

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
December 15, 2008

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, December 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 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Knol.

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Wiggins.

**CITY ADMINISTRATION:** City Clerk Halberstadt, Director Nebus, City Manager Pastue.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**12-08-232** MOTION by Buck, seconded by McShane, to approve the agenda as submitted. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT**

Traffic and Safety Boardmembers Present: Kenneth Chiara (Vice Chair), Norbert Leppanen, Jeffrey McGowan (Chair), Robert DeCorte (Ex-Officio).

Boardmember Leppanen reviewed a number of traffic issues the Board addressed in 2008.

Discussion began regarding speed limits in the Downtown Center. Boardmember McGowan noted under the Traffic Code the speed on city streets in the downtown area is automatically 25 mph. He stated the Board chose not to post the speed limit since they would have preferred to lower the limit.

Responding to a question, City Manager Pastue confirmed the streets in the Downtown Center are municipal streets. He indicated businesses on those streets have not changed their addresses accordingly.

Director Nebus stated his belief that speeding has not been a problem in the Downtown Center.

Leppanen advised the loop for the traffic light at Alta Loma and Farmington Road has been adjusted to speed up light changes for eastbound traffic on Alta Loma.

Discussion followed regarding the crosswalks at Alta Loma and Farmington Road and operation of the push buttons for pedestrians.

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Leppanen discussed the difficulty of parking in the Downtown Center. He stated the major complaint is the driver's ability to see thru traffic when backing out of a parking space. He questioned whether or not the parking spaces were properly striped.

Mr. DeCorte advised current parking has only minimal stall width, angled parking should be at 45 degrees, not 60 degrees; and the aisle way should be an optimal 20 feet wide, not 12 feet wide for drivers to safely back out. He noted the stall widths vary from 9 feet to 10 feet.

Pastue stated the only option for the City is to change the angle of the parking stalls. He noted this change would reduce the number of parking spaces.

Mayor Knol advised this change would be most worthwhile in front of the Post Office.

Mr. DeCorte stated there would be a major change, for the better, in traffic flow if parking stalls were widened to 10 feet and angled at 45 degrees.

Responding to a question, Pastue stated the proposed parking stalls on Grove Street are 10 feet wide and the aisle way is 16 feet wide.

Boardmember Chiara discussed a speed study conducted on Shiawassee which showed a high number of speeders. As a result, a request was made to Public Safety for a speed trap to slow down traffic.

Leppanen indicated a request had been received to allow right turn on red for eastbound Shiawassee traffic turning onto Farmington. He stated the Board determined this would be too dangerous because of the left turn arrow for westbound Shiawassee traffic and there is only a single southbound lane on Farmington Road.

Discussion followed regarding the A-Frame signs on Grand River and when they should be taken in at night.

Mayor Knol noted the signs have slowed down traffic considerably.

Lappanen advised accident incidences on northbound Farmington at Grand River have been reduced as a result of the center island on Farmington Road.

Discussion followed regarding traffic concerns at Our Lady of Sorrows and possible remedies. Director Nebus is working with the school to reconfigure the parking lot to accommodate buses in such a way to alleviate the traffic back-ups.

Lappanen noted the bus stop shelter at Brookdale was obstructing the view of drivers exiting Brookdale Condominiums. Upon recommendation of the Board, the shelter has been removed.

Lappanen advised the Board receives many complaints concerning speeding.

McGowan noted traffic studies have shown most drivers stay within speed limits.

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DeCorte thanked Council and Director Nebus for their continued support of the Board.

Chiara advised the Board is looking for another member.

Council thanked the Board for their excellent presentation and ongoing contributions to the City.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Pastue indicated a letter was received from the attorney of Doug Carvell requesting the City disclaim its interest as beneficiary under Dick Carvell's Trust in lieu of the 2007 financial gift given to the Mansion. He requested Council's feedback on this matter.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**COUNCIL COMMENT**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**12-08-233** MOTION by McShane, seconded by Buck, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Valerie S. Knol, Mayor

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Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: January 20, 2009