

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, April 2, 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, Attorney Schultz (arrived at 7:25 p.m.).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**04-07-063** MOTION by Buck, seconded by Wiggins, to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**INTERVIEW ZONING COMMISSION CANDIDATE – STEVEN MAJOROS**

Council interviewed Steven Majoros for a position on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**DTE UPDATE**

City Manager Pastue advised a meeting between homeowners and Mr. Palchesko of DTE has been scheduled for April 19, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss power outage problems and proposed remedy. He stated DTE is currently in the process of making the necessary changes in the Wilmarth/Oakland Street area to remedy the situation.

**MEETING WITH HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Present: Jim Atkinson, Dick Carvell, Bill Lindblad, Chairman, Laura Myers

City Manager Pastue advised he had met with Chairman Lindblad to determine topics for discussion relative to the Historical Commission. He asked Mr. Lindblad to lead the discussion on Mansion operations.

**Governor Warner Mansion Operations**

Chairman Lindblad advised that the Historical Commission had at one time been responsible for the Mansion. He stated the Commission was receptive to resuming oversight of the Mansion and toward that end would like to reinstate a sub-committee. He advised the three-member committee would include a docent, member-at-large and a facility manager. He noted that the caretaker of the Civic Theatre could also be the facility manager for the Mansion. He stated the Commission would receive a monthly report from the Committee.

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Commissioner Carvell expressed support for a business manager who would also bring more events to the Mansion.

Commissioner Myers stated the Mansion should be treated in the same way as a Farmington park. She noted the importance of the Mansion to the City and its identity.

Commissioner Atkinson stated the Mansion needs someone to perform the day-to-day operations.

Councilmember Knol noted the importance of the Mansion and expressed support for a committee. She stated Administration does not have the resources to promote the Mansion. She advised there should be greater use of the grounds and carriage house through additional programming and events. She expressed support for a facility manager who would be responsible for scheduling events.

Commissioner Atkinson noted that parking is an ongoing problem.

Discussion followed regarding appropriate signage to direct Mansion traffic.

**Long-term Use of Governor Warner Mansion and Site**

Mayor McShane stated a master plan would be a good idea for the Mansion. She noted that as time goes on grants and possible bequeathments may become available.

Chairman Lindblad noted everybody has an idea of how the Mansion property should be used. He stated a vision of the Mansion should be developed and agreed upon. He advised any vision should take into consideration the limitations of the Mansion's interior and the beauty and use of the grounds.

Buck stated the financial pressures of the City will continue to increase. He advised private funding will become increasingly important in funding the Mansion's activities.

Mayor McShane strongly suggested the formation of a standing events committee that would put on successful events such as the musical brunch that was held last year.

Councilmember Wiggins noted a pool of volunteers available to the City.

Discussion followed regarding the Mansion budget, capital improvements, long term planning and potential events.

Knol asked about the formation of a committee that would look at long term planning for the Mansion. Pastue suggested using an architect to develop site use and cost estimates.

Councilmember Wright expressed concern regarding the Mansion budget and committing dollars to yet undetermined capital improvements and the need to hire someone to carry out the strategy of the Mansion.

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Commissioner Atkinson stated there are many people interested in volunteering at the Mansion, but they need someone to direct them.

Mayor McShane noted that Mansion activities and fundraisers do not always have to be on site.

**Follow-up to DDA Historical District Survey**

Chairman Lindblad noted results of a recent Historical District Survey revealed Farmington has two historic districts: one established by ordinance and the other listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He advised the boundaries of these districts overlap, but the one listed on the National Register is primarily on Grand River from Farmington Road to Warner Street.

Lindblad questioned how the Historical Commission should function in the context of two historic districts. He asked about the availability of documentation from 1975 that would reveal the City's intention regarding placement on the National Register.

Pastue stated regardless of the City's intent in 1975, the City must now determine whether or not the historic district should be redefined.

Discussion followed regarding the history behind the determination of a National Register Historic District in Farmington and how to proceed with the two districts.

Lindblad stated that if the area defined by the National Register is truly within a historic district then there are certain requirements that need to be met. He questioned if the City does not intend to meet those requirements then should the district be dissolved.

Knol asked if it would make sense to realign the boundaries of the National Register District so they match the City's current district. She noted the value a National Historic District adds to the City.

Lindblad agreed that would be one approach. He questioned whether those structures identified in the National Register District have been altered to the point they no longer qualify as historic buildings. He stated the City Ordinance could be changed to match the National Register. He concurred that it would be beneficial to meet with a consultant regarding this issue.

Mayor McShane stated it is important to take a close look at this issue because historic preservation is very important to the community. She cited the benefits of an historical district including branding, tax credits and redevelopment.

Mayor McShane thanked the Commission for their time and effort.

Pastue suggested Mansion operations and the development of a master plan could be followed up at a later meeting.

Mayor McShane noted the Mansion's efforts through Dick Carvell to seek contributions for a sculpture to be located in the garden.

**REVIEW OF APPLICANTS FOR POTENTIAL VOLUNTEER POSITIONS**

Council discussed the opportunity to recruit individuals to other Board and Commission vacancies who were previously candidates for Council and DDA positions.

Discussion followed regarding ways to involve these individuals in various committees to keep their interest in volunteering in the community.

Pastue suggested that he meet with candidates to determine their interest in other vacancies.

Council expressed support for a job (volunteer) fair where members from each board, commission and committee would be present to discuss opportunities with potential volunteers.

Pastue agreed to send a letter to candidates advising them of volunteer opportunities and informing them they will be contacted to further discuss their involvement.

Mayor McShane suggested a round table meeting with candidates to discuss volunteer opportunities.

Buck suggested encouraging chairs of Boards and Commissions to contact these volunteers directly and encourage their participation.

**04-07-064** MOTION by Wright, seconded by Wiggins, to appoint Steven Majoros to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill an unexpired term ending June 30, 2009. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CLOSED SESSION – REVIEW OF CITY ATTORNEY CONFIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE**

**04-07-065** MOTION by Buck, seconded by Wright, to enter into closed session to review City Attorney confidential correspondence.

**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.

**04-07-066** MOTION by Knol, seconded by Wright, to return to open session. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council returned to open session at 10:15 p.m.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Pastue stated that at a recent meeting with SWOCC there was discussion regarding increasing the PEG fee in the AT&T contract to cover in-kind services the City currently receives from Bright House Communications.

Discussion followed regarding the likelihood of Bright House continuing to offer in-kind services free of charge.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None were heard.

**COUNCIL COMMENT**

Wiggins noted Ken Murray was recently recognized with a gold award from the Farmington Area Commission on Aging for his extensive volunteerism in the community.

Buck thanked the City for allowing him to attend the National League of Cities conference.

Mayor McShane requested assurance from Administration that the Masonic Temple corner would be planted with flowers and maintained this year. She announced the Musical Brunch at the Mansion is planned for June 9<sup>th</sup> and is looking for both volunteers and ideas for entertainment.

Council agreed to conduct a round table discussion on cable on April 30, 2007. Mayor McShane agreed to e-mail topics for discussion to Councilmembers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**04-07-067** MOTION by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

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JoAnne M. McShane, Mayor

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Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

ADOPTED: April 16, 2007