

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 30, 2012

A special session of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, January 30, 2012, 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 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Buck

PRESENT: Buck, Cowley, Galvin, Kuiken.

ABSENT: McShane.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: City Manager Pastue, City Attorney Schultz, Recording Secretary Murphy.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

01-12-014 MOTION by Kuiken, seconded by Cowley, to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED OPTING OUT OF SMART

Pastue spoke about discussions that have taken place subsequent to the January 17th meeting where Council voted to opt out of SMART. He stated the City has received clarification of the proposal presented by SMART prior to that meeting. The City has received written communication from Deputy General Manager Jim Fetzer reinforcing the addition of three Dial-a-Ride vehicles to service in Farmington; expansion of service to specified areas in opted out communities; and delineation of related times and fees.

Mayor Buck advised that in order to have a reconsideration of motion specific language needed to be incorporated.

01-12-015 MOTION by Cowley, seconded by Kuiken, to *reconsider* the motion to adopt a resolution to opt out of the SMART System passed at the January 17, 2012 regular meeting.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Cowley, Galvin, Kuiken, Buck.

Nays: None.

Absent: McShane.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Jim Fetzer and Steve Brown from SMART were present to answer questions.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -2-
January 30, 2012

Cowley inquired as to the status of a House Bill in Lansing regarding the bus rapid transit system.

Discussion followed regarding the bus rapid transit system, anticipated routes and its impact on SMART.

Galvin stated it is proposed Senate Bill 909 and he had a copy of it for review.

Kuiken commented on her observations of mass transit in Southeast Michigan as well as her reasoning for voting to opt out on January 17th. She stated the additional service provided in SMART's proposal allows 90,000 people in Farmington/Farmington Hills access to relevant areas that are located in opt out communities.

Galvin thanked the representatives from SMART for their letter clarifying the changes they propose. He spoke about his review of the challenges faced by SMART and the community over the last several years. He advised that until there is a better solution the City must work with the system that is in place.

Galvin encouraged Council to continue their efforts to find a solution for an efficient transportation system rather than waiting until January of 2014. He confirmed his belief that to not opt out is the right decision for now.

Cowley noted the cost per rider is still very high and challenged the public to increase their use of SMART. He congratulated the SMART representatives for their spirit of partnership in addressing the issues.

Mayor Buck stated that the SMART decision had been a tough one for Council over the last six years and cited past Observer headlines. He advised dialogue with SMART management continued following the January 17th meeting. He stated SMART agreed to bring additional value to residents with key destinations as defined in their letter.

Buck noted that Schoolcraft College should have been included in their clarification letter and Fetzer acknowledged same. He indicated that City Manager Pastue had studied options over the past few weeks and agreed that it made sense to reconsider the motion.

Further discussion was held on advertising the new services to residents.

Attorney Schultz advised that for the record there should be a motion to *not* adopt a resolution to opt out of SMART.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -3-
January 30, 2012

Mayor Buck inquired if language could be added to the motion stating they are opting in and Schultz responded in the affirmative.

01-12-016 MOTION by Cowley, seconded by Kuiken, to *not* adopt a proposed resolution to opt out of SMART and elect to opt in to the System.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Galvin, Kuiken, Buck, Cowley.

Nays: None.

Absent: McShane.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**DISCUSSION – CONSIDERATION TO RESCHEDULE FEBRUARY 20, 2012
REGULAR MEETING**

Pastue advised Councilmembers Galvin and Cowley had conflict with the February 20, 2012 regular meeting. He further advised a public hearing had been scheduled for that meeting therefore a decision regarding changing the date needed to be made.

The option of February 16th as the new meeting date was discussed as well as moving the public hearing to the March meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Waterman from New Visions thanked Council for their reconsideration to stay with SMART. He commended the new advocates who spoke on behalf of maintaining SMART.

Jeffrey Cohen and son Joshua thanked Council for their reconsideration and encouraged forming a task force to work on a solution and offered to serve on same.

Steve Schwartz, 29867 High Valley Court, Farmington Hills, thanked Council for their vote and spoke about proactively approaching a solution by working through the Michigan Municipal League and with other cities to encourage the legislature not to create a third transit agency, but only one that provides service to all four counties. He also stated that a private sector option could be entertained and has connection to same.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Galvin spoke about recent conversations he had with a representative from SEMCOG who would be happy to come out and talk about mass transit in Southeast Michigan. He encouraged Council to keep this matter on the front burner.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -4-
January 30, 2012

Cowley stated a solution was bought for another two years and new riders need to be recruited.

Kuiken thanked SMART for their response to Council's requests.

Mayor Buck thanked Council for their hard work on the reconsideration.

ADJOURNMENT

01-12-017 MOTION by Galvin, seconded by Kuiken, to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

J. T. (Tom) Buck, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: February 16, 2012