

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, October 18, 2004 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, Assistant Manager Richards, Interim Director Wiggins.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Campbell added agenda item 6B, Appointment to the Board of Canvassers.

10-04-232 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Bush, to approve the agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

10-04-233 MOTION by Mitchell, seconded by Knol, to approve the special and regular meeting minutes of October 4, 2004. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC HEARING RE: 2005 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

10-04-234 MOTION by Mitchell, seconded by Knol, to open the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Administration reviewed the proposed 2005 Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) Program and advised that funding is estimated to be \$32,789. Administration further advised that a public hearing is a requirement of the application process.

Mayor Campbell opened the public hearing and invited public comment.

Hearing no comment, Mayor Campbell closed the public hearing.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

PROPOSED PUBLIC ART (Baseline Project)

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -2-
October 18, 2004

Steven Schneemann, a resident of Farmington, discussed a proposed public art project, "Coasting the Base Line", a series of granite obelisks to be situated along Michigan's Base Line Road. Ken Naigus, Chairman of the Northville Arts Commission, discussed the birth of this project in Northville and the creation of an obelisk by artist David Barr.

Schneemann stated that the project has received the support of the Farmington Area Arts Commission, as well as the Historical Society.

David Barr spoke about his interest in projects that connect communities and societies. He spoke about major local, national and international nonprofit projects that he has undertaken. He stated that they are seeking support for an obelisk in Farmington-Farmington Hills and other Base Line communities.

Schneemann stated that half of the project would be funded through arranged contributions and the balance would come from community donations. He stated that the cost of the project would be between \$12,000 and \$15,000. He displayed images of the proposed obelisk. He discussed possible locations for the obelisk in the Downtown Area.

Responding to a question, Barr stated that he would oversee the development of the obelisk.

Councilmember McShane expressed her support for the project and suggested involving the Historical Commissions in its development.

Councilmember Mitchell also expressed his support for the project and recommended the involvement of the Eight Mile Boulevard Association.

Councilmember Knol asked how the location of the project would be determined. Schneemann suggested that an interested group representing communities, commissions and educators, across City lines, would select the location. Knol suggested that the obelisk be located in a safe place where people can walk to it.

Mayor Campbell suggested that City Administration develop a motion to endorse the project, including a requirement for Council's approval of the location and representation on the Project Committee.

APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS

10-04-235 MOTION by Bush, seconded by McShane, to appoint Eleanor Peterson to the Board of Canvassers for an unexpired term ending December 2005. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2005 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -3-
October 18, 2004

Administration recommended that Council consider and adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit the 2005 CDBG application.

RESOLUTION 10-04-236 Motion by Mitchell, seconded by Knol, to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for participation in the 2005 Community Development Block Grant Program. [SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION]. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDER APPROVAL TO PURCHASE SALT, SEASON BACK-UP

Administration advised that in addition to the 196.5 tons of road salt already delivered to the Department of Public Services, the Department estimates the seasonal backup amount of road salt to be approximately eleven hundred tons.

Administration further advised that the State of Michigan Extended Purchasing Program has awarded the State bid for road salt to Morton International Inc., in the amount of \$25.31 per ton.

RESOLUTION 10-04-237 Motion by McShane, seconded by Bush, to approve the purchase of 1,100 tons of road salt through the State of Michigan Extended Purchasing Program from Morton International, Inc. in the amount of \$25.31 per ton; funds provided in the FY2004-05 budget.

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR PLACEMENT OF HISTORIC SIGN

Administration advised that over the last couple of years, the Farmington Hills Historical Commission has been working toward placement of a historical sign recognizing Earle W. Graser of Farmington as the star of the *Long Ranger* series. Administration further advised that the home of Mr. Graser was near Locust Street in Farmington Hills, however, in order to provide the sign with some visibility, the City of Farmington Hills has requested that it be placed on the Cemetery property near the intersection of Shiawassee and Locust.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -4-
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RESOLUTION 10-04-238 Motion by Knol, seconded by Mitchell, to approve a license agreement with the City of Farmington Hills to place an historical marker in the right-of-way at the intersection of Shiawassee and Locust. [SEE ATTACHED AGREEMENT]. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT OAKLAND COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Administration advised that over the last year Oakland County has been working to develop a countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan that has included input from sixty-two local jurisdictions and agencies. Administration further advised that the Plan document covering a wide variety of disasters, has been reviewed and approved by both the Interim Public Safety Director and Fire Marshall.

RESOLUTION 10-04-239 Motion by Bush, seconded by McShane, to approve a resolution adopting the Oakland County Hazard Mitigation Plan as the official plan for the City of Farmington. [SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION]. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MISCELLANEOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Assistant City Manager Richards advised that a request was received from Laura Osborne, representing Downtown Merchants, to display scarecrows in the Downtown Area. He further advised that this request had not been submitted to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for approval, however, Ms. Osborne spoke with DDA Director Morgan who agreed to aid in the project by sending a communication to Downtown businesses.

Richards further advised that Director Morgan expressed some concern regarding the potential cost of the Scarecrow Program and the maintenance and timely removal of the scarecrows. Responding to a question, Richards stated that this program is in its third year.

Knol expressed her disappointment that the DDA is not more proactive in taking on this event. She stated that many other Downtown Development Authorities get involved with beautifying the downtown and arrange events that draw people to the communities. She further stated that the DDA should seriously consider having someone on staff in charge of promotions, an element of the Main Street approach. She stated that there are great volunteers on the Main Street Promotions Committee, however, most of them have full time jobs with limited time. She further stated that the DDA needs to push more when it comes to promotions and events and should have someone on staff responsible for these activities, whether it is the DDA Director or someone else. She emphasized again that it is part of the Main Street approach to have promotional activities in the downtown. She stated that in the past two years she has not seen anything new in the Downtown other than the Funny Film Festival that was put on by the Civic Theatre Committee. She cited all of the activities that have been going on for years without the addition of any new events.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -5-
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Responding to a question, Richards stated that the Scarecrow event had been previously sponsored by the Downtown Merchants Association, but was informed by Ms. Osborne that that Association is now defunct. He further stated that this event request was made by Ms. Osborne and individual business owners.

Councilmember McShane advised that this request does not need to come before Council, but rather the Downtown Merchants needs to work with the DDA. She stated that these two groups need to work together to promote events. She further stated that one of the reasons for the implementation of Main Street was to break down barriers between the DDA and the Downtown Merchants. She questioned that if events and promotions are not originated by the DDA and the DDA Director, then where would they originate. She further stated that the City needs to solidify responsibility for these events. She stated that she would like to see more cohesiveness and cooperation between the DDA and business owners and that it is the DDA Director's responsibility to make that happen.

Councilmember Mitchell indicated that the scarecrow project was previously the responsibility of the Downtown Merchants and that there was no indication that the DDA should have taken it over. He concurred with Councilmember Knol that the DDA needs to plan more promotions, however, this event may not have been one they were specifically interested in. He noted the annual Halloween Fun Fest as a Fall event arranged by the DDA. He advised that if Council allows the display of scarecrows, participating merchants should take responsibility for their maintenance and removal. He stated that in the future, the DDA should identify events and promotions for which they are responsible and that they should be aware of other past or future events and ensure responsibility has been taken.

Mayor Campbell indicated that the Downtown Merchants were invited to participate on the Main Street Promotions Committee. He stated that promotions should originate through that Committee and the DDA. He further stated that the City has always tried to work with the business community.

Councilmember Bush asked whether it is ultimately the responsibility of the DDA Director to oversee Downtown activities, such as the Scarecrow event. Richards responded that the Promotions Committee Chair invited recommendations for events and activities and that this event was not submitted. He stated that there is some question as to whose responsibility it should have been to make this request.

Councilmember Bush stated that she cannot support this ninth hour request. She further stated that she could not support hiring someone just to handle promotions in light of the fact that the DDA office currently has more staff than ever.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -6-

October 18, 2004

10-04-240 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Knol, to refer the request from Laura Osborne for the display of scarecrows in the Downtown back to the Director of the Downtown Development Authority. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council clarified that it is the responsibility of Ms. Osborne to take her request back to the DDA.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Mayor Campbell expressed sadness over the loss of Bill Liba, a Farmington resident, active volunteer and real friend of Farmington. He requested a moment of silence in Mr. Liba's memory.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORT – JULY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

10-04-241 MOTION by Bush, seconded by McShane, to receive and file the Building Department Quarterly Report for period ending September 30, 2004. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORT – JULY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

10-04-242 MOTION by Knol, seconded by Mitchell, to receive and file the Department of Public Works and Water and Sewer Department quarterly report for period ended September 30, 2004. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

10-04-243 MOTION by Knol, seconded by Mitchell, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

ARNOLD T. CAMPBELL, Mayor

PATSY K. CANTRELL, City Clerk/Treasurer