

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, October 1, 2007, 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 7:05 p.m. by Mayor McShane.

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**10-07-168** MOTION by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**47<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COURT ANNUAL REPORT**

Present: Court Administrator David Walsh, Deputy Court Administrator Stacy Parke, Judge Marla Parker and Judge James Brady.

Court Administrator Walsh gave an annual report on 47<sup>th</sup> District Court activities including caseload trends and revenues and expenditures.

Discussion followed regarding the cases that generate the most revenue and the comparability of ticket prices to other communities.

Judge Parker provided an update on the success of sobriety court. She indicated 28 participants in the program with the first graduation scheduled for October 25, 2007.

**FARMERS MARKET COMMITTEE**

Present: Dan Riehl and Walt Gajewski

Dan Riehl, Farmers Market Committee Member, gave a presentation on the success of the Farmers Market and its positive impact on the downtown. He discussed the efforts by the Committee to expand and improve the market.

Mr. Riehl requested feedback from Council regarding the direction of the market. Mayor McShane recommended a study session to discuss ideas for promoting the market.

Councilmember Buck noted the market is producing an outstanding result week after week.

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Councilmember Knol concurred that the market is doing great, but recommended making changes to the pavilion that would allow events to take place throughout the year.

Discussion followed regarding issues related to modifying the pavilion to make it usable in winter months.

Responding to a question, Committee Member Scott Stevenson stated surveys have been taken at the market that determine the number of market visitors from outside Farmington's zip code.

Councilmember Wright suggested the market committee take some risk in trying new ideas, but keeping them simple enough to achieve.

Mr. Riehl indicated the Committee is looking for additional volunteers and sponsorships for large events.

Mayor McShane cautioned against making the market too commercial risking a compromise of the high quality standards currently in place. She discussed a number of resources available to recruit volunteers. She suggested adding a second day to the market. She proposed the idea of a winter wonderland parade. She suggested greater use of the grassy area. She discussed the need to develop ideas for increasing revenues.

Mr. Riehl identified two areas where the Committee could use assistance: a connection between the pavilion and Grand River such as a walkway or fountain; and a crossing guard on Grand River between the Church and Starbucks combined with appropriate signage.

Discussion followed regarding the increase in market attendance and the need for additional signage for outer parking areas.

Councilmember Buck thanked Mr. Riehl for his excellent power point presentation and suggested putting it on the City's website and on cable.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE LANDSCAPE RESTORATION WORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHIAWASSEE PAVING AND WATER MAIN PROJECT**

**RESOLUTION 10-07-169** Motion by Wright, seconded by Wiggins, to approve payment to Fred's Landscape, 2850 Potter, Wixom, Michigan, in the amount of \$21,913.25 for restoration work at Farmington High School related to the Shiawassee Road Paving and Water Main Project.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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*Mayor McShane moved public comment up to the next agenda item in order to accommodate a number of residents present who wished to speak..*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kim Thompson-Everett, 23210 Lilac, expressed her concern regarding a rat problem in her subdivision. She reviewed steps that had already been taken to address this issue. She noted the embarrassment this problem has caused her. She understood why the City would not want to publicize this problem. She stated this problem cannot be kept a secret and the City has a responsibility to educate residents on what they need to do to assist in addressing this problem.

Marilyn Wolfe, 23259 Lilac, noted her appearance before Council last year to address the same rat problem. She expressed her belief that the infestation has increased dramatically. She stated that after living in Farmington for 35 years she is faced with fear of going into her backyard. She advised further measures are needed to address this problem.

City Manager Pastue indicated bait boxes have already been placed in the affected area. He stated a mailing would go out to residents regarding the rodent issue and its prevention. He stated a City Officer along with the exterminator will evaluate homes for habitats.

Councilmember Knol recommended sending a newsletter to the entire subdivision informing residents of the problem and where rats have been spotted. She stated the letter should also warn residents against putting out poison. She further stated that in addition to the newsletter the City needs to step up code enforcement to address violations. She expressed concern that falling leaves would create more habitats and residents should remove them as soon as possible.

Discussion followed regarding the possible causes for the infestation.

Mayor McShane recommended a coordinated effort with Farmington Hills to address the problem.

Knol recommended aggressive code enforcement to eliminate rodent habitats.

Councilmember Buck noted the great things going on in Farmington, but like all cities there are problems to be addressed. He expressed his deep concern regarding the rodent issue. He stated educating the public on rat prevention is a good idea and there needs to be continued effort to find the root cause of the problem. He noted that increased awareness of residents to the problem is the best way to resolve the issue. He also expressed concern that the City may have "brushed off" residents who expressed concern regarding the problem.

William Cavers, 23179 Lilac, expressed concern regarding neighbors putting out poison that not only kills rats but other wildlife. He indicated it is illegal for residents to put out

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poison. He confirmed extermination can occur under the guidelines of the Department of Natural Resources.

Mayor McShane asked residents to keep in touch with the City regarding the rodent issue.

*Council took a five-minute break at 9:10 p.m.*

**CITY MANAGER UPDATES ON PROJECT AND ISSUES**

City Manager Pastue provided an update on the Grand River and Grove Street Streetscape projects. Council discussed the proposed site plans for each project and made recommendations.

**COUNCIL COMMENT**

Mayor McShane asked about the status of the resident survey concerning the consolidation study. City Manager Pastue responded a meeting with Joe Ohren had been scheduled to develop a strategy concerning the survey.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**10-07-170** MOTION by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

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JoAnne M. McShane, Mayor

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Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: October 15, 2007