

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, November 6, 2006, 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 7:03 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Knol.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Buck, Knol, McShane, (arrived 7:04)
Sutherland.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Wiggins (excused).

CITY ADMINISTRATION: City Manager Pastue, Recording Secretary
Schmidt.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

11-06-201 MOTION by Buck, seconded by Sutherland, to approve the agenda as revised. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS INTERVIEWS

City Manager Pastue stated the Public Access Promotion Committee was formed a year ago when the by-laws for Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC) were revised. He stated the intent was to provide support through workshops and projects to promote public access through the three communities. He noted under the by-laws the number of committee members is based on population. Pastue stated the committee would look at promoting public access and would conduct annual workshops to go over operation of equipment and certification of operating the equipment. He noted Brian Golden, Chairperson, has been working with individuals to get them engaged in projects such as the summer concert series and the Farmer's Market. He advised the interviews were to fill a vacancy.

Council interviewed Ken Murray and Dorothy Snyder for the Public Access Promotion Committee and Laura Myers and Jean Schornick for the Historical Commission. Council concurred to make a decision at the November 20th meeting.

Council took a 5-minute break and the meeting resumed at 8:10 p.m.

STUDY SESSION ITEM

SWOCC ANNUAL REPORT

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Caren Collins, Executive Director of SWOCC, presented SWOCC'S Annual Report. She advised the audit report was for 2004-05 and the 2005-06 report would be presented to SWOCC the following week. Collins noted the Fund Balance was increased to \$396,000. She advised the SWOCC Board approved the budget in May. Collins stated the Fund Balance for 2005-06 is projected to be \$445,740 and for 2006-07 it will be \$343,420. She noted SWOCC would have capital expenditures this year.

Collins noted an 11% increase in franchise fees since 2001 and that the fees continue to go up due mainly to increased services.

Collins advised that each SWOCC member receives production services comparable to the amount each contributes in franchise fees and that the City of Farmington contributes 11% in franchise fees to SWOCC and receives 16% of government access spending. She noted a 45% increase in government spending due to more resources put into creating 'Slicker' productions.

Pastue stated that all of the cities reviewed their spending and started looking at how to allocate their resources in 2005-06 with a better understanding as to staff and access time.

Councilmember Knol, referring to government access spending, asked how the percentages are broken down if a program is a Farmington/Farmington Hills event such as the Founders Festival. Collins replied that they determine if both cities want to be involved in that program as a government access and then the fee is split in half.

Knol asked how long the run of the broadcast is determined on channels 8 and 15. Collins replied the cities make that decision.

Collins reviewed further highlights of the annual report and commented that the Public Access Promotion Committee worked in conjunction with the Pavilion Committee on the Downtown Farmington Life Show and also created a Downtown Farmington Night Life Show. She also noted the Mayor's Corner, Around Town Biz and the Santa Call-In Show, which is currently in production.

SWOCC AWARDS

Collins stated that last year SWOCC took 2nd place in the Farmington Funny Film Festival and 1st place in the Santa Call-In Show. She commented on awards that were recently won including: 1st place National Award for 'Rebuilding Together' under the Spiritual category and the NOTOA Award for the 'Down to Earth' program for the Public Education category which was done in conjunction with Farmington Hills.

SWOCC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Collins stated House Bill 6456 will pose a financial impact on municipalities, SWOCC and school systems if it passes. She advised SWOCC would see a \$1 million

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loss not only in franchise fees but in additional costs. She stated according to AT&T each municipality or access center would have to provide the signal and transmit the signal to the new provider in their specified format. She advised it would cost \$15,000 per channel, per location to do that. Collins noted that they were concerned about the Metro Act Credit and all in-kind services would be eliminated. She stated they were trying to educate elected officials on the impact of this bill and will keep Council informed.

McShane asked about televising Council meetings. Collins responded the best option for televising the meetings would be to use the van. She stated the equipment in the van was going to be replaced and that some of the old equipment could be used for that purpose. Pastue stated that the van equipment would be replaced in the current year budget and bids would be solicited in May. He recommended waiting to consider using the old equipment until then. Collins advised she would look at different options and would get different cost breakdowns. She advised that one fixed camera would not cover Council, staff, and the audience and editing would be required.

Knol suggested having a fixed, wide angled camera on Council only for the lowest cost.

Discussion followed regarding expenditures including the Heritage Festival, Founders Festival and the MCMR breakfast.

Councilmember Buck asked about the correctness of the 50/50 cost split with Farmington Hills. Knol stated she has issues with the 50/50 cost split and noted that Farmington is 1/8 of the population. She stated the programs run on two channels that can be accessed by all residents. She commented that it would be better to have a program broadcast on one channel that both communities could watch, but that might cause more issues. Pastue advised that Farmington Hills has a fixed cost. Knol noted the City is not getting a lot for their money.

Sutherland commented that expenses are saved by sharing services. She asked why there needed to be two separate channels for Farmington and Farmington Hills. Collins replied that in the franchise agreement there was a provision for each city to have separate channels. She noted that Farmington and Farmington Hills originally shared a channel, but in 1994 Farmington Hills determined they had enough programming and chose to have their own channel. Collins noted that residents prefer to watch their city's channel. Collins stated if pending legislation is passed the City might have to look at channel allocation.

McShane expressed concern about the present programming and stated it was not meeting the needs of the community. She advised additional programming and someone to manage it was needed.

Knol stated she would like to see equipment purchased for broadcasting the meetings of the Planning Commission, City Council, and Downtown Development Authority and

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arrange to pay Farmington Hills to run certain programs at certain key times. She noted that shared services would eliminate duplications.

Buck commented that the City needed additional programming.

McShane stated there needs to be better communication between Council and SWOCC.

Buck noted that additional programming was needed to fill up the air time on cable and to solve some budget items.

Knol stated a lot of revenue is needed to produce additional shows.

Pastue advised that Farmington was using a lot of SWOCC time for programming and that it is hard to find resources and volunteers.

McShane requested that they look at expenses again and questioned the allocation of the \$64,000. Pastue replied a good handle on programming costs is needed. McShane requested to see line items of expenditures. Pastue agreed to provide Council with that information.

Collins asked Council to give their feedback to Pastue.

Knol advised there are limited resources and Council needed to prioritize in terms of how much should be allotted to SWOCC. She suggested that maybe they needed to have a different arrangement with Farmington Hills.

McShane voiced a concern regarding duplication of services. She reinforced the need to understand SWOCC's expenses in case there is a need to reallocate. Pastue stated he would provide Council with this information. McShane stated a production assistant was needed to eliminate extra duties taken on by the Administration office.

Collins asked if there was funding for a co-op student. Pastue stated they would look at other options.

McShane asked for ways cable services could be viable and contain costs at the same time. She asked how Council could help in making the operation run more smoothly. Collins suggested educating the legislature on the ramifications of HB 6456.

Discussion followed regarding the fund balance and how it is reported. Pastue suggested showing the undesignated balance on the statement.

McShane suggested a Council study session regarding SWOCC.

UPCOMING BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Pastue advised that three terms expire at the end of the calendar year. He further advised that the current incumbents, Joan McGlincy, Mary Mullison and Eugene Thomas, would like to be reappointed. Pastue stated he would put the appointments on the November 20th meeting.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Pastue stated four terms expire in February and noted that Frank Clappison did not wish to renew his appointment. He commented a majority of the Board needs to have property interests in the Downtown and that Beamer, Freeman, Kuiken, and Pastue are considered residents and do not meet the downtown business interest criteria. He stated two people needed to be appointed and according to the statute the appointees are to be made by the Mayor and subject to ratification of the Council. McShane stated they need to appoint members to the DDA in compliance with the statute. She suggested advertising for applications and to contact all of the business members. Pastue stated interviews could be done in January for appointments in February. Council concurred to advertise for appointments to the DDA Board.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Pastue stated it is a three member Board and Mary Bush has expressed interest in reappointment. Council concurred to renew the appointment to the Board of Review.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Pastue advised the Charter Review Committee was established by resolution and is comprised of three former mayors: Alton Bennett, Arnold Campbell, and James Mitchell, and the other members included Mayor McShane, Attorney Schultz, City Clerk Halberstadt and Patsy Cantrell acting as liaison. Pastue discussed some of the projects currently being undertaken by the Committee. Council concurred to continue with that Committee.

MDOT SIGNAGE ON GRAND RIVER

McShane stated a call placed to Mark Stuecher, resident engineer of MDOT, was not returned. She commented the best environment is needed for the businesses especially during the holiday season. She noted that serious action needed to be taken to remove the MDOT orange signs since many businesses are losing revenue. She stated a letter was drafted to Mark Stuecher to remove the signs by November 10th. She suggested sending the letter and to notify newly elected officials the day after the election. Pastue asked that he or Director Gushman be notified by MDOT if signs can be removed. He also noted that some signage was needed to note narrowing of lanes.

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McShane commented that a sign by the Nissan Dealership on Grand River noted businesses were closed. Knol stated the signs should be removed at the end of the week since the road is scheduled to open. Buck stated they couldn't be sure that they will be removed. Discussion followed regarding sign removal. Buck listed businesses that were losing revenue due to the signage.

Council concurred to send the letter to Mark Stuecher regarding removal of signage.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Annabelle Gabel, a Farmington resident, commented on the road construction and the dollar store. She questioned if Olgas was going into the location where the dollar store was located. McShane replied the City was only aware of the possibility of Ace Hardware going into that location.

Hank and Betty Borgman, Farmington residents, questioned Council about SWOCC. Mr. Borgman stated there were over 1200 franchises in the State of Michigan. He asked if Council was going to do their own programming. He asked for clarification on the interviews earlier in the meeting. Knol stated the applicants were volunteers. Mr. Borgman stated there should be one contract. Buck stated that AT & T has not made a commitment and the State wants control of programming.

Knol stated she did not agree with Collins regarding the House Bill. She noted that only 6 out of 100 voted against it and that it will be good for competition. She further noted that AT & T would allow you to pick the channels you want and the goal is to create competition and reduce rates.

Betty Borgman asked if Council was prepared for changes that would need to be made if the bill passes. McShane stated they will have to wait and see. Pastue commented that competition would lower franchise fees.

Todd Huff, Farmington resident, inquired about the new equipment purchase by SWOCC.

COUNCIL COMMENT

McShane spoke about her recent attendance at the Mayor's Youth Council and shared with Council the new SMART Bus route that will be wonderful for teenagers. She commented there will be signage that will list a "Help Line" and pick-up times. She suggested that SMART should educate the parents and youth about the bus route. She also suggested that there be a liaison so that the DDA could partner with SMART and share events.

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McShane stated the youth meet at the Costick Center and she noted this group is the greatest group of young people.

McShane suggested that the youth be involved with the Chamber, DDA, Main Street, SWOCC and act as junior docents at the Museum. Discussion followed regarding involving the youth more in volunteer groups in the City.

Buck asked if SMART was putting bike racks on the buses that will be used on the new routes.

McShane asked for feedback from Council regarding youth involvement in the City.

McShane stated she would like to have a message board similar to the one on Eleven mile Road in Farmington Hills. Discussion followed regarding the type of signage and location. Pastue commented that he would look into the signage.

Buck commented that the sign on Nine Mile and Farmington Road looks wonderful.

McShane stated the TCF Bank looks good and agreed with Buck about the signage.

ADJOURNMENT

11-06-202 Motion by Knol, seconded by Sutherland, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

JoAnne M. McShane, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: NOVEMBER 20, 2006