

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, March 6, 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 6:04 p.m. by Mayor McShane.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, City Manager Pastue, Director Nebus (arrived at 7:55 p.m., left at 8:45 p.m.)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

03-06-039 MOTION by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to approve the agenda as submitted. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

STUDY SESSION ITEMS

BOARD AND COMMISSION INTERVIEWS

Council interviewed the following candidates for positions on the Downtown Development Authority Board: Linda Batzloff, Craig Grace, Steven Schneeman, Scott Stevenson, David Cornwell and Paul O'Connell.

Council received the applications of James Atkinson and Joseph Mosey for positions on the Historical Commission.

**REVIEW PROPOSAL – DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)
PARKING LIMITATIONS**

Present: DDA Director Knowles, DDA Board Member Kuiken

DDA Director Knowles gave a presentation on Downtown parking including a historical perspective, a review of the 2004 Parking study, current status and issues regarding parking, and a three-phase recommendation to address those issues. She presented a proposal that would establish parking limitations in the lot behind the Civic Theatre and in the Downtown Center. She discussed costs and potential issues related to that proposal. She stated that long term solutions would require an outside consultant and substantial financial considerations.

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Councilmember Buck asked whether the City had identified an outer parking lot for long term parking. Knowles stated that in her opinion the current parking needs could be met with parking management.

Councilmember Sutherland expressed concern regarding the proposed two-hour parking limit.

Councilmember Knol noted that two-hour parking is necessary in order to address the problem, especially in the lot behind the Theatre.

Councilmember Wiggins noted that timed parking should be uniform throughout the City.

Mayor McShane asked about signage for timed parking and about enforcement issues. DDA Boardmember Kuiken responded that it would be a matter of educating the public on parking requirements. McShane expressed concern regarding directional signage and how alternative parking would be communicated. She suggested that the DDA consider providing incentives to employees to encourage parking in distant lots.

Mayor McShane asked about providing businesses the opportunity to give their input on the parking proposal. Pastue responded that a public hearing could be held to allow for comment.

Sutherland suggested encouraging shoppers to use outlying parking lots by providing a shuttle service to the Downtown on Saturdays. Pastue responded that the City could take a look at using SMART buses to provide such services.

Pastue advised that the City must remain flexible on parking solutions as in-fill development occurs.

Mayor McShane stated that the DDA Board has great ideas to address the parking issue, suggesting some tweaking regarding incentives, communication, lighting and signage.

Knol advised of the goal to have timed parking in place prior to the opening of the Farmers' Market. She suggested moving forward with the implementation of the plan and make changes as the need arises. She asked Pastue about the next step in the implementation process.

Pastue responded that the next step is to get a recommendation from the Traffic and Safety Board. He stated a traffic control order would be drafted for Council's consideration.

Director Nebus left meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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PRESENTATION – DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY 2006 SPECIAL EVENTS

DDA Director Knowles presented a list of DDA events proposed for 2006. She advised that this year's events would be evaluated to determine if they meet the goals and objectives of the DDA Board and provide true benefits to downtown businesses.

Mayor McShane recommended publicizing the events on cable.

Buck asked if the pavilion would be available for other uses on weekdays. Knowles responded that guidelines were currently being drafted to address use of the pavilion during the week.

Knol noted that the opening day of the market is planned for the second weekend in May which is contrary to the first weekend as indicated on the City calendar. She suggested allowing Farmers to sell plants on that first weekend, but keep the "kick-off" day for the market the following weekend as planned.

Knowles expressed concern that to open the market on the first weekend in May with only a few vendors would diminish the grand opening on the following weekend. She stated that it would be difficult to find a volunteer to oversee that first weekend because the calendar has been set in terms of scheduling volunteers.

Knol requested that residents be notified of the change in the opening date. Pastue confirmed that notification would be included in the next water billing.

REVIEW 2006/07 CITY COUNCIL GOALS

Council delayed a review of goals until a future meeting.

CITY COUNCIL ESTABLISH SPECIAL MEETING DATES

Council established special meeting dates of March 17, 2006, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., and March 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anabelle Gabel, 23089 Violet, questioned the impact KIMCO Management may have on businesses closing in the Downtown Center. City Manager Pastue responded that the closings were largely based on economic reasons.

Ted Huff, 36671 Grand River, asked whether the City had solicited ideas from the downtown businesses on ways to improve parking.

Knol advised that business owners have the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns at monthly meetings of the Downtown Development Authority. She noted that

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City Manager Pastue's door is always open for comment and feedback. She stated that in the development of the proposed parking plan, the Economic Restructuring Committee looked at other downtowns to see what works and sought input from business owners.

Pastue noted that the proposed parking plan was initiated by business owners. He confirmed that businesses would be notified of the meeting in which the proposed parking plan would be considered.

Buck advised that proposed solutions to parking have been developed largely as a result of concerns expressed by the businesses and their customers.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Wiggins asked about the prospect of an ice rink in Riley Park. Pastue responded that the park is graded so that it could accommodate an ice rink. He stated that a rink is identified in the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Sutherland noted that a team from the City of Farmington would be participating in the cancer "Relay for Life" event in May. She inquired about the possibility of establishing a casual day for a cause. Pastue responded that the City could designate a "Casual Friday" for donations to the "Relay for Life" Farmington Team.

Buck recognized the quality slate of candidates for the DDA Board and the effectiveness of the interview process.

Pastue advised that the DDA appointments would be included on the March 20, 2006 meeting agenda. He noted that two members on the Board must have an interest in the Downtown. He stated the appointment process should involve nominations followed by a vote.

Mayor McShane suggested the use of a point system to determine the most qualified candidates.

Buck acknowledged the value of a point system, but noted that it should have been in place prior to the interviews.

Sutherland noted that the interview questions were similar therefore the point systems could be based on those standard questions.

Knol suggested an alternative approach to selecting candidates.

Discussion followed regarding the selection process.

Buck suggested discussing the selection of candidates at the March 17th meeting.

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Knol recommended documenting the selection process.

ADJOURNMENT

03-06-040 MOTION by Knol, seconded by Sutherland, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

JoAnne M. McShane, Mayor

Patsy K. Cantrell, City Clerk/Treasurer

Susan K. Halberstadt, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: March 20, 2006