

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, February 5, 2007, 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 McShane.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: City Clerk Halberstadt, City Manager Pastue (arrived 8:45 p.m.).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

02-07-018 MOTION by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to approve the agenda as submitted. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

STUDY SESSION ITEMS

Council interviewed the following candidates for vacancies on the Downtown Development Authority Board: Mike Mazzone, Laura Pollaci-Scanlan, David Wright, Bob Rock, Lizbeth Gondek and Nancy Coucke.

Due to high public interest, Mayor McShane moved Public Comment up in the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Residents of the Wilmarth/Oakland Street area expressed the following concerns regarding ongoing power outages.

Cindy Clark, 34025 Oakland Street, expressed concern regarding power outages that occur on a regular basis in her neighborhood. She stated her complaints, as well as that of her neighbors, have received little response from Edison. She further stated this problem has been ongoing for twenty-four years. She stated they were without power from Monday to Wednesday as a result a recent ice storm.

Cindy Trimner, 23815 Wilmarth, concurred with Ms. Clark that power outage problems have been ongoing for years. She stated she has discussed the issue on numerous occasions with DTE, but to no avail. She noted that the neighborhood experienced six power outages in 2006. She stated she submitted a letter of complaint signed by residents, but received little response. She further discussed other attempts made to

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resolve the situation with DTE. She indicated Mr. Ottzman of DTE has advised the situation will be corrected by July 2007.

Jane Troyer, 23811 Wilmarth, noted reoccurring brownouts that have caused significant damage to her home.

Dirk Beamer, 34016 Oakland, stated he has been without power on multiple nights. He noted it is not the kind of condition one would expect in a first rate City such as Farmington. He stated any help in bringing public pressure on DTE would be appreciated.

Bill McCarthy, 34154 Courtland, requested assistance from the City in the resolving the issue.

Jeff McGowan, 21052 Larkspur, expressed his frustration with power outages in his area of Farmington Meadows subdivision.

Peter Haapaniemi, 23907 Wilmarth, stressed the longevity of this issue. He discussed the frustrations of dealing with Edison. He suggested a meeting between residents, DTE and Council to address the issue.

Councilmember Knol recommended that City Manager Pastue contact Mike Pelchesko, the City's liaison to DTE, and request in writing a plan to resolve the issue.

City Manager Pastue asked Ms. Trimner if she would provide his office with copies of the documents she has submitted to DTE. He encouraged residents to contact his office every time a power outage occurs. He stated he would contact Mr. Pelchesko and continue to apply pressure to resolve the issue.

Mayor McShane asked Administration to contact Representative Vagnozzi and State Senator Jacobs regarding this issue. She stated she would like a meeting arranged between DTE, residents and the City. She thanked the residents for coming and assured them the City will do what it can to correct the problem.

**REVIEW CITY COUNCIL APPLICANT RESPONSES; SELECT INTERVIEWEES;
ESTABLISH INTERVIEW DATE**

Councilmember Buck recommended interviewing all eight candidates based on their high qualifications and the effort each gave to their application and questionnaire.

Councilmember Wiggins concurred that all eight candidates should be interviewed and expressed appreciation for their efforts.

Councilmember Knol concurred that all candidates should be interviewed.

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Mayor McShane expressed delight at the number of qualified candidates that applied and expressed hope that those who are not appointed would seek positions on other boards and commissions.

Council concurred to conduct twenty-five minute interviews for the Council vacancy. They set interview dates and times as follows: February 12, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. to interview the remaining DDA candidates; February 19 at 4:00 p.m., February 21 at 6:30 p.m. and February 17 as an alternate date for Council interviews.

REQUEST FOR SKATE PARK FUNDING

Administration advised a request has been received from Bryan Farmer of the Special Services Division of Farmington Hills for a contribution of \$87,642 toward the Riley Skate Park project. He stated the amount represents 10% of the total cost and corresponds with many of the services shared with Farmington Hills.

Councilmember Knol asked how much the City of Farmington Hills has committed to the project. City Manager Pastue stated he did not know.

City Manager Pastue stated it would be beneficial for Council to receive a presentation from Farmington Hills on the project.

Knol stated she is unaware of Farmington ever jointly funding a capital project with Farmington Hills. She asked whether Farmington Hills would reciprocate in jointly funding a project in Shiawassee Park. She stated further discussion with Farmington Hills regarding this issue is necessary.

Pastue advised that jurisdictional boundaries are not clearly defined when it comes to use of recreational facilities. He suggested that at some point consideration should be give to a joint parks and recreation master plan.

Knol expressed concern regarding the commitment of \$87K to a skate park until discussions are held with Farmington Hills concerning their contribution to the project and future goals for the park system.

Councilmember Wiggins noted that if Farmington agreed to contribute to the skate park, and the fundraising effort was successful, Farmington might be the only government agency contributing. He suggested consideration of a different contribution formula.

Councilmember Buck concurred with the comments of Councilmembers Knol and Wiggins.

Mayor McShane stated any consideration of joint funding efforts or shared services should be tabled until other considerations are resolved.

Buck questioned whether the skate park is the best use of available funds.

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McShane noted that joint funding of capital projects is a policy question that requires more information and discussion.

Wiggins emphasized that any contribution should be based on a percentage of tax dollars applied to the project.

Knol stated she is very supportive of the skate park, but emphasized a decision could not be made independent of other issues that need to be addressed.

Mayor McShane noted that historically the City has not contributed to other Farmington Hills project such as the golf course, Founders Park, etc.

Pastue stated he would talk to Farmington Hills City Manager Brock to get further clarification on some of the issues.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor McShane declared the week of March 25-30, 2007 as Human Values Week in the City of Farmington.

Mayor McShane allowed for an additional public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dick Carvell, 33906 State Street, questioned whether the City would be asked to contribute to the maintenance of the skate park as well.

Annabelle Gabel, 23089 Violet, spoke about the closing of the Great Harvest Bread Company.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember Knol informed Council that a bill was recently introduced in Lansing which amends the 1967 Urban Cooperation Act. She stated this amendment would allow local governments to consolidate without consideration to maintaining current employee salary and benefit levels. She also noted the governor will likely apply more pressure on communities to consolidate. She further noted there is an \$800 million deficit which potentially means revenue sharing cuts. She emphasized there will be continued discussion and pressure for shared services.

Knol stressed that if Farmington Hills elects to do a merger study, Farmington needs a "seat at that table." She expressed concern that if Farmington does not participate, the study could potentially be skewed.

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Councilmember Buck expressed his delight at the number of quality candidates who applied for the Council and DDA vacancies. He stated this demonstrates great community involvement and the positive direction of Farmington.

Responding to a question, Pastue stated the City has completed picking up the brush from a recent ice storm. He stated he would place a notice in the Observer to that effect.

Mayor McShane noted the support she has received in response to her recent article in the Observer regarding a merger.

Mayor McShane further noted that the Historical Commission evaluated and agreed to Council's recommendation to move oversight of the Warner Mansion to the Commission. She stated the Commission has requested Council approve this change and that the bylaws be amended accordingly. She requested Administration send a letter of gratitude to the Commission for agreeing to oversee the Mansion.

ADJOURNMENT

02-07-019 MOTION by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

JoAnne M. McShane, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: February 19, 2007