

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
May 5, 2008

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, May 5, 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 7:04 p.m. by Mayor Knol.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: City Clerk Halberstadt, Director Knowles, Director Nebus, City Manager Pastue, Attorney Schultz (left at 8:10 p.m.), and Treasurer Weber.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

05-08-068 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wiggins, to approve the agenda as submitted. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Present: Senator Gilda Jacobs and Representative Aldo Vagnozzi

Senator Jacobs provided legislative updates on a number of Senate Bills including medical insurance reform and energy reform. She discussed some of the provisions of the state budget related to community colleges, community health, Medicaid, corrections, central office operations and education.

Representative Vagnozzi indicated the proposed increase of 4% to revenue sharing will hold up in the House of Representatives. He discussed a package of bills protecting senior citizens from fraud, abuse and physical injury. He stated a package of bills was recently introduced dealing with mental illness.

Senator Jacobs discussed recent passage of the zoo legislation noting it received unanimous support. She stated this legislation would allow a county to create an authority that could levy 1/10th of a mil for zoo funding. She stated both Oakland and Macomb Counties will likely have proposals on the August 5th ballot. She noted Wayne County has not moved as quickly.

Responding to a question from Councilmember McShane, Senator Jacobs stated any county can elect *not* to set up an authority to levy taxes for the zoo.

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McShane noted the burgeoning prison population is over weighted with individuals who have drug, alcohol, and mental health problems. She stated these problems when not addressed continue the vicious cycle of repeat offenders.

In a discussion of liquor licensing, McShane noted the wide availability of alcohol in Florida compared to the antiquated liquor laws of Michigan.

Senator Jacobs stated she has introduced legislation that would change the Sunday liquor laws expanding the opportunity to purchase alcohol on Sundays. She advised the bills would lift liquor bans and give local control to communities.

Discussion followed regarding the negative impact of the current liquor laws on economic development.

Representative Vagnozzi advised the House is considering legislation that would allow early voting and no reason absent ballot voting.

BUSINESS ITEMS

CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION APPROVING BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$3.2 MILLION IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BONDS FOR THE GRAND RIVER STREETScape/GROVE STREET PROJECT

RESOLUTION 05-08-069 Motion by McShane, seconded by Buck, to adopt a resolution approving ballot language for the issuance of up to \$3.2 million in Capital Improvement Bonds for the Grand River Streetscape/Grove Street Project for placement on the August 5, 2008 Primary Election ballot. [\[SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION\]](#).

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Knol, McShane, Wiggins, Wright, Buck.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION TO PLACE A CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ON THE AUGUST 5, 2008 PRIMARY ELECTION REGARDING ADMINISTRATION OF PENSION SYSTEM

RESOLUTION 05-08-070 Motion by Wiggins, seconded by Wright, to adopt a resolution to place a charter amendment proposal on the August 5, 2008 ballot that would allow the City to contract or participate with another public corporation in the administration of the pension system. [\[SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION\]](#).

ROLL CALL

Ayes: McShane, Wiggins, Wright, Buck, Knol.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDERATION TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE C-731-2008 TO AMEND CHAPTER 16 OF THE CITY CODE DEALING WITH SOLID WASTE SERVICES, RECYCLING SERVICES, YARD WASTE SERVICES AND FEES FOR SERVICES

Administration advised the changes in the proposed ordinance follow many of the provisions contained in the contract with Waste Management Inc.; additionally it provides the ability to establish a user charge for solid waste, recycling and yard waste services. Administration further advised this change would eliminate the recycling special assessment on the tax bill and the millage subsidy for these services.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Wiggins, City Manager Pastue confirmed the user charge would not be deductible and the homeowner would pay approximately \$15 per \$100,000 more as a result of the change.

05-08-071 MOTION by Buck, seconded by McShane, to introduce Ordinance C-731-2008 to amend Chapter 16 of the City Code relating to solid waste, recycling, yard waste services, and fees for the services. **[SEE ATTACHED ORDINANCE]**. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA) BUDGET REVIEW

Present: DDA Director Annette Knowles and DDA President Greg Cowley

DDA Director Annette Knowles presented the proposed FY 2008-09 DDA budget. She discussed the objectives and budgets for each of the core themes established in 2007. She provided line item detail for the operating budget.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Wright, Director Knowles stated the DDA has stayed within the current year budget, however, a few line items were over budget due in part to the accounting procedure for the Farmers Market and under allocation for the office move and renovations.

Councilmember Buck asked regarding the elimination of the Scarecrow Event from the DDA budget. He asked if the DDA is seeking sponsorship for that event. Director Knowles stated the DDA would like the event to continue, but other activities have taken precedence. She expressed hope that another entity would take on the event.

Buck stated the Scarecrow Contest is a terrific event that generates great enthusiasm in the Downtown and increases walking traffic. Knowles noted the cost of prizes for the event was prohibitive.

Discussion followed regarding costs and resources needed to conduct the Scarecrow Event.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Buck, Knowles stated members of the DDA Board are eligible to participate in the façade improvement program. She stated, however, participation in the program would require them to abstain from discussion and vote on facade approvals.

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Discussion followed regarding efforts to increase participation from the Merchants Association.

Responding to a question from Councilmember McShane, Knowles stated the DDA established the Volunteer Management Program in an effort to maintain and recruit volunteers and provide proper training and recognition.

McShane requested the DDA put a Christmas tree up in the Downtown during the holiday season.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Wiggins, Director Knowles stated the Farmers Market vendor fees were increased 20% this year. She stated incremental increases will continue to take place each year.

Mayor Knol asked if the DDA fully understands the additional costs associated with the increased TIF capture. Director Knowles responded in the near future the DDA will hire a consultant to assist in developing the TIF and Development plans. She stated through this process all related costs would be identified and addressed.

Mayor Knol thanked Director Knowles and the DDA Board for their effort and the countless hours they have committed to ensuring the advancement and success of the DDA.

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW

Public Safety Director Nebus presented the proposed FY 2008-09 Public Safety budget. He provided a detailed review of department staffing levels and line item detail of the operating budget.

Discussion followed regarding discretionary spending and opportunities for greater efficiencies and economizing.

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS BUDGET REVIEW

The Administrative Budget was postponed due to the late hour. Council agreed to schedule an additional budget meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

City Manager Pastue advised a request from Gala Restaurant for outdoor seating will come before Council at the next regular meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hank Borgman, 34011 Grand River, noted an official report from City consulting engineers regarding the Grand River does not mention bump-outs or provide for parking on the north side of the street.

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Betty Borgman, 34011 Grand River, requested clarification on the bond resolution adopted by Council.

Richard Tengler, 36491 Vicary, asked if the City has informed the public regarding the risk of the Grand River Streetscape project.

Dick Carvell, 33906 State Street, announced the Multicultural Multiracial Committee has scheduled a porch party at the Mansion on May 29th. He further announced the unveiling of the Warner Mansion statue has been scheduled for Sunday, June 29th.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember Wright recommended the City move forward with the initiatives of the Walkability Committee, such as safe crosswalks. He recommended striping designated areas for parking on Grand River. He stated the proposed Streetscape Project is not a perfect solution, but it is the best plan available given the limitations under which the City must operate.

Councilmember Buck expressed concern regarding the additional costs associated with having to go to a referendum for the Streetscape Project.

ADJOURNMENT

05-08-072 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wiggins, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Valerie S. Knol, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: May 19, 2008