

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, June 6, 2005, 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, Campbell, Knol, McShane, Mitchell.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, City Manager Pastue.

INTERVIEWS FOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Council interviewed three candidates for positions on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board of Directors including: Tommy McDoniel, David Judge and Matthew Evangelista. Other candidates under consideration were Scott Freeman who was interviewed on February 21, 2005 and James Kuiken who was unavailable for an interview at the time of the meeting.

Councilmember McShane suggested DDA Interim Director Martin as an applicant for the DDA Board.

Councilmember Bush expressed the need to keep a balance of men and women on the DDA Board.

Discussion followed regarding the balance of business owners versus property owners on the Board. City Manager Pastue confirmed that the majority of the Board members must have a property interest in the Downtown area.

DISCUSSION – FINALIZE FY 2005-2006 BUDGET

Pastue reviewed some of the changes to the budget including: the addition of funds for the Civic Theatre Committee and the Citizens Core Council for Emergency Preparedness; increased appropriations for the District Court to cover document imaging costs; and other minor adjustments. He discussed the reduction of the Library appropriation due to the success of the recent referendum. He noted other budget changes including the establishment of a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority budget and an amendment to the budget for the Downtown Redevelopment project.

Mayor Campbell asked if there would be an opportunity to share a document imaging license with the court. Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell responded that consideration has been given to piggybacking onto Farmington Hills' bid for a document imaging system.

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Councilmember Knol asked about a ticket increase for the Civic Theatre. Pastue responded that the proposed increase would be from \$3.00 to \$3.50. Discussion followed regarding ticket and concession prices.

McShane asked about offering other concession options.

Discussion continued regarding raising ticket prices. Knol noted that ticket prices should be competitive with DVD or Video rental fees. She cautioned against increasing subsidy of the Theatre in order to maintain ticket prices. Pastue noted that the Theatre is getting close to covering its operation costs.

Councilmember Mitchell expressed his support of maintaining current ticket prices. He stated that with the development of the Downtown area attendance would likely increase.

Responding to a question from Bush, Pastue stated that ticket prices were raised two years ago. Bush stated her support for maintaining the current price.

McShane stated her support for maintaining ticket prices and encouraged administration to look at other ways to generate more income, including increasing concessions and raising the price of pre-movie advertising.

Discussion followed regarding how to increase advertising of the Theatre.

Council concurred to maintain current ticket prices.

Pastue briefly discussed the six-year plan for the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Flagstar Bank Project and elements of the Downtown Improvement Project.

DISCUSSION WITH FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Present: Mygene Carr, Ernest Sauter, Dorothy Stoutjesdy; Tina Theeke, Director

Mayor Campell congratulated the Board for the successful passage of the millage. He requested an update from the Board on current activities and future plans for the library.

Director Tina Theeke noted that the millage passed in Farmington by 68.23% of the vote. She stated that as a result more books would be purchased and regular hours would be restored.

Mayor Campbell asked when the library would begin receiving proceeds from the millage. Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell responded that disbursements would begin as millage proceeds are collected beginning July 1st. She stated that a large share of the revenue is collected in July and August.

Mayor Campbell further asked if the library would require additional accounting help now that it has its own funding source. Theeke responded that current staff would adequately cover additional accounting requirements, at least in the short term.

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In discussion of the City's future roll in the Library, McShane suggested quarterly updates to Council.

Boardmember Carr expressed the importance of maintaining a relationship and continued involvement with the City.

Knol asked if the Library Board would consider a "partnership" with the Museum, moving some of the library programs over to the Museum. Carr spoke about current library programs that might relate to the Museum and welcomed a partnership with the Museum.

Discussion followed regarding fees for library internet services and future plans for wireless communication.

Knol asked about fees to non-residents who use library computers. Theeke responded that they have reviewed management software that would help regulate computer use.

Mayor Campbell asked regarding a capital improvement plan for the Library. Theeke responded that a three-year plan was just completed.

McShane noted that passage of the millage showed strong support of the Library from residents and as a result the library must now make a commitment to the Farmington community.

Director Theeke concurred that the Library Board must reassure residents that they are committed to the Farmington community.

Carr advised that the Board is reviewing initiatives to educate residents on library services.

Boardmember Stoutjeskyk noted that the Board is unified in representing the Library and that there is no division regarding City representation.

Mayor Campbell suggested a "round table" discussion that would allow Director Theeke to talk about services and future plans of the Library.

Discussion followed regarding ideas for promotion of the Library.

Carr stated that a good library system in Farmington and Farmington Hills is an ancillary to the community's good schools. She further stated that the Board is very concerned about providing effective summer programs and providing support to the schools during the school year.

Council complimented the Board on the "great job" they have done.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Arnold T. Campbell, Mayor

Patsy K. Cantrell, City Clerk/Treasurer

Susan K. Halberstadt, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: JUNE 20, 2005