

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
July 20, 2009

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, July 20, 2009, 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, Wiggins, Wright.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: McShane.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: Director Gushman, City Clerk Halberstadt, City Manager Pastue, Treasurer Weber (arrived at 7:25 p.m.)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

07-09-150 MOTION by Wiggins, seconded by Wright, to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOURCE RECOVERY AND RECYCLING AUTHORITY OF SOUTHWEST OAKLAND COUNTY (RRRASOC) ANNUAL REPORT

Present: Mike Csapo, General Manager

Mike Csapo discussed RRRASOC performance providing an update on recycling activities and programs for 2008. He advised recycling in Farmington increased by 5% over the previous year. He indicated less than 54% of total waste collected was land filled. He noted Farmington was around the 50% threshold.

Csapo discussed a new operations agreement with FCR Recycling that allows the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) to generate new private sector investment, increase the types of materials that are processed, and improve upon its market position. He stated FCR Recycling took over their facility on October 1st. He expected FCR will invest some capital in the facility some time this year. He stated they are taking proposals from vendors to retrofit the facility for single stream recycling. He advised "Zero Sort" would be used, which means residents won't have to sort anything out. He continued to say that in advance of these new items, they will review whether or not it makes sense to consider new bins and new types of collection systems at the curb.

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Csapo mentioned that the hazardous waste collection program continues to go very well in the Farmington community. He noted there are a significant number of Farmington residents at the big collections event in May at the Costick Center, as well as the other events in Southfield and Novi.

Csapo spoke about a number of communication tools RRASOC is using to promote recycling including: "How To" videos on their website, cable program regarding the new curbside program, segment on the Commissioners Corner with Commissioner Schwartz, and a facebook page.

Knol noted at the Founders Festival there were containers specifically designed for recycling plastic bottles. She asked if these containers can be placed in the downtown permanently.

Pastue responded he would take a look at installing recycling containers, but noted the issue would be bottle collection.

Knol asked if Waste Management would undertake the bottle pick-up. Csapo responded that if the containers are as simple as pulling a bag out and replacing it with a new one, Waste Management would probably incorporate it into their curbside collection routes, but at a cost. So then the question becomes is the collection worth the cost.

Csapo mentioned that this is the first year that they are able to provide revenue sharing to the City on recyclables.

Wiggins asked about publicizing this revenue gain to residents in order to promote increased recycling. Csapo cautioned revenue sharing is not always achievable.

Pastue asked about newspaper recycling. Csapo replied that volume was down in 2008 and continues to be down in 2009. He pointed there hasn't been a significant impact in terms of the value of paper. He stated the most influential factor on the value of paper is China's ability to manufacture and buy.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

CHAMBER FEE

Pastue spoke about the City's \$5,000 annual membership fee to the Chamber. He noted the fee is significantly higher than where it was a couple of years ago. He recommended making quarterly payments versus paying in one lump sum.

Responding to a question from Wright, Pastue stated there was no increase over last year. He further responded he was unaware of the amount paid by Farmington Hills.

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Discussion followed regarding the Chamber's current office lease and options for reducing expense in that area.

Knol mentioned that Mary Engelman, Chamber President, would like to meet with both of the Cities, the DDA, and some of her board members to discuss the future of the Chamber.

PARCEL ACQUISITION

Pastue spoke about the parcel acquisition through the County Treasurer's Tax Reversion Process. He stated the property lies on the east side of the Rouge River, just south of Grand River Avenue. He indicated this is one of three parcels that are 50' in frontage and 150' in depth. He advised the price to purchase the middle parcel is about \$811. He mentioned City Attorney Schultz has reviewed the proposed purchase and is comfortable moving forward from a procedural stand point. He stated this purchase would protect an environmentally sensitive area and likely limit any future development. He advised the City has no plans for doing anything with the property.

Knol discussed the parcel next to Brookdale Street, noting a developer would need an additional 25' to meet City Code. She stated the City could sell a portion of its property to allow development of the adjacent parcel. Pastue responded that would be a Council decision. Knol continued the City should be open to future development in that area. Pastue responded that it will always be a challenge given the topography of the area.

Pastue discussed the process under which the City would obtain the property from the County.

GRAND RIVER STREETSCAPE PROJECT

Pastue discussed the proposed change order that would increase the overall cost of the Streetscape Project by \$227,427. He stated the increased cost is attributable to three areas: streetscape work, installation of a water main on the south side of Grand River, and the addition of the crosswalk just south of State Street on Farmington Road.

Pastue continued by reviewing the increased costs of the streetscape project. He stated the additional \$78,125 includes costs for the following: road work, drainage, brick pavers, and electrical. He talked about the field changes that have been made based upon the mock-ups that were created. He stated the changes include an argyle brick paver pattern and color, and a darker color concrete. He continued to say the additional part of the project cost of \$24,000 represents the benches that will be placed at various locations.

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Pastue advised electrical circuits had to be redesigned to provide enough electrical power where it is needed. He noted there will be an \$11,000 deduction that will come out on the back end part of the project.

Pastue advised the original streetscape budget was \$2,000,000 of which \$1,583,682 represents the construction budget. He stated Change Order #1 would increase the construction amount to \$1,592,000. He requested this item be added to the Regular Agenda.

Buck asked if the DDA Board had approved these changes. Pastue responded that DDA Director Knowles has been part of all of the decisions associated with the changes thus far. Buck also asked if the DDA Board needs to make a formal motion to approve the changes. Pastue replied only Council would be giving approval.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was heard.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

COUNCIL COMMENT

No council comment was heard.

ADJOURNMENT

07-09-151 MOTION by Wright, seconded by Wiggins, to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Valerie S. Knol, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Approved: August 17, 2009