

## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, April 15, 2002 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 8:00 p.m. by Mayor Mitchell.

**PRESENT:** Bush, Campbell, McShane, Mitchell.

**ABSENT:** None.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, City Attorney Donohue, Director Goss, Director Gushman, City Manager Lauhoff, Assistant City Manager Richards.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a third grade class from Gill Elementary school.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**04-02-718** MOTION by Campbell, seconded by McShane, to approve the agenda as submitted. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**04-02-719** MOTION by Bush, seconded by Campbell, to approve the minutes of the regular and special meetings of April 1, 2002. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **MINUTES OF OTHER BOARDS**

**04-02-720** MOTION by McShane, seconded by Bush, to approve the minutes of the following boards and commissions:

- Downtown Development Authority minutes of April 9, 2002.
- Planning Commission minutes of April 8, 2002.
- Historical Commission minutes of March 20, 2002.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **INTRODUCTION: THE HONORABLE JOSEPH KNOLLENBERG – U.S. REPRESENTATIVE.**

Mayor Mitchell introduced the Honorable Joseph Knollenberg, U. S. Representative, and invited him to address Council and the third grade students who were present and

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respond to their questions. Representative Knollenberg also referred to an earlier meeting with Council where several legislative issues were discussed and he recognized the exemplary services and leadership of the City of Farmington.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**FARMINGTON/FARMINGTON HILLS CALL-TO-ACTION COALITION – DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS AWARENESS EFFORT.** Administration recommended that City Council support the “Adult Role Models” asset for the second quarter of 2002 in a continued effort to support the Call To Action Coalition’s adoption of the Search Institute’s forty (40) developmental assets.

Council member McShane spoke about the need for adults to talk to children and actively listen to them.

**04-02-721** MOTION by Bush, seconded by Campbell, to support the “Adult Role Models” asset, one of the Search Institute’s forty developmental assets, during the second quarter of 2002, as requested by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Call to Action Coalition. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Mitchell read from the “action plan”, a list of suggested actions to implement the Adult Role Model asset.

**LETTER FROM JENNIFER PICKUS, EVENT COORDINATOR, REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR A WALK-A-THON FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS.**

Administration advised that Jennifer Pickus, Event Coordinator for the first annual Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk-A-Thon scheduled for May 31 through June 2, 2002, has requested approval for the walk to pass through the City Farmington. Upon review of the request, and the Public Safety Director’s recommendation, City Administration recommended that Council approve the request.

Jennifer Pickus, Event Coordinator, spoke about the walk-a-thon and the funds expected to be raised. She stated that all walkers are expected to raise a minimum of \$1,900. She further stated that funds raised will go to awareness and research programs in Michigan.

In response to a question from the audience, Ms. Pickus stated that the walk would be ending at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills.

**04-02-722** MOTION by McShane, seconded by Bush, to approve the request for the first annual Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk-A-Thon through the City of Farmington,

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along the route as designated, between the days of May 31 and June 2, 2002 and to authorize the Public Safety Department to provide assistance as necessary.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**REQUEST FROM ROGER RATKOWSKI RE: CLASSIC CAR DISPLAY IN MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT.** Administration recommended that City Council approve the request for the weekly car cruise and display in the municipal parking lot for the time period as specified.

Mr. Ratkowski was present and thanked Council for their consideration of this request. He also requested the use of the Civic Theatre logo for advertising purposes. City Manager Lauhoff recommended Council approve the use of the Civic Theatre logo for advertising purposes.

Council member Bush congratulated the sponsors for uniting together to bring this event to Farmington and she further stated that there are endless opportunities for business owners to join together and sponsor other events.

Mr. Laverty, owner of Magic Brain, expressed his concerns about the limited parking resulting from the closing of the municipal parking lot for this event.

City Manager Lauhoff stated that he would work with the sponsors of the car display and the Director of Public Safety to review parking options.

**04-02-723** MOTION by Campbell, seconded by Bush, to approve closure of the municipal parking lot north of State Street on Mondays from 5:00 – 9:30 p.m., May through September 2002, for a classic car display sponsored and managed by the Pasta Stop, Page's Food and Spirits, Darrel's Firestone and Contemporary Awards; to stipulate that State Street between Farmington Road and the easterly driveway of the Public Library be closed to allow for additional display; and to allow the use of the Civic Theatre logo for use in advertising brochures for this event. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

With Council concurrence, Mayor Mitchell called for a short break to allow the students to leave the Council Chambers.

**REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER**

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED FY 2002-2003 BUDGET.** City Manager Lauhoff presented a proposed budget for 2002-03 and reviewed the legal and Charter requirements for determining the millage rate and adopting a budget.

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**CONSIDERATION OF BID AWARD FOR CITY HALL GENERATOR.** Administration concurred with the Public Services Department and recommended award of the bid for a City Hall Generator to the lowest bidder.

**04-02-724** MOTION by McShane, seconded by Bush, to award a bid to purchase and install a new generator at City Hall, per the bid specifications, to the low bidder, G and B Electrical Company in the amount of \$49,000.00; funds provided in the FY 2001-02 budget.

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Campbell, McShane, Mitchell, Bush.  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CONSIDERATION BY CITY COUNCIL TO FILL THE VACANT COUNCIL POSITION – TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 10, 2003.**

At the request of Mayor Mitchell, City Attorney Donohue spoke about the selection process used by Council to fill this vacancy stating that it conformed to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act. He stated that this process allowed Council to show sensitivity to the wishes of the candidates.

Mayor Mitchell discussed the resignation of Council member William Hartsock which was effective April 1, 2002 and the subsequent process by which this vacancy would be filled. He explained that each Council member conducted separate interviews with individuals who expressed interest in serving. He further explained that this process not only allowed ample time for Council members to interview candidates, but provided privacy to prospective candidates. He also stated that there is no requirement for the individual who is appointed to run for office in November, 2003.

Mayor Mitchell asked Council members to disclose the number of candidates each of them interviewed and the amount of time spent with each candidate. He suggested that Council members disclose the names of at least two of the most qualified candidates they interviewed and state the basis for their recommendation. He stated that each Council member would be given an opportunity to make a statement and then deliberations would begin to appoint a new Council member.

Council member Bush spoke about the process by which she arrived at three recommendations for consideration. She stated that she contacted two potential candidates and then personally met with seven candidates and spoke with three others

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by phone. She further stated that some of these candidates chose not to pursue the position. She indicated that she spent a great deal of time with each candidate and emphasized the importance of this process. She emphasized that she had not discussed the candidates with any other Council member. She stated her top three recommendations, in no particular order, were: Suzanne Paul, Mike Harrison and Duane Reynolds.

Council member Campbell thanked the nine candidates who committed their time to meet with him. He recognized their talents and leadership in the community. He stated his focus was to find a candidate who would represent the community well and be a key contributor. He further stated that all the candidates demonstrated a commitment to the community. He stated that his recommendations for consideration were: Gerry Wasen and Mike Harrison.

Council member McShane stated her belief that the selection process should be as open and fair as possible and that she had made every effort to achieve this goal. She stated that she interviewed seven candidates for approximately 30-60 minutes each. She described her interview process. She thanked all the candidates and stated that they were all well qualified. She cited her criteria for this appointment including: a good business background; experience that would be helpful to city government; the ability to create fair and sound policy; clear understanding of working with a diverse community and the ability to see the bigger picture; proven and sincere interest in city government; and a genuine caring for the City and its residents. She stated that it was with great difficulty that she narrowed the selection to two candidates and they were: Mark McConnell, Assistant Attorney for Westland who has extensive experience in municipal law and city operations and serves as Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals along with service in other charity organizations; and Gerry Wasen, Executive Vice-President of Metro Bank who has extensive financial experience and serves on the City of Farmington Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees.

Mayor Mitchell stated he interviewed eight candidates spending an hour or more with each one. He thanked all the candidates for the time and commitment they gave to this process. He stated his interview process included questions regarding current service in the community, interest and concerns regarding city issues, willingness to make the necessary time commitment and special skills. He stated that three candidates stood apart, distinguishing themselves, and they were: Mike Harrison, Mark McConnell and Duane Reynolds. He commented on each candidate as follows:

Mike Harrison – serves as Chairman of the Historical Commission and lives in the historical district. He is a self employed business man who until recently owned a business in the Central Business District. He has served on other voluntary boards in

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the community and is a lifelong resident in the Farmington area, living in the Farmington Historical district for over ten years.

Mike McConnell – serves as Chairman of the Board of Zoning Appeals. He is an attorney for Westland and understands the dynamics of the operation of a city.

Duane Reynolds – serves as Chairman of the Traffic and Safety Board where he has served since its creation in 1989. He is an attorney in Farmington Hills and prior to that he was a Farmington Hills police officer. He has served on other voluntary boards including as Chair of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. He has lived in Farmington since 1977.

Council proceeded to discuss the candidates and their qualifications.

**04-02-725** MOTION by Bush, seconded by Campbell, to nominate and appoint Michael Harrison to the unexpired term of office of William Hartsock, term expiring November, 2003. MOTION PASSED (Ayes: Bush, Campbell, Mitchell; Nay: McShane).

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Mark McConnell expressed his appreciation to the Council for their consideration of his candidacy for service on Council.

Walt Gajewski, Farmington resident, spoke about his opposition to the Downtown Development Authority's decision to forego live events in Farmington in favor of a proposed promotional campaign. He further stated that the benefits of a marketing campaign would be difficult to measure.

City Manager Lauhoff reminded the newspapers that the concert series would continue this summer.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

In response to a question from Council, City Manager Lauhoff stated that street lights on Farmington between Eight and Nine mile roads will be installed by mid to late June of this year.

### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORT – JANUARY 1, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2002.**

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**04-02-726** MOTION by Campbell, seconded by Bush, to receive and file the Department of Public Works and Water and Sewer Department report for quarter ending March 31, 2002. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORT – JANUARY 1, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2002.**

**04-02-727** MOTION by McShane, seconded by Bush, to receive and file the Building Department report for quarter ending March 31, 2002. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CONSIDERATION TO SET DATES FOR CITY COUNCIL BUDGET STUDY SESSIONS.**

**04-02-728** MOTION by Campbell, seconded by Bush, to schedule a study session on Tuesday, April 30, 2002 at 5:30 p.m. to review the FY 2002-03 proposed budget. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**04-02-729** MOTION by McShane, seconded by Campbell, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

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JAMES K. MITCHELL, MAYOR

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PATSY K. CANTRELL, CITY CLERK TREASURER

