

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, September 20, 2004, 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 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Campbell.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bush (arrived 6:42 p.m.), Campbell, Knol, McShane, Mitchell.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**CITY ADMINISTRATION:** Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, City Manager Pastue, Assistant City Manager Richards, Attorney Schultz.

**CLOSED SESSION RE: PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY**

Mayor Campbell opened the meeting with a request for a motion to enter into closed session.

**09-04-210** MOTION by McShane, seconded by Mitchell, to enter into closed session to consider the purchase of real property.

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Knol, McShane, Mitchell, Campbell.

Nays: None.

Absent: Bush.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council entered into closed session.

**09-04-211** MOTION by Mitchell, seconded by Knol, to return to an open meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council returned to open session at 6:36 p.m.

(Attorney Schultz left at 6:35 p.m.)

**DISCUSSION WITH HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Atkinson, Dick Carvell, Keith Grattan, Jane Gundlach, Nancy Leonard, William Lindblad (*Chair*), Joseph Mosey.

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Mayor Campbell invited Chairperson Lindblad to lead the discussion on the agenda items concerning the Historical Commission. (Bush arrived at 6:42 p.m.) Lindblad addressed the first agenda item regarding non-district historic housing, noting that one-hundred potential properties have been identified. He explained that a letter was sent to these properties to inform them of the Historical Commission's interest and to provide information on signage for their homes.

Chairperson Lindblad discussed the next agenda item concerning the planning for an Historic District Study Committee. He stated that the Commission had been asked by the City to explore the possibility of establishing the Historic District as a certified government unit for tax benefits purposes. He requested guidance from Council in terms of timelines, reports and committee composition.

Councilmember McShane suggested contacting Lansing or Oakland County since this type of program has been implemented in other areas. She stressed the importance of tax breaks for historic structures as renovations would likely increase with the reconstruction of the Downtown.

City Manager Pastue stated that the Commission already has a good start on the program with work that was previously done and the identification of the non-district historic homes. He noted that the statute does not specify time frame or composition of the study committee.

Responding to a question, Pastue stated that the study committee would define the parameters of the Historic District and submit to Council for approval.

Discussion followed regarding a timeline, procedural requirements and possible use of an intern. Mayor Campbell stated that a set of objectives would need to be developed before a committee could be formed.

Discussion continued regarding how to proceed with the program.

Councilmember Knol suggested that once the committee is established, it could divide into groups; one group could review the existing Historic District, looking at research that has already been done; and the other could review expansion of the District.

McShane suggested that the committee chair contact state and county officials for direction in developing the program. Knol noted that at an earlier meeting the State recommended that the committee be comprised of more than just Historical Commission members and that the first goal would be to assess the current Historic District.

Mayor Campbell re-emphasized the need for the establishment of goals and objectives prior to forming the committee. McShane suggested that the Historical Commission establish them.

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Chairperson Lindblad stated that the Historical Commission could establish parameters and goals for the study committee with input from Oakland County and the State followed by review and approval by Council. Mayor Campbell asked that City Administration provide support to the Commission where needed.

Discussion continued regarding the composition of a committee, how to proceed and recruitment of members.

Lindblad confirmed that the development of the study committee would become a regular part of the Historical Commission's monthly meetings.

Mayor Campbell suggested planning a follow-up special meeting with Council.

In addressing the third agenda item, Lindblad stated that the Historical Commission should have been given the opportunity to provide input on the portion of the Historic District affected by the Downtown Master Plan amendment.

Responding to a question, Lindblad stated that until recently he was unaware that the Master Plan involved changes to the Historic District.

Pastue stated that the long term use of the parcels in question were zoned as Central Business District and were therefore included in the Master Plan. Gundlach stated that the parcels are an entrance to the Historic District and should therefore be enhanced as such rather than used for commercial use.

**DISCUSSION WITH COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES RE:  
EVENTS AND PROJECTS**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Joan McGlincy and Wendy Munson, Farmington Hills representatives, Andy Nickelhoff (*Chair*) and Susie Symons.

Mayor Campbell thanked the Commission members for attending and asked for introductions from those present. He asked Chairperson Nickelhoff to lead the discussion on the events and projects of the Commission.

Chairperson Nickelhoff stated that the "Diversity in the Community" video will be completed shortly and will air on cable in October. He indicated that it communicates the diversity of our community and the many activities capitalizing on that asset. He noted that the video includes extensive coverage of the activities of the Multicultural, Multiracial Counsel.

Chairperson Nickelhoff advised that the "Family Night" event would not be brought back next year, however, ongoing family-centered activities would be planned. He discussed the ongoing issues of early childhood, noting the need for quality childcare and early child development. Discussion followed regarding distribution of a survey relative to childcare.

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Chairperson Nickelhoff further discussed the brochure that is currently being produced for the Commission and the ongoing Volunteer Recognition Program, including celebrating the ten-year anniversary of the Romney Award next year. He informed Council of new programs in development that include a brochure on college financing and a project called "Take Your Kids to Vote". Discussion followed regarding the importance of including children in the voting process.

Chairperson Nickelhoff stated that the Commission is currently exploring the influence of media on children. He further stated that the Commission is working with the Mayors' Youth Council to coordinate with them on various activities. Commission member McGlincy stated that the Commission is also looking at the effects of consumerism on children. Nickelhoff stated that the Commission is also encouraging job shadowing.

McShane asked if the Commission had assessed the success of the youth programs currently in place in the community. McGlincy responded that they receive regular reports from Todd Lipa of Youth and Family Services and the YMCA.

Responding to a question, Nickelhoff stated that there are two positions available on the Commission.

Knol suggested that the Commission plan a month rather than a day in which family activities would be promoted.

Council thanked the Commission members for attending the meeting and their contributions to the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

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ARNOLD T. CAMPBELL, Mayor

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PATSY K. CANTRELL, City Clerk/Treasurer