

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, February 4, 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, City Manager Pastue.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

01-08-016 MOTION by Wright, seconded by Wiggins, to approve the agenda as amended, adding "Presentation of the Paperless Agendas" as item No. 6 and moving "Closed Session" to item No. 10. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SWOCC ANNUAL REPORT

Present: Caren Collins, Director, Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC)

Caren Collins provided Council with the 2007 SWOCC Annual Audit Report from Plante Moran. She stated SWOCC once again received an unqualified clean opinion. She noted in the report Farmington has been very aggressive in producing shows as reflected by the number of productions that exceeded the allotment for the City.

DISCUSSION OF VIDEO TAPING OF COUNCIL MEETING

City Manager Pastue briefly reviewed the components necessary for implementation of taped Council meetings. He reviewed operational considerations which included a SWOCC recommendation of three cameras requiring three operators and one production director.

Director Collins advised the SWOCC van was recently upgraded and as a result the old equipment was reconfigured into a "suitcase studio." She noted this equipment was used at the *test* taping of the Council meeting in December. She stated the "suitcase studio" could be stored at City Hall.

Mayor Knol asked Director Collins to discuss the options available for taping.

Director Collins advised the "suitcase studio" could be purchased from SWOCC for approximately \$6,550. She noted the equipment is old, but is in working condition. She

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further noted new equipment would cost upwards of \$100,000. She advised the City would also have the option of leasing the equipment.

Director Collins recommended the purchase of new audio equipment, including microphones for every Councilmember and staff and a wireless intercom for the production team. She further recommended the purchase of a DVD burner and some cabling. She noted the use of second-hand equipment with these additional purchases is a very cost effective option for taping meetings. She advised the meetings would not be live, but would be "live on tape" which means there would be no post production editing. She discussed the chain of custody of the DVD at the end of the meeting.

Responding to a question from Councilmember McShane, Director Collins indicated the Farmington Hills' meetings have been taped live for the last twenty-plus years. She discussed the difficulties in taping live meetings in Farmington due to the unknowns regarding cabling and Public Act 480 which no longer requires the cable operator to provide this service. She indicated the cable operator would likely charge a fee for a direct link.

Pastue discussed policy development for taped meetings including: broadcasting schedule, archiving the tapes, and price for copies. He further discussed the on-going expenses of taped meetings. He suggested paying volunteers a modest stipend of \$25-\$40 per meeting. He stated the implementation of taped meetings would require a reliable core of personnel to operate three cameras and a production director.

Director Collins noted it would be important for the volunteers to be trained by SWOCC. She stated it would be a select group of volunteers who would have to meet certain criteria.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Buck, Director Collins indicated SWOCC has no other immediate plans for the "suitcase studio."

Responding to a question from Mayor Knol, Director Collins stated it would be difficult to price out just one of the three cameras because they are configured as a set. She further noted the risk of only purchasing one of the old cameras without the benefit of the other two as back-ups. She estimated the cost of a new camera at \$20K-\$30K.

Councilmember McShane asked about the total cost to tape special and regular council meetings, DDA and Planning Commission meetings. Pastue responded less than \$10K for the equipment and approximate \$8K per year for volunteers.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Buck, Director Collins explained the operation of a remote camera used by other cities. She stated that although it only requires one volunteer the initial investment is quite high.

Discussion followed regarding the level of technology required for taping the meetings.

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Mayor Knol expressed concern regarding the commitment of four volunteers at each meeting. She stated it would be very difficult to recruit that many volunteers even with paying them a stipend. She recommended reducing the number of cameras, thereby reducing the number of volunteers needed. She suggested using one camera as an initial starting point.

Director Collins advised one camera is unwatchable and would diminish viewership. She recommended going with four volunteers, but having a back-up plan if someone doesn't show or a camera goes down.

Discussion followed regarding the feasibility of using only one camera given the number of speakers and the size of the room. Director Collins noted the room configuration prevents a wide angle shot.

Discussion continued regarding recruitment of volunteers. Director Collins indicated SWOCC has a pool of volunteers that can be used. Pastue noted the importance of volunteers functioning as a team.

Responding to a question from Councilmember McShane, Director Collins stated the "suitcase studio" cameras are approximately 25 years old and come with no guarantee. She stated the risk of these cameras is limited since the cost is only \$6,550. She discussed options for addressing equipment failures.

Councilmember Wright noted that with the "suitcase studio" if one or two cameras goes down a back-up would still be available for a single shot view.

Director Collins discussed a possible "flicker" with one of the cameras.

Pastue suggested negotiated terms whereby the functioning cameras are amortized over a couple of years, so if a camera breaks down the City pays for two cameras.

Mayor Knol again expressed concern regarding the requirement of four volunteers to tape a meeting. She stated the equipment won't matter if there is no one available to operate it.

Pastue stated a core team of two would likely be available on a consistent basis and a Plan B will be in place. He stressed the importance of having a plan in place in terms of cost, volunteers and equipment storage.

Councilmember Buck congratulated Director Collins on her recent election as President of the Michigan NATOA Chapter.

GRAND RIVER STREETScape/GROVE STREET PROJECTS

Date for Public Presentation

City Manager Pastue advised the public presentation of the Grand River Streetscape and Grove Street project has been set for February 25, 2008 at the Maxfield Training

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Center. He stated the budget meeting originally scheduled for that evening would need to be rescheduled.

Council discussed the importance of getting the word out to residents regarding the meeting and options for publicizing it. Pastue indicated a press release would be issued to the media.

Discussion of Notice of Intent Bond Resolution

Pastue noted at the last Council meeting there was discussion regarding the status of existing petition signatures related to a Bond Resolution adopted in December and extending the time period in which they can be submitted. He stated Bond Counsel has advised the existing signatures could be used past the original deadline if a new, identical bond resolution is adopted which would establish a new 45-day petition period. He advised a new Bond Resolution would be needed if the cost and/or scope of the project changed in which case the existing signatures could not be used.

Pastue advised the original petition deadline is February 17, 2008, therefore Council would need to make a decision regarding a new resolution before that date. He noted revised cost estimates on the project would be available by the end of the week which may trigger a recommendation on the resolution.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Wright, Pastue confirmed the existing petition signatures would remain in force if a new identical Bond Resolution is adopted.

Mayor Knol questioned whether an elector who signed the petition is allowed to change his/her mind after hearing the public presentation on the project and if so, what is the process. Pastue responded he would get back to Council with an answer.

Councilmember Buck congratulated Council and City Administration for their extraordinary efforts to preserve the existing petition signatures and their recognition of Mr. Borgman's efforts to obtain them.

Councilmember McShane stated there is a need to respect the views and opinions of Farmington residents. She further stated if they want the opportunity to vote on this issue then so be it. She asked residents to keep an open mind and attend the public presentation in order to make an informed decision. She expressed her admiration for those who have put so much effort into the petition drive.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERLESS AGENDAS

City Manager Pastue demonstrated how Council will use an electronic agenda and meeting packet. He stated the paperless agenda will be used for the next Council meeting and will also be put on the City's website. He noted laptops will be purchased for each Councilmember.

Responding to a question from Councilmember McShane, Pastue stated the City would prefer to print out packet materials for any Councilmember who needed it done.

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Pastue advised the City would cover the cost of an internet connection and each Councilmember will have personal e-mail addresses associated with the City.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Golden, 33414 Oakland, announced his wife, Joni Hubred-Golden, was appointed to the Women's Commission of Oakland County.

Hank Borgman, 34011 Grand River, noted taping a Council meeting with one camera would be dull. He expressed concern regarding moving forward with the Grand River Streetscape when there are a number of studies, as cited by Becky Burns in the Farmington Observer, being done that might affect this project.

Mayor Knol responded that the studies cited in the newspaper would have no impact on the Grand River Streetscape project.

Mr. Borgman questioned the actual costs of the project. Mayor Knol responded the City is waiting for the final cost estimates that may be lower than originally quoted.

Mr. Borgman suggested placing barrels of sand on Grand River to simulate the lane modifications proposed in the project plans in order to determine traffic flow. City Manager Pastue responded it would be difficult to place the barrels properly because it would not reflect the proper road width provided in the plans.

Mr. Borgman expressed concern regarding the walkability of the Downtown Center parking lot.

Betty Borgman, 34011 Grand River, cited a Traffic Study that was done for the City of Farmington that provides a graphic presentation of the measurements of the lanes on Grand River.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember McShane addressed the following comments regarding the Consolidation Study by Plante Moran to the residents of Farmington:

"My words are addressed to the residents of the City of Farmington. I am being continuously asked what's going on with this study.

On February 1st, I received the draft report by Plante Moran for the Cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

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We had asked the firm to give us an objective assessment of services, an unbiased report based on fact.

The report I received turned out to be biased from the start. This report was definitely fashioned for the needs and wants of the City of Farmington Hills.

The beginning of the report starts with why a merger would work. All the dialogue presented is as if a merger is moving forward. It includes the steps to take for municipal consolidation and legal process.

Only Farmington is portrayed as having deficiencies, but not Farmington Hills. The peer communities used in the study: Northville, Rochester Hills and Plymouth, are as different as night and day from our community.

We are more like Clawson, Beverly Hills and South Lyon. But nowhere in this study are these similar communities mentioned.

And why is a revitalization program for Scottsdale, Arizona, included in this study. Neither Farmington nor Farmington Hills has anything in common with this city.

It concerns me that we, as taxpayers, are footing the bill for this study and it is not to the depth, or as inclusive, as we asked and promised our residents.

In conclusion, I would suggest that the draft report be rejected and re-written to address the potential of shared services, and up to and including consolidation between Farmington and Farmington Hills based on real facts.

Mayor Knol congratulated Farmington Hills resident, Kirsten Haglund, on being named Miss America. She noted Farmington will be issuing a proclamation recognizing this achievement.

Mayor Knol advised City Department Heads will review the draft of the Collaboration Study issued by Plante Moran. She further advised City Administration will meet with a representative from Plante Moran to discuss any inaccuracies in the report and request modifications be made accordingly.

Councilmember Buck commended Councilmember McShane for her comments regarding the Collaboration Study. He shared many of her concerns regarding the inaccuracies and the way in which the study was approached and drafted. It appeared to him that the study came out with a specific aim and was not done in an unbiased and objective manner; and did not follow the City's directive.

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CLOSED SESSION – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UPDATES

01-08-017 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wiggins, to enter into closed session to discuss collective bargaining updates.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Knol, McShane, Wiggins, Wright, Buck.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council entered into closed session at 9:00 p.m. and returned to open session at 9:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

01-08-018 MOTION by Wright, seconded by McShane, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Valerie S. Knol, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: February 18, 2008