

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Thursday, December 21, 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 9:08 a.m. by Mayor McShane.

PRESENT: Buck, Knol, McShane, Wiggins.

ABSENT: None.

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

DISCUSS PROCESS TO FILL CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

City Manager Pastue presented a proposed schedule to fill the Council vacancy. He advised special meetings would need to be set to review applications and conduct interviews. He further advised announcement of the vacancy would include a press release, official notice in the Farmington Observer, City web-site, and on cable.

Mayor McShane noted applicants could also be referred to vacancies on Boards and Commissions.

Discussion followed regarding information for inclusion on the application and requirements for the position.

In discussion of the appointment process, Council concurred that the vacancy notice should be published in the Farmington Observer twice and the deadline to submit applications would be January 11, 2007.

Council discussed the process for narrowing the field of candidates. Responding to a question, City Attorney Schultz confirmed that Council would make the decision on who should be interviewed.

Responding to a further question, City Attorney Schultz confirmed that if Council was unable to appoint within 60 days a special election would be required.

Discussion followed regarding proposed questions for the candidates. Council concurred to include the following questions:

- Discuss your experience in working with civic and governmental organizations and your interest in this position.
- What do you perceive as the three most important concerns facing Farmington?

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -2-
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- What are your thoughts regarding the relationship between Farmington and Farmington Hills?
- All cities are facing fiscal challenges, how would you address balancing the budget in considering various alternatives and trade-offs.
- What areas do you think would be potential opportunities for revitalization and/or redevelopment and what approach?
- What direction should the City take concerning the City's historic character and values?
- What are your thoughts related to our residential neighborhoods and multi-family developments and what, if any, improvements would you suggest?

Pastue indicated the questionnaire would be included with the application along with a schedule of the interview process.

City Attorney Schultz confirmed that all interviews must be held in open session and applications are a matter of public record.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council discussed the results of the Sustainability Study commissioned by Farmington Hills as it related to a recommendation that the Cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills merge.

Mayor McShane advised the City should be proactive in response to the study and in addition provide comparative information to residents regarding the financials, services, etc. of each City.

Councilmember Buck indicated the study provides an opportunity to mount an image campaign to publicize the many benefits of Farmington.

City Manager Pastue noted it has always been Farmington's tradition to approach major decisions in a thoughtful and deliberate manner.

Discussion followed regarding an appropriate response to the study and related issues involved. Discussion continued regarding the merit of Farmington commissioning its own study versus a joint study with Farmington Hills.

Council concurred that their first priority is to fill the council vacancy and allow an appropriate transition time for the new member. Once that is achieved, Council concurred to schedule a public forum to receive public comment on the merger recommendation. Council further concurred that following the public forum they would consider a discussion with Farmington Hills regarding the possibility of a study.

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Councilmember Buck recommended adopting a resolution requesting Farmington Hills delay their study until Farmington has had an opportunity to conduct a hearing and discuss the issue with the Hills.

Mayor McShane requested City Manager Pastue compose a resolution to acknowledge Farmington Hills Sustainability Study and outline the process the Farmington Council will take in response to that study.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

COUNCIL COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Council concurred to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

JoAnne M. McShane, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: January 16, 2007