

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, December 4, 2006, 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 7:03 p.m. by Mayor McShane.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Buck, Knol, McShane, Sutherland, Wiggins.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: Director Gushman (left at 9:30 p.m.), Clerk Halberstadt, City Manager Pastue, Attorney Joppich (substituted for City Attorney Schultz and arrived at 9:30 p.m.).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

12-06-222 MOTION by Wiggins, seconded by Sutherland, to approve the agenda as amended, moving “Arts Commission – Interview Marion Middlebrooks” from agenda item No. 5 to No. 3 and renumbering the following items accordingly. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTS COMMISSION – INTERVIEW MARION MIDDLEBROOKS

Council interviewed Marion Middlebrooks for a position on the Arts Commission.

SOLID WASTE SERVICE COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT PROCESS SUMMARY – RRRASOC – MIKE CSAPO

Mike Csapo, Executive Director of Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRASOC), was present to discuss a competitive procurement process undertaken by RRRASOC to ensure member communities are provided with solid waste management services that are cost-competitive, environmentally responsible, and meet the service quality standards expected by residents.

Csapo stated the approach seeks competitive private sector proposals for the individual components of the typical solid waste management system such as hauling and collection, landfilling, composting, and recycling. He further stated that experience shows that by segmenting the various components of the solid waste system, the best pricing for each component can be obtained.

SPECIAL MEETING -2-
December 4, 2006

Csapo advised that RRASOC will also be looking at single stream recycling wherein residents are provided a large container on wheels that is picked up in an automated fashion. He stated studies have found that this type of container promotes recycling.

Csapo further discussed the timeline for the procurement process and related details. He discussed two other projects currently being considered: a bio-gasification feasibility study and a marketing and recruitment initiative that would leverage the procurement process to encourage businesses related to solid resource management to move to Southwest Oakland County.

Responding to a question from Mayor McShane, Mr. Csapo stated that other cities use the recycling center, however, only a minimal amount of income is generated because the markets are limited and in addition, a regulatory requirement is in place that promotes a glut of landfill reducing the need for recycling.

Council thanked Mr. Csapo for his comprehensive presentation.

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Tina Theeke, Director of the Farmington Community Library, was present to provide an update on the financial status and activities of the Library. She stated as a result of voter approval of the millage proposal in May 2005, the financial state of the Library is strong. She reviewed a number of accomplishments over the last year including: restoration of Library hours from 60 hours to 72 hours and increased use of technology.

Theeke described programs offered by the Library and plans currently in place to ensure future financial security.

Responding to questions from Councilmember Buck, Director Theeke stated that the Library provides two T1 lines and a fiber optic line; and confirmed the e-books can only be used on general MP3 players.

Councilmember Knol asked if currently there is a program for sharing resources with the public schools. Director Theeke responded that the media specialists at the schools use the electronic resources of the library. She further cited other joint programs with the schools including: Reading Rainbow, Book Parade and Battle of the Books.

Mayor McShane asked about Library programs in conjunction with Headstart. Director Theeke spoke about the Busy Bees newsletter which is an outreach program that serves Headstart. She noted the Library has always had an ongoing relationship with Headstart.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Knol, Director Theeke stated the purchase of log-on software is in this year's budget.

Director Theeke thanked Council for their continued support.

BOARD/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Appointment To Sign Committee

City Manager Pastue advised that Planning Commission Chairman, Dave Gronbach, has agreed to serve on the Sign Committee. He indicated he is looking for additional members including a representative from Council.

Councilmember Wiggins expressed interest in serving.

Council took a five-minute break at 8:25 p.m.

FISCAL YEAR 2006/07 THRU 2011/12 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Review of Shiawassee Road Reconstruction Project and Work Plan

Present: Jon Kramer, John Hiltz and Roberto Scappaticci of Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment (OHM)

Pastue discussed the magnitude of the Shiawassee Road reconstruction project and the importance of early and ongoing communication with residents regarding the plans. He stated there are a lot of issues involved including accommodating school transportation, the Founders Festival, South Farmington Baseball parade, Relay for Life, etc. He invited representatives from OHM to discuss the reconstruction plans.

Jon Kramer spoke about plans for widening Shiawassee Road including the addition of a left turn lane at Raphael Street and the eastern most entrance of the High School.

Pastue advised there would be no reduction in private or right-of-way property as a result of the turn lanes. He further advised the Traffic and Safety Board have reviewed the plans a number of times.

Mr. Kramer discussed the detour plans for both Phase I and II of the construction project. He stated Phase I will extend from Farmington Road to Raphael Street and Phase II will extend from Raphael Street to Orchard Lake Road. He advised Phase I construction would begin in April and continue through early part of June and Phase II would begin in mid-June continuing through August. He further discussed the detour and closure plans for both phases.

Councilmember Buck asked about access to the school parking lot during Phase II. Mr. Kramer responded there would be limited access, noting construction would be done in stages to allow for local traffic. Discussion followed regarding access alternatives to the High School.

SPECIAL MEETING -4-
December 4, 2006

Councilmember Buck asked if the City and OHM had considered a three-phase rather than two-phase plan. Mr. Kramer responded that additional phases would result in increased time and costs.

Responding to an additional question, Mr. Scappaticci stated the construction contract will stipulate specific times for completion of each phase. He confirmed that the school has been fully apprised of the construction plans.

Director Gushman indicated meetings were planned with Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Farmington Public Schools, Public School Transportation and Farmington Hills Recreation Department.

Mayor McShane suggested displaying a map on the local cable channel of the two-phased construction plan.

Knol asked about notification to residents of the surrounding neighborhoods and plans for major events that would be affected.

Pastue advised alternate parking would need to be found for the Festival. He stated Director Nebus has sent a letter to South Farmington Baseball informing them of the need to change the parade route. He discussed plans to hold "drop-in" informational meetings for residents. He stated along with himself, Director Gushman and representatives from OHM would be present to answer questions. He confirmed notification of the original meetings would go out to residents. He stated there would be a specific location on the website to provide updates on the construction.

Mayor McShane asked about staging in the Shiawassee Park parking lot. Pastue responded they are currently looking for a staging area, but it would not be in the Park.

Responding to an additional question, Director Gushman stated that during construction the sidewalks and crosswalks on Shiawassee would still be available to walkers and bikers going to Shiawassee Park.

Councilmember Sutherland questioned the safety of the left turn lane at the High School. Pastue advised that Public Safety believes it will make that area much safer.

Responding to a question from Knol, Pastue confirmed there is no possibility of a sidewalk on the south side of Shiawassee Road on the hill heading down towards the Park.

Pastue talked about the implementation process and funding for the project.

Discussion followed regarding High School parking, hours of construction and construction deadlines to be included in the contract.

Review of Proposed Capital Improvements Program

Pastue reviewed the Capital Improvement Program for FY 2006/07 thru FY 2011/12, noting there is adequate funding for the projects. He stated statutory revenue sharing would be moved from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund beginning in FY 2008/09. He noted projects covered by revenue sharing would be tabled if that funding is eliminated. He stated the City would maintain about a \$400,000 fund equity balance.

Pastue reviewed some of the proposed projects and how they would be funded.

Mayor McShane asked about planned improvements for the Pavilion and Riley Park. Pastue responded improvements include: park benches, audio system, lighting and painting. He stated any costs above the budgeted amount would need to be covered by the Downtown Development Authority.

Responding to a question regarding the Skateboard Facility, Pastue stated the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides for a skate park, however, since Farmington Hills is also working on a skate park he proposed making a joint contribution to that project instead. He stated joint funding with the Hills is typically a 90/10 split and the amount budgeted is approximately 10% of the Hills' cost for the project.

Councilmember Knol advised Farmington Hills is fundraising for the skate park project, therefore donations should be deducted from the total cost before the City determines the contribution amount.

Mayor McShane noted the City has never funded Farmington Hills' capital improvement projects for Parks and Recreation. She asked if the money budgeted for the skate park could be used for some of the City's other Parks and Recreation Projects. Pastue advised most of the projects have been funded.

Councilmember Sutherland stated her belief that the City should contribute to Farmington Hills' projects. She pointed out that just as Farmington Hills considers the City's downtown as their downtown, our City considers their Parks and Recreation facilities as ours.

Discussion followed regarding joint ventures and residency versus non-residency fees.

Councilmember Knol stated she is fine with leaving in the budgeted amount for the skate park, but views it as a placeholder for future discussion. She noted that if Farmington residents pay more to use Farmington Hills facilities, then the formula for contribution to projects needs to be adjusted. She further noted that if the City is considering a contribution to the Farmington Hills Skate Park, then there should be discussion regarding the ice skating rink proposed for Riley Park. She stated the total Parks and Recreation program needs to be reviewed in its entirety.

SPECIAL MEETING -6-
December 4, 2006

Pastue indicated that many parks in the area are classified as regional parks and that Shiawassee Park could be classified as such.

Councilmember Wiggins confirmed with City Manager Pastue that the exterior enclosures discussed for the Pavilion would be funded by the DDA as well as the ice rink. Discussion followed regarding issues related to the ice rink.

CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE SUBMITTING OF HUD FORM 424 FOR FEDERAL GRANTS FOR SHIAWASSEE PARK

RESOLUTION 12-06-223 Motion by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to authorize the City Manager to sign and submit HUD Application Form 424, Federal Grant Number B-06-SP-MI-0481, in the amount of \$346,500, for the construction of an ADA compliant ramp in Shiawassee Park. [SEE ATTACHED APPLICATION]. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLUTION 12-06-224 Motion by Sutherland, seconded by Buck, to authorize the City Manager to sign and submit HUD Application Form 424, Federal Grant Number B-06-SP-MI-0480, in the amount of \$148,500, for Shiawassee Park trail improvements, replacement of footbridge with ADA compliant footbridge, and upgrade lighting on trail and pathways. [SEE ATTACHED APPLICATION]. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CLOSED SESSION – REVIEW OF CITY ATTORNEY’S OPINION

12-06-225 MOTION by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to enter into closed session to review City Attorney Opinion.

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council entered into closed session at 9:30 p.m. and returned to open session at 10:30 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

SPECIAL MEETING -7-
December 4, 2006

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember Sutherland noted that "Holly Days" held in the Downtown the previous weekend went well. She questioned whether businesses without power could have opened.

Discussion followed regarding the power outage in the Downtown and the delay in repair.

Councilmember Buck suggested meeting with representatives of DTE to work towards reaching a resolution to the City's concerns.

Discussion followed regarding the availability and dissemination of emergency information.

Councilmember Sutherland suggested using outlying shopping center parking lots for shuttle service to Founders Festival.

ADJOURNMENT

12-06-226 MOTION by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

JoAnne M. McShane, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: DECEMBER 18, 2006