

Walsh discussed the process and benefits of the showcause program. Judge Parker noted that not only does this program generate revenue to cover costs, but it helps to maintain the integrity of the court.

Walsh discussed a new program that allows individuals to pay traffic fines and costs online with a 5% surcharge. He stated that they have received a tremendous response to this service and noted that it has reduced the credit card surcharge cost incurred by the court. He stated that he would like this service displayed on the Farmington website as well.

Judge Parker provided an update on the Sobriety Court Program that was implemented in May 2005. She noted that there are currently six participants in the four-phase program. She discussed the process and experience of the program. Walsh noted that the program is being evaluated and compared to a control group in a traditional program. Walsh confirmed that cases are randomly assigned to the Sobriety Court Program. He further noted that the Sobriety Court Program is more resource intensive.

Council thanked the Court Judges and administrative staff for their participation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Arnold T. Campbell, Mayor

Patsy K. Cantrell, City Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED: OCTOBER 3, 2005

Susan K. Halberstadt, Recording Secretary