

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2012

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, 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 Pro Tem Galvin.

PRESENT: Cowley, Galvin, Kuiken, McShane.

ABSENT: Buck.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: City Manager Pastue, Director Gushman, City Clerk Halberstadt, Director Schulz, City Attorney Schultz, Treasurer Weber.

CONSENT AGENDA

01-12-006 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Kuiken, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- A. Study Session Minutes of December 19, 2011.
- B. Regular Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2011.
- C. Study Session Minutes of January 2, 2012.
- D. City of Farmington Monthly Payments Report, December 2011.
- E. Public Safety Monthly Report, December, 2011.
- F. Consideration to Renew Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Membership

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

01-12-007 MOTION by Kuiken, seconded by Cowley, to approve the regular agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

YMCA UPDATE – TOM WILKINSON AND TRINA STEWART

Tom Wilkinson introduced Trina Stewart, the new community relations liaison for the YMCA. Ms. Stewart discussed a number of new programs including a joint venture with Farmington Public Schools.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO OPT-OUT OF SMART SYSTEM

Mayor Pro Tem Galvin reviewed the process for receiving public comment. He invited representatives from SMART to comment on the current status of their organization and a proposal for additional service.

Steve Brown and Jim Fetzer from SMART spoke about recent cutbacks in service caused by a 25% decrease in operating millage. Route 385 that runs through Farmington was eliminated, leaving routes 805 and 330 still operating in the city. They proposed the addition of 3 dial-a-ride buses to offset the loss of route 385.

Questions were entertained from Council.

Cowley inquired if SMART's unions have taken wage and/or benefit cuts. Fetzer responded that administration has already taken cuts and they are in the process of finalizing an agreement with their union for concessions as well.

Cowley asked for a restatement of numbers provided on riders and inquired as to how many other communities are looking to opt out.

Brown responded that to his knowledge no other communities are looking to opt out other than perhaps Farmington Hills.

Cowley thanked Fetzer and Brown for the new proposal for additional dial-a-ride buses, but pointed out that Council basically had to threaten to opt out in order to solicit the enhancement presented.

Kuiken asked what would prevent SMART from making additional route cuts in the future and Brown responded that communities that pay into the millage must get service.

Galvin inquired as to the boundaries that would be involved with the proposed additional buses.

Fetzer responded that service would be provided to Farmington/Farmington Hills and other opt-in communities, but not to opt-out communities unless there is Board approval.

Further discussion was held on the timeline involved in starting the new service.

McShane expressed her disappointment in the 11th hour solution offered by SMART, noting they have had two years to proactively work on a plan. She inquired if a regional transit system was formed would opt-out communities be required to participate.

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Fetzer responded that would be a different system under a regional transportation authority and therefore he could not comment.

Cowley asked of the 63 cities in Oakland County how many participate in SMART. Brown responded 23 currently participate in the system.

Cowley commented on the status of neighboring cities and noted Farmington is basically the end of the line for the west side of the service map.

Kuiken expressed concern over continuing service provided by SMART and the impact of future union negotiations.

McShane expressed her support for a public transportation system for the residents of Farmington, but stated concern over the lack of data provided by SMART and the geographic limitations of the system currently in place. She noted neighboring opt-out communities use Farmington's system without paying.

McShane discussed her fiduciary responsibility to the residents of Farmington. She does not believe SMART gives residents the best value for their dollar. She further believes SMART has a credibility problem and cited reasons for that. She would like feedback from residents regarding who rides the system and the destinations they would like added. She would like to thoroughly research this issue to determine the best transportation solution possible.

Mayor Pro Tem Galvin opened the floor up for public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people spoke in favor of not opting out of the SMART system:

Shelly Fuller, Farmington; Karen Kloker, Farmington; Clarice Urbiel, Farmington; Sonia Ringe, Farmington; Shelly Horne, Farmington; Deborah Goldberg, Farmington; Douglas Murray, Farmington; Susan Lightner, Farmington; Kathy Freeman, Dearborn Heights; Deborah Fuller, Farmington Hills; Phillip Rodgers, Farmington Hills; Jeffrey and Joshua Cohen, Farmington Hills; John Waterman, Saline; Matthew Clew, Novi; Joseph Rex, Royal Oak; Stephen Lloyd, Farmington; Jessica DeHart, Farmington; Timothy Davis, Farmington; Laura Padalino, Ypsilanti; Tim Galvin; Bobby James, Jo Carol Davis, Farmington; Shelly Cross, Farmington.

Mayor Pro Tem Galvin entertained comments from Council.

Kuiken thanked the members of the audience for their comments. She indicated that it is not the intent of Council to eliminate public transportation for residents. She advised that alternatives will be researched in a way to better serve the community.

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Cowley congratulated those who shared their comments regarding SMART. He stated Council has a fiduciary responsibility on how to best serve the community.

McShane noted the courage it took for those who offered public comment.

Further discussion was held on whether the vote could be tabled until a letter of intent is received from SMART detailing level of service; level of commitment; and geographic boundaries of the system.

Galvin asked for clarification of timelines involved in the vote. Attorney Schultz stated no deadline extension is provided in the statute. He advised action must be taken by January 31st to opt out, otherwise the City will remain in the system allowing for the SMART millage vote later in the year.

RESOLUTION 01-12-008 Motion by Kuiken, seconded by Cowley, to adopt a resolution to opt-out of the SMART System. [SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION].

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Cowley, Kuiken, McShane.

Nays: Galvin.

Absent: Buck

MOTION CARRIED.

Council concurred to take a short recess at 8:55 p.m. The meeting resumed at 9:05 p.m.

CONSIDERATION TO AMEND EXISTING CONTRACT WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC.

Present: Mike Csapo, RRRASOC Executive

Mike Csapo, RRRASOC Executive Director, gave a presentation on the new single stream recycling collection and the modifications to the facility in Southfield as a result. He reviewed cost reductions and convenience to residents that would result in single stream collection. If the contract amendment is approved, it would be effective July 1, 2012 and would involve an extension of the contract to October 2022 in order for Waste Management to amortize costs.

Further discussion was held concerning the new natural gas vehicles that will be utilized and their benefits and the CPI projections listed in the contract as well as when to expect commercial recycling and educating the public.

Pastue stated Council approval should be contingent on Farmington Hills approval in order to form a unified service district; and that City Manager and City Attorney review the language of the contract before it becomes final.

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RESOLUTION 01-12-009 Motion by Cowley, seconded by Kuiken, to amend the existing contract with Waste Management, Inc. in order to reduce cost of service, expand recycling service; extend contract through June 30, 2022; subject to Farmington Hills extending their contract and a review of contract language by the City Manager and City Attorney before it becomes final. [SEE ATTACHED AMENDMENT AND CONTRACT].

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Galvin, Kuiken, McShane, Cowley.

Nays: None.

Absent: Buck

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2 REGARDING PRINCIPAL SHOPPING DISTRICT RENEWAL

Pastue advised at last month's regular meeting City Council received a presentation from DDA Knowles regarding the principal shopping district renewal and proposed uses for it. He pointed out a report from City Manager was included in Council's packet for the meeting. He stated a resolution to accept the report and schedule a public meeting to consider necessity of special assessment is required.

RESOLUTION 01-12-010 Motion by Cowley, seconded by McShane, to adopt Resolution #2 regarding a Principal Shopping District Renewal; accepting the City Manager's report and scheduling a public hearing for Monday, February 20, 2012 pertaining to the necessity of the district. [SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION].

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Kuiken, McShane, Cowley, Galvin.

Nays: None.

Absent: Buck.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO ALLOW RESIDENTS TO PROTEST IN WRITING TO THE MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

Pastue advised the City of Farmington contracts with the Oakland County Equalization Department for its assessing services. Oakland County presented City Administration with a resolution to consider accepting appeals at the March Board of Review in writing. Currently any resident protesting their assessment needed to appeal in person. Accepting appeals in writing provides the property owner more flexibility and would likely improve the efficiency for the Board of

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Review in hearing cases.

Discussion was held concerning format used for Board of Review.

RESOLUTION 01-12-011 Motion by McShane, seconded by Kuiken, to adopt a resolution to allow residents to protest in writing to the March Board of Review. [\[SEE ATTACHED RESOLUITON\]](#).

ROLL CALL

Ayes: McShane, Cowley, Galvin, Kuiken.

Nays: None.

Absent: Buck.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT RICHARD BIRRELL TO CITIZENS CORP FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (ECCEP)

01-12-012 MOTION by Kuiken, seconded by McShane, to serve as a Farmington representative on the Citizens Corp for Emergency Preparedness (ECCEP). MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Waterman, employed by Visions, expressed his concern regarding Council's decision to opt out of SMART and the negative impact on Visions students and funding resources. He volunteered his assistance in seeking alternative transportation options.

Patrick Thomas, 22432 Brookdale, inquired as to the proper channels for ordinance revision and exceptions.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Kuiken asked Public Services Director Gushman to explain the cost savings related to Farmington's water retention system.

Cowley stated Council's decision to opt out of SMART was difficult, but they do not intend to deprive transportation from senior citizens or the disabled.

McShane indicated that she was pained to opt out of SMART but felt she had no choice as she does not trust SMART's commitment to servicing Farmington and that a viable solution will be sought.

Galvin commented on the significance of the multicultural event that he attended in recognition of Martin Luther King Day.

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ADJOURNMENT

01-12-013 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Cowley, to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

William Galvin, Mayor Pro Tem

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: February 16, 2012