

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, May 17, 2004, 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 6:15 p.m.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bush, Campbell, Knol (arrived 6:23 p.m.), McShane, Mitchell.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, Director Gushman (arrived at 6:34 p.m.), City Manager Pastue (arrived at 6:34 p.m.), Attorney Schultz (arrived at 6:34 p.m.).

Mayor Campbell opened the meeting by inviting Council to interview Jane Gundlach for a position on the Historical Commission.

Discussion followed regarding ideas for the Historical Commission, including a suggestion that more information/resources be provided to homeowners who are considering renovations.

**05-04-106** Motion by Bush, second by Knol, to enter into closed session to discuss opinion from the City Attorney regarding Blue Cross/Blue Shield premiums; and collective bargaining issues regarding the Public Works union.

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Campbell, Knol, McShane, Mitchell, Bush.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council entered into closed session at 6:35 p.m. and returned to open session at 7:03 p.m.

Mayor Campbell addressed the next agenda item regarding 2004/05 budget issues. He stated that the Library Board has committed to applying cutbacks equally between both branches of Farmington and Farmington Hills. He further stated that the Library is considering closing both branches on Friday. He recommended that Council reappoint Ernie Sauter to the Library Board, indicating he had confirmed Mr. Sauter's decision to remain in Farmington.

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City Manager Pastue stated that after careful review of funding for joint services, he and Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell are satisfied that the City is paying their fair share. He discussed the City's equitable contribution to the Court, especially in light of the City's low fee to administer accounting and payroll for the Court. He recommended that the City continue to use the same methodology to fund the Library until a long-term solution, such as a dedicated millage, is put into place. Discussion continued regarding funding based on taxable value, not population. Responding to a question, Attorney Schultz stated he would research the possibility of Farmington seeking a separate library millage.

Responding to a question from Council, Pastue confirmed that the City can not make the decision to keep the Library open on any given day, unless the relationship changes with Farmington Hills and the District Library. Discussion continued regarding a dedicated millage for the Farmington Library Branch and the City's ability to have some say its operation. Pastue confirmed that the City would apply the same budget cuts as Farmington Hills to the Library budget.

City Manager Pastue recommended budgeting for a new roof on the Civic Theatre. He indicated that leakage has already occurred and the work should be done by sometime late summer or early fall.

Mayor Campbell opened the meeting for discussion regarding the Council budget. Council member Bush stated that Council must "walk the walk and talk the talk" and participate in the budget cuts. She recommended that Council members receive an allotment to use at their discretion. Council member Mitchell noted that Council has always stayed within budget over the years. He expressed his belief that the Community expects Council to attend certain functions. He stated that allocating funds may not be the best solution, due to the fact that there are many activities funded through the Council budget such as: certificates, plaques, theatre ticket giveaways, etc. that cannot be applied to any one Council member.

Council member McShane stated that in an effort to reduce costs, the Mayor or City Manager could attend many of the community events and report back to Council. She strongly recommended decreasing the Council budget. Council member Knol stated that in light of all the budget cuts, it would be prudent for Council to cut theirs also. She suggested rotating the attendance of Council members at annual events, such as the National League of Cities conference. She suggested that the small annual stipend Council receives from the City could, in part, be applied to attending community events.

Mayor Campbell stated that he preferred cutting the Council budget by a certain percentage rather than making allotments, which he sees as micromanaging. He suggested that Administration provide Council with a quarterly status on expenditures.

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Council member McShane noted that a number of cities either do not fund their Council's attendance at certain events or they send only one representative.

City Manager Pastue stated that many of the events Council attends benefit programs that the City is already funding. He noted that the major portion of a ticket price is just another way of appropriating additional funds to a program. He further noted that if fundraising efforts are diminished due to decreased attendance by Council, the City would receive more requests for higher appropriations.

Council member Knol agreed with City Manager Pastue, however, she noted that in a time where the City is cutting other budgets it would not be well received if Council did not do the same.

Council member Mitchell stated that it would send a negative message to the community if Council did not attend community events. In response, Council member Bush noted that Council continues to see the same people at community events, not members from the larger community.

Discussion followed regarding the percentage by which to cut the Council budget.

**05-04-107** Motion by McShane, seconded by Knol, to reduce the Council budget by 20% for FY 2004-05; and direct Administration to develop a policy on Council expenditures within the next six months. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Campbell delayed discuss on the next agenda item concerning the Chesley Street Fence Replacement until the following regular meeting.

**05-04-108** Motion by McShane, seconded by Bush, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

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ARNOLD T. CAMPBELL, Mayor

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PATSY K. CANTRELL, City Clerk/Treasurer

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