

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Wednesday, November 14, 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 7:35 p.m. by City Clerk Halberstadt.

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: John T. Buck, Valerie S. Knol, JoAnne M. McShane, Michael J. Wiggins, David J. Wright

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: City Clerk Halberstadt, City Manager Pastue, City Attorney Schultz.

OATH OF OFFICE

City Clerk Halberstadt administered the oath of office to newly elected Councilmembers JoAnne McShane, Valerie S. Knol, and David J. Wright.

ELECTION OF MAYOR

City Manager Pastue called for nominations for Mayor.

In response to a question from Councilmember Buck, City Attorney Schultz reviewed the mayoral responsibilities.

Councilmember McShane nominated Valerie Knol for Mayor.

Councilmember Wright nominated Tom Buck for Mayor.

Hearing no further nominations, City Manager Pastue closed the nominations.

Councilmember Buck requested discussion before taking a vote. He asked Knol regarding her position on the consolidation effort with Farmington Hills.

Councilmember Knol responded by stating the study is important because it will provide residents with factual and objective data from a third party. She discussed the future economic challenges the cities will be facing. She spoke about increased efforts by the State to promote cost sharing and revenue cutbacks. She stated the city must be proactive in looking for ways to save money. She noted that she is not necessarily in support of a full consolidation, but emphasized that the city must explore cost sharing opportunities.

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Knol spoke about Farmington's positive relationship with Farmington Hills and the possibility for that relationship to expand and improve.

Knol stated she could not support an increase in shared services or a full consolidation until the facts are known. She spoke about the variety of opinions she has heard from residents regarding consolidation and the steps the city is taking to provide opportunities for resident feedback.

Knol noted that all Councilmembers voted for the consolidation study. Responding to an additional question, she stated if a decision needed to be made today she would not vote for consolidation, but stressed that there is not enough information currently available to make an informed decision. She emphasized the importance for Councilmembers to have an open mind to the results of the study.

Councilmember Buck expressed his appreciation to Knol for her feedback. He stated the Mayor's position should be one that supports the city's autonomy until residents have indicated otherwise. He expressed his wish that the city had obtained feedback from residents prior to embarking on the consolidated study.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Wright, Buck stated the consolidation study is important in terms of providing additional data for sharing services. He stated if he had to vote today his vote would be for Farmington's autonomy.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in unanimous support for Valerie Knol as Mayor.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Mayor Knol called for nominations for the Office of Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Wright nominated Councilmember Buck for the Office of Mayor Pro Tem.

Hearing no further nominations, Mayor Knol closed the nominations and declared unanimous support for Councilmember Buck as Mayor Pro Tem.

COUNCILMEMBER APPOINTMENTS SERVING ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

At the request of Mayor Knol, Councilmembers volunteered to serve on the following Boards and Commissions:

Farmington Employee Retirement	-	Wright
Farmington Retiree Health Care Board of Trustees	-	Knol
Planning Commission	-	Buck
Board of Zoning Appeals	-	Knol
Brownfield Redevelopment Authority	-	McShane
Farmington Election Commission	-	McShane
Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission	-	Undecided

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Southeast Michigan Council of Governments(S.E.M.C.O.G.)	Knol/Pastue (alternate)
8 Mile Boulevard Association	- Wiggins
Farmington Area Founders Festival	- Knol
Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council	- Wright
Call to Action Coalition	- McShane
Chamber of Commerce Liaison	- Wright
Farmington Hills Redevelopment Committee	- Buck
Farmington Youth Assistance	- Wiggins
Charter Review Committee	- Wiggins

**CONFIRM JOINT MEETING WITH DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR
DECEMBER 15, 2007 – 8:30 AM TO 11:00 AM.**

Council confirmed a meeting with the Downtown Development Authority on December 15, 2007 at 8:30 AM in Council Chambers.

OTHER BUSINESS

City Manager Pastue advised a mailing would be sent to residents regarding the shared services meeting set for December 4, 2007 and the extension of the leaf pick-up program.

McShane recommended inserting a separate flyer for the shared services meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None were heard.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Buck recognized the recent dedication of a historical marker at the United Methodist Church. He noted Dick Carvell provided an entertaining recitation of the Church's 178 year history.

McShane reflected on her term as Mayor over the last two years. She stated it has been an honor and privilege to serve the City of Farmington. She noted her term was full of wonderful experiences including the positive direction of the City in terms of its AAA bond rating and recognition as a top 100 City. She recognized the overwhelming success of Riley Park and the Sundquist Pavilion. She expressed gratitude to the many volunteers for all their efforts and optimism for the future of the City. She thanked Councilmembers for their support, help and kind words. She thanked City staff for helping to make the past two years a strong and positive time in the City's history.

Mayor Knol, on behalf of the Council, thanked Councilmember McShane for her contributions to the City. She recognized the wealth of experience and knowledge Councilmember McShane brings to the Council.

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Mayor Knol recognized the progress the City has made over the past few years and noted there is still a lot of work to be done. She stated she looked forward to working with the Council to accomplish goals that still need to be reached. She noted the tough decisions that will need to be made.

ADJOURNMENT

11-07-193 MOTION by Wiggins, seconded by Buck, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Valerie S. Knol, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: December 17, 2007