

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, March 21, 2005 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 Campbell.

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

ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, Director Gushman, Deputy Clerk Halberstadt, Director Nebus, City Manager Pastue, Assistant City Manager Richards.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

03-05-052 MOTION by Bush, seconded by McShane, to approve the agenda as submitted. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

03-05-053 MOTION by Knol, seconded by Mitchell, to approve the special and regular meeting minutes of March 7, 2005 and special meeting minutes of February 28, 2005. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

SOUTH FARMINGTON BASEBALL, INC. RE: PARADE PERMIT

Administration advised that a letter was received from Darlene Mazzeo requesting permission for South Farmington Baseball, Inc. to conduct an opening day parade that would culminate in a celebration at Shiawassee Park.

South Farmington Baseball, Inc. representatives, Darlene Mazzeo and Jim Larsen, were present.

RESOLUTION 03-05-054 Motion by McShane, seconded by Mitchell, to authorize the use of city streets for the South Farmington Baseball, Inc. annual opening day parade on Saturday, May 7, 2005, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and culminating in a celebration at Shiawassee Park; and for the Public Safety Department to provide assistance to ensure safety along the parade route. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST – AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE

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Administration advised that a request was received from the American Cancer Society to hold a fundraising event, *Relay for Life*, in Shiawassee Park beginning on Saturday, June 4 and ending the following day. Administration further advised that after discussions with Jeff Sims from the American Cancer Society, City staff believes that the event could take place without much difficulty, except for the issue of scheduled baseball games.

Director Gushman indicated that he had spoken with Andy Lang from the Farmington Hills Recreation Department regarding the impact of the event on scheduled games. Gushman stated that due to the renovations at Farmington High School, the number of ball fields available is very limited, consequently more games have been scheduled in Shiawassee Park. Gushman noted that Mr. Lang offered Heritage Park in Farmington Hills as an option for the event. He further noted that according to Mr. Lang, the event in Shiawassee Park would disrupt sixteen teams on Saturday alone.

Pastue expressed concern regarding the impact of rearranging the baseball schedule and recommended pursuing the option of Heritage Park.

Jeff Sims was present to respond to questions from Council.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Knol, Sims stated that the goal of the event is *not* to rotate sites, but rather to find a desirable location like Farmington that they can return to each year.

Councilmember McShane asked if any of the baseball games could be rescheduled at other fields. Pastue stated that the impact of the event would be to delay the games to later in the season.

McShane stated her support of the event, noting that it would benefit both the American Cancer Society and the City. She further stated that if arrangements couldn't be made this year, then she encouraged Mr. Sim's to bring the event back to Farmington next year.

Sims stated that he would look at the option of Heritage Park and other possibilities, including delaying the event until next year.

Discussion followed regarding other possible locations in the City.

Knol stated her support for the event and requested that they return next year to conduct the event in Shiawassee Park.

Pastue recommended delaying action on this request until the option of Heritage Park is explored.

RESOLUTION 03-05-055 Motion by Bush, seconded by Mitchell, to table a request from the American Cancer Society to conduct a *Relay for Life* event in Shiawassee Park until other options are explored. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Responding to a question, Gushman stated that based on his conversation with Mr. Lang, the baseball field issue is a direct result of the Farmington High School renovations and would be limited to this year only.

Sims thanked Pastue and Gushman for their time and effort in attempting to make this event happen in Farmington.

BOARD AND COMMISSIONS

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO PUBLIC ACCESS PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

Administration advised that Council had met with candidates for the Public Access Promotions Committee at an earlier special meeting.

Knol stated her support for candidate Linda Burke because of her enthusiasm, ideas, education and experience.

McShane expressed her support for Linda Burke due to her drive and vision for the position.

Councilmember Bush concurred with Knol and McShane regarding their reasons for supporting Ms. Burke and stated her support for Ms. Burke for a three-year term.

Mitchell expressed his support for Ms. Burke, noting her ideas, work ethic, excellent background and as a proven volunteer in the community.

03-05-056 MOTION by Bush, seconded by Mitchell, to appoint Linda Burke to the Public Access Promotions Committee for a three-year term, expiring March 31, 2008. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion continued regarding the appointment for a one-year term.

McShane stated her support for Brian Golden because he has the most to offer in promoting the City.

Knol concurred with McShane and further noted Mr. Golden's experience, passion and knowledge of Farmington.

Bush stated that both Brian Golden and Gerald Goldberg were excellent candidates, but expressed support for Mr. Golden because of his experience.

Mayor Campbell also stated that both candidates were excellent, but expressed his support for Mr. Goldberg due to his outreach and experience.

Mitchell concurred that both candidates were good and that either one would be committed and involved.

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03-05-057 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Knol, to appoint Brian Golden to the Public Access Promotions Committee for a one-year term, expiring March 31, 2006. Four ayes, one nay (Campbell), MOTION PASSED.

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL

03-05-058 MOTION by Knol, seconded by Bush, to appoint Megan Sutherland to the Mayor's Youth Council to complete a one-year term ending September 1, 2005 with eligibility for reappointment. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER

CONSIDERATION OF ABC CAB COMPANY TAXI LICENSE RENEWAL

Administration advised that the Department of Public Safety has inspected the three ABC Cab Company vehicles for which license renewal has been requested, found them to be in acceptable condition, and recommended that licenses be issued.

RESOLUTION 03-05-059 Motion by Mitchell, seconded by McShane, to authorize the issuance of three (3) taxicab licenses to ABC Cab Company for 2005. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SIGN VARIANCE REQUEST – BAKER STREET DRAPERIES, 33432 OAKLAND

Administration advised that a sign permit application was received from Baker Street Draperies to replace an existing ground sign with a 70" x 51" monument sign. Administration further advised that the existing sign ordinance prohibits ground signs in the Central Business District, however, the proposed sign ordinance would allow the monument sign as presented, with the addition of landscaping. Administration advised that the proponent has indicated a willingness to comply with the landscaping requirement.

Shelley Raymond, owner of Baker Street Draperies, was present to respond to questions.

Responding to a question from McShane, Raymond stated that she chose a larger sign because it had been difficult for prospective customers to find her location with the present sign.

Responding to a question from Mitchell, Pastue stated that an approval should be contingent on the provision of a landscape plan.

RESOLUTION 03-05-060 Motion by Knol, seconded by Bush, to approve a sign variance request at Baker Street Draperies, 33432 Oakland, to replace an existing ground sign with a 70" x 51" illuminated monument sign subject to landscape plan approval. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MISCELLANEOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT

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No public comments were heard.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Bush read the following comments for the record:

“Two weeks ago today on March 7th, I was disappointed by the action taken by some members of this Council for two reasons: first, Farmington Development Group was selected as the developer for the old 47th district court site and I feel that was unfortunate. I truly feel the City would have been better served by selecting Evangelical Homes of Michigan because the entire Farmington community would have been better served by the development. Our population is almost twenty-five percent seniors and from my personal experience with many seniors, when they need to leave their own homes they want to stay in the community where they have lived, staying close to family and friends. Currently our community is lacking a housing development like this when seniors reach this stage of their lives. Sure you may say the numbers for the Farmington Development Group were more beneficial to the City, but were they really? I do not believe that Council got the big picture. The Evangelical Homes was a sure thing for Farmington and would be built. I am very concerned about the price point the Farmington Development Group is proposing, can it be achieved? I am not really so sure that it can be.

As has been stated before, I did not vote or enter into any discussion on this matter because my business associate, Dave Cornwell, was a buyer's broker for the Evangelical Homes of Michigan. At this point I can now state my opinion on this matter as I just did. I certainly do wish Mr. Schneemann the very best with his project. Secondly, Mayor Pro Tem McShane was out of town and because of air transportation problems was unable to be back for that meeting on March 7th, and even though she requested the matter of the court site not be addressed and voted on, it was left on the agenda and acted upon. I feel that was a wrong decision. Would just two weeks have made a difference? I don't think it would have.”

McShane noted that in the City Manager's update, notice was received that a flyer on the “Taste of Two Cities” would be included with the water bills. She stated that she would like to be part of the discussion for future water bills insertions due to her concern regarding this type of distribution.

McShane noted that Council had discussed, at great length, the formation of a museum committee and further noted that Mitchell had concurred providing a Councilmember served as chair. She expressed her willingness to assume that role on condition that Council made a formal commitment to the committee.

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Mayor Campbell noted that Administration planned to have a discussion with the Museum Director after which a special meeting would be set to discuss the direction of the museum.

McShane responded that Council had already agreed to the formation of a museum committee at a previous special meeting. She stated that she would like to move forward with the committee, but agreed that a special meeting is necessary.

Mitchell questioned the purpose of the committee. McShane responded that the committee would address fundraising and events at the museum.

Mitchell stated the need for Council to address the future operations of the museum. McShane responded that the formation of a fundraising committee is a separate issue from the operations of the museum. She stated the need to move forward with the committee ensuring that the museum progresses.

Knol stated that she did not think the committee would plan an event until the direction of the museum was established. She further stated that it would take at least a couple of months to form the committee and brainstorm fundraising ideas.

Mitchell stated that there are other issues that Council needs to address. McShane again reminded Mitchell that he approved the idea of the committee provided that it was chaired by a councilmember.

Mayor Campbell stated that normally Council would establish a set of goals prior to appointing a committee.

Knol noted that this process is similar to the one used for the Historic District Committee.

Mayor Campbell asked Pastue if the fundraising committee should be part of a comprehensive review of the museum. Pastue responded that he does not have a concern with an initial formation of the committee. He stated that some of the issues of the museum could be addressed concurrently.

03-05-061 MOTION by Knol, seconded by McShane, to establish an ad-hoc committee to address fundraising for the museum, with Mayor Pro Tem McShane serving as chairperson. Four ayes, one nay (Campbell), MOTION PASSED.

Mitchell stated his concern regarding Bush's earlier comments that were directed at other Councilmembers who had voted on the courthouse property on March 7th. He stated that his concern was partly because her comments were made under Council comments and that arguably, as a councilmember who recused herself from voting, he was not sure that it was appropriate to criticize other councilmembers for moving forward with a meeting and taking a vote. He stated that she is free to say anything she wants under public comment. He further stated that he takes exception to the comments and that he feels it is inappropriate to criticize councilmembers for moving

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forward on what they are duty bound to do. He expressed his regret that McShane could not attend the meeting.

Bush expressed her regret that her comments were viewed as a criticism, but stated that she needed to express her opinion. She stated that as a Councilperson, an elected official of the City, and as a resident, she was entitled to state her opinion.

Mitchell acknowledged her right to state her opinion, but not as a councilmember criticizing other councilmembers for doing their job, especially when she was not in a position to even express an opinion on the matter.

Bush responded that that was the very reason why she waited to express her view this evening and not two weeks ago. She stated that she should have the freedom to state her opinion.

ADJOURNMENT

03-05-062 MOTION by Bush, seconded by Knol, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Arnold T. Campbell, Mayor

Patsy K. Cantrell, City Clerk/Treasurer

Susan K. Halberstadt, Recording Secretary