

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
April 5, 2010

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, April 5, 2010, 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 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Buck.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: City Clerk Halberstadt, City Manager Pastue, Interim Director Schulz and Attorney Schultz.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

04-10-056 MOTION by Wright, seconded by McShane, to approve the agenda as amended, moving Public Comment to Item No. 4 following Approval of Agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Schwartz, County Commissioner, advised the Oakland County Director of Economic Development has reviewed the Maxfield Training Center property to determine its most viable re-development options. He stated the County determined based on the current economic climate the best use would be senior housing. He discussed the possibility of using Federal Funds to make infrastructure improvements. He advised further research on the property will need to be done.

Pastue indicated the Downtown Development Authority has a redevelopment committee that is looking for opportunities concerning that property. He stated a meeting has been scheduled with the School Board and the Cities (Farmington and Farmington Hills) to discuss redevelopment options. He has been advised the value of the property is the land only.

Discussion followed regarding the status of the parking lot easement.

Schwartz stated he would like to arrange a meeting between the County, Cities and School Board.

CLOSED SESSION – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS

04-10-057 MOTION by Wright, seconded by Knol, to enter into closed session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations.

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ROLL CALL

Ayes: Knol, McShane, Wiggins, Wright, Buck.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council entered closed session at 7:20 p.m.

04-10-058 MOTION by Knol, seconded by McShane, to return to open session. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council returned to open session at 9:25 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

VAN TOUR DATE

Council concurred to schedule a tour of the City for Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

YMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERSHIP

Mayor Buck indicated the YMCA is looking for a Councilmember to serve on their Board of Directors.

SET SPECIAL MEETING DATE

Council concurred to schedule a Special Meeting for Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business items were heard.

COUNCIL COMMENT

McShane commended City Administration for seeking and obtaining a membership fee reduction from the Michigan Municipal League (MML).

In recognition of current openings on Boards and Commissions, McShane recommended a review of past applicants who have already been interviewed by Council.

Pastue advised his office has received a number of new applicants.

Wright asked why the old courthouse, a building owned by the City, isn't at the very least as important as the Maxfield Training Center (MTC) which is not owned by the City. He recognized the importance of the location of the MTC in its proximity to the

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downtown, but still expressed concern regarding a languishing courthouse. As part of the Van Tour, he would like to take a walk-thru that property.

He expressed concern regarding the maintenance of the courthouse. He suggested that if it isn't being maintained then maybe it should be torn down. He advised the City should learn from this experience in the event there is a broader warehousing of vacant buildings. He stated the opportunity of getting highest and best use of the building is unrealistic. He noted holding out for the best offer is unrealistic and dangerous and the courthouse is a perfect example of that.

Discussion followed regarding the condition of the courthouse. Pastue advised it has been used for training by Public Safety and there has been some deterioration.

Wright asked why the City is not asking for across the board concessions from vendors similar to what was gained from MML. He pointed out Council approves all equipment purchases over \$10K. He asked why they don't approve personal service contracts over \$10K as well. He advised there is much more meat in those types of contracts for savings then in purchasing a piece equipment.

Wright indicated the City currently has approximately twenty personal service contracts that are over \$20K. He recommended with the new budget cycle the City implement a policy to competitively bid those contracts out every 3 years on a rotation basis. In addition, he proposed that all other service providers should be required as stakeholders to also make concessions. He recommended Administration send each service provider a letter advising them of the economic challenges faced by the City and request a specific reduction in their fees.

Wright stated if the City is expecting residents and employees to pay more, then the providers of services should also be part of that process. He would like a policy developed to ensure this is achieved. He stated this should apply to the top twenty service providers.

Buck suggested making this an agenda item at a future meeting. Wright stated it should be a discussion that should take place before the budget process.

Knol asked about the joint meeting with Farmington Hills and the School Board. She recommended the discussion focus on the disposal of closed school buildings.

Buck mentioned a number of upcoming events. He confirmed a consensus has been reached on the new City logo.

In response to a question from McShane, Pastue advised the cost for the new logo has already been incurred. He stated the new logo will be slowly assimilated into City signage, stationery, etc. as current inventory is depleted. He advised there will be little cost to the City. He noted it will be part of the City's new website.

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ADJOURNMENT

04-10-059 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Knol, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

J.T. (Tom) Buck, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: April 19, 2010