

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 15, 2011

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, August 15, 2011, 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 7:08 p.m. by Mayor Buck.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: Director Gushman, City Clerk Halberstadt, Attorney Schultz, Director Schulz, Treasurer Weber.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ginny Morris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

08-11-132 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wiggins, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2011
- B. Special Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2011
- C. Farmington Monthly Payments Report, July 2011
- D. Monthly Public Safety Report, July 2011
- E. Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Membership
- F. Resolution to Accept Oakland County West Nile Grant

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

08-11-133 MOTION by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to approve the regular agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

2011 Miss Farmington, Elise Newcomer

Ginny Morris, Executive Director for Miss Farmington, thanked the Riley Foundation for establishing the Dolores Riley Education Grant in support of the Miss Farmington organization. She thanked the Toyota Dealership on Grand River for sponsoring the pageant. She also thanked the City of Farmington for giving young women of Farmington the opportunity to serve as an ambassador for their

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community. Finally, she thanked the late Dick Tupper and JoAnne McShane for convincing her to take on the responsibilities of the Miss Farmington organization.

Morris announced the formation of a board this year and introduced a few of its members. She also thanked the Downtown Development Authority for their assistance to the organization.

Elise Newcomer, 2011 Miss Farmington, was “skyped” in to give her presentation. She discussed her work with Joy-Southfield Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization aiding the Joy Southfield corridor in Detroit. She is also working with “Sweet Dreams”, a nonprofit organization that originated in Farmington.

McShane commented how wonderful it is to see Elise represent Farmington and wished her the best of luck throughout the coming year.

Mayor Buck stated the City is excited to have Elise represent Farmington and looked to working with her throughout the year.

Barbara Yuhas, Director of the Farmington Youth Foundation, discussed the scholarship program set up in honor of Dolores Riley who passed away last year. She spoke about the importance of the essays as part of the Miss Farmington competition. On behalf of the Riley Foundation, she presented scholarships to Miss Farmington and the first and second place winners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH GRAND RIVER CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

Pastue described the steps Council has taken to establish the Grand River Corridor Improvement Authority in conjunction with Farmington Hills. He advised the City of Farmington Hills Council is scheduled to consider adoption of their authority in October.

Responding to a question from Wiggins, Pastue advised that if Farmington Hills chose not to move forward with their authority, the City could still operate theirs independently or could rescind the resolution.

RESOLUTION 08-11-134 Motion by Wright, seconded by McShane, to adopt a resolution to establish the Grand River Corridor Improvement Authority. **[SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION].**

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Knol, McShane, Wiggins, Wright, Buck.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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McShane recognized this opportunity to join with Farmington Hills in providing increased opportunity for economic development in the Grand River corridor.

Buck commented an improved appearance of the corridor will promote economic development resulting in increased job opportunities.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATE #2 FOR THE 2011 FARMINGTON PAVING AND WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

RESOLUTION 08-11-135 MOTION by Knol, seconded by Wright, to approve payment of Construction Estimate #2 to Sole Construction in the amount of \$117,923.82 for work completed on the 2011 Farmington Paving and Water Main Improvements Program.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: McShane, Wiggins, Wright, Buck, Knol.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF SEWER TELEVISION CAMERA

Pastue advised the Cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills have proposed a joint purchase of a used robotic sewer camera. He stated the camera would enhance the City's ability to assess existing sewer lines. He advised the refurbished camera is priced at \$36,500 with Farmington Hills share of the cost at \$21,500.

RESOLUTION 08-11-136 Motion by Wiggins, seconded by McShane, to approve the purchase of a used robotic sewer camera from Jack Doheny Companies of Northville, Michigan, in the amount of \$15,000.00.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Wiggins, Wright, Buck, Knol, McShane.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION SUBMITTING A BID TO PURCHASE LAND VIA THE COUNTY TREASURER'S TAX REVERSION PROCESS

Pastue advised the City Treasurer received notice that the City of Farmington has the opportunity to purchase a parcel of land that is available through the tax

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reversion process. He noted in 2009 the City purchased the adjoining parcel through this same process.

Responding to a question from Wright, Pastue advised the property is in an environmentally sensitive area and not conducive for development.

Responding to an additional question from Wright, Pastue stated this purchase does not make property contiguous to this parcel obsolete.

RESOLUTION 08-11-137 Motion by McShane, seconded by Knol, to adopt a resolution authorizing City Administration to bid a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,050 to purchase parcel number 23-27-452-032 through the County Treasurer's Tax Reversion Process. [SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION].

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Wright, Buck, Knol, McShane, Wiggins.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO APPOINT INITIAL MEMBERS TO THE FRIENDS OF THE GOVERNOR WARNER MANSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pastue discussed the establishment of the Governor Warner Mansion Friends of the Mansion and the initial appointments to the Board of Directors.

Wright noted that two of the appointments are City employees and asked if this is a requirement of the Articles of Incorporation. Pastue responded he is recommending appointment of Clerk Halberstadt and himself in order to ensure a smooth transition, however, employee appointments are not a requirement.

Knol asked about the next step in the process of establishing Friends of the Mansion. Pastue responded the next step is to file the necessary documents with the State.

Schultz advised his office is preparing the final documents for signature. He will facilitate the first Board meeting and thereafter the Board will begin raising funds.

Responding to a question from Wiggins, Pastue confirmed Council's only action is to appoint boardmembers.

08-11-138 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Knol, to make the following appointments to the Friends of the Governor Warner Mansion Board of Directors: Susan Halberstadt (council appointee) and Kimberly Shay (member-at-large) for terms ending September 30, 2012; Sharon Bernath (Historical Commission) and Mary Jean Shore (member-at-large) for terms ending September 30, 2013; and Vincent Pastue (council appointee), Laura Myers (Historical Commission) and

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Brian Golden (member-at-large) for terms ending September 30, 2014. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE LEASE OF NEW COPIERS

Discussion was held regarding moving the City toward a paperless environment.

RESOLUTION 08-11-139 Motion by Wiggins, seconded by Wright, to authorize the City Manager to sign a lease and service maintenance agreement for three copiers with Applied Imaging.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Buck, Knol, McShane, Wiggins, Wright.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF COUNCIL MEMBER
MICHAEL WIGGINS**

Wiggins re-read (originally submitted at the July 18, 2011 meeting) into the record his letter of resignation from the Council:

Dear Mayor Tom Buck and fellow Councilmembers:

It is with deep regret that I offer my resignation from Council to you this evening. I have an opportunity to teach Criminal Justice at the university level at Ferris State. This employment will involve commuting to southeast Michigan satellite campuses as well as teaching during the evening hours. In fact, beginning in August, I will be teaching a Monday evening course.

I anticipate additional opportunities of employment with Ferris State in the future and all of them would conflict with my responsibilities on Council. It is for these reasons that I offer my resignation for your consideration and acceptance.

With your acceptance, my last Council meeting would be on Tuesday, September 6, 2011.

McShane accepted Wiggin's resignation with great sadness. She stated he has been one of the strongest Councilmembers the City has had in years. He is a good team player who has worked hard to bring the Council together and reach some difficult decisions. She is very sad to see him go and will miss him.

Wright stated he has enjoyed Wiggin's effective leadership from the back seat.

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08-11-140 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wright, to accept the resignation of Michael Wiggins from City Council. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Wiggins expressed support for the appointment of Melissa Andrade.

Knol also expressed support for Andrade, noting she has been an outstanding volunteer for the Downtown Development Authority. She stated Andrade brings significant communication and marketing skills to the DDA.

08-11-141 MOTION by Wiggins, seconded by Knol, to appoint Melissa Andrade to the Downtown Development Authority Board to complete an unexpired term ending February 28, 2013. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hugh McDermott, 22642 Power Road, Farmington Hills, expressed concern regarding the condition of the tennis courts in Shiawassee Park. He noted on Thursday, August 15th, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners will be voting on a Complete Streets resolution. He stated 45 communities in Michigan have adopted the Resolution. He stated the resolution asks the County Road Commission to incorporate non-motorized vehicles and pedestrian traffic in their road planning process. He noted it is not a binding resolution.

Pastue advised the City of Farmington has already adopted a Complete Streets resolution. He stated the City will look into cost estimates for repairing the tennis courts.

Betty Borgman, 34011 Grand River, pointed out that there still doesn't seem to be very many pedestrians in the Downtown area. She stated that although the Streetscape is beautiful it is difficult for senior citizens to walk on the brick pavers. She expressed concern regarding blocking off Farmington Road in the downtown area for the Founders Festival because of the negative effect it has on businesses in that area. She asked how proposed city improvements will be funded.

Pastue responded it is always a challenge to get more pedestrian circulation throughout the downtown. He stated the City is working with property owners to address the vacancies.

Hank Borgman, 34011 Grand River, also expressed concern regarding the length of time Farmington Road is barricaded for the Founders Festival and the negative impact it has on businesses.

Brad Ahlisian, owner of Yesterday's Coney Island, requested permission to place signage in front of his business on Grand River. He stated the signage is necessary in order for him to stay in business.

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Pastue discussed issues with the City's sign ordinance outside of the downtown area. He noted more sign citations have been issued in the last 18 months than in the past. He suggested Mr. Ahlisian might consider using the existing shopping center sign on Grand River. He stated this would be a conforming use and obtaining a permit would not be a problem.

Knol expressed support for using the existing sign to advertise the business. She noted the sign is not even being used.

McShane recognized the difficulty of Mr. Ahlisian's situation in terms of the economy and location. She did not have a problem with compromising and coming to terms with allowing signage so his business will remain viable.

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McShane noted the Grand River Streetscape has been awarded project of the year by the Michigan Chapter of the American Public Works Association for streetscapes less than \$5 million. She learned about this award after the fact and requested that in the future the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) come before Council with this type of recognition. She stated this kind of award can be a good marketing tool for the DDA.

ADJOURNMENT

08-11-142 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wright, to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

J. T. (Tom) Buck, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: September 19, 2011