

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, March 20, 2006, 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: Knol, McShane, Sutherland, Wiggins.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Buck.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, City Manager Pastue, Assistant City Manager Richards.

OTHERS PRESENT: State Representative Aldo Vagnozzi (arrived 7:05 p.m.), Senator Gilda Jacobs.

PRESENTATION – CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY ACT, GILDA JACOBS, SENATOR

Senator Jacobs reviewed the content of the Corridor Improvement Authority Act (CIAA) which operates similar to a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) but with less limitations. She stated that communities can join together to use corridors to obliterate blight or keep areas from deteriorating. Senator Jacobs described the content, establishment of an Authority, and developmental area criteria of the Act.

Mayor McShane noted aspects of the Act including: preservation of historic buildings which could be applied to the Warner Mansion, buying buildings, and contracting for broadband service. She noted that it could be a tool for long range planning and an aid in regional cooperation. She expressed appreciation for the intent of the Act and that it does not compete with the DDA District.

Mayor McShane questioned the “ten contiguous parcels.” Senator Jacobs responded that the Michigan Municipal League could assist cities with questions. Responding to a question, Senator Jacobs stated that application of the Act could go through a DDA District.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – ALDO VAGNOZZI, STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND GILDA JACOBS, SENATOR

State Representative Aldo Vagnozzi advised of a bill requiring that 50% of homes financed through MSHDA must be ADA compliant.

SPECIAL MEETING -2-
March 20, 2006

Discussion followed regarding the Michigan Suburbs Alliance and its Director, Conan Smith.

City Manager Pastue commented about one of the criteria dealing with zoning, in a CIAA, which would allow for mixed use including high density residential. He questioned if it was anticipated to go down Grand River from a commercial area and into a residential area and continue regardless of different zoning designations. Senator Jacobs replied she thought so and cited Ferndale as an example. Pastue questioned if there would be separate boards, if two communities were involved. Senator Jacobs replied there could be a joint board.

Councilmember Sutherland inquired about which board would supersede if there were several governing boards for a specific area. Senator Jacobs replied the Michigan Municipal League or John Czarnecki would be able to provide specific answers.

Councilmember Knol stated it would be helpful to work with Farmington Hills regarding Grand River and Orchard Lake and run a Corridor Authority down to the Middlebelt-Inkster area.

Mayor McShane expressed concern regarding blighted strip mall areas.

Councilmember Wiggins stated areas needed to be defined.

Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell inquired about impending elections. State Representative Vagnozzi discussed pending legislation that would require eligible voters to request in writing that they be put on a permanent absent ballot voter list. He noted that "no reason" absent voter ballot applications had been voted down.

Pastue questioned if there was any legislation regarding telecommunications. Senator Jacobs commented on a pending bill that would include franchise fees. Discussion followed regarding an AT & T telecommunications bill.

Mayor McShane thanked Representative Vagnozzi and Senator Jacobs for their update on the Legislature.

Pastue reviewed various aspects of the Park and Recreation Plan including a switchback ramp, trail improvements, lighting, ball field improvements, concession stand, restrooms, and storage building.

Jeff McGowan, Farmington resident, voiced concern about the proposed paving of the trail in Shiawassee Park.

Knol stated the path in the park is smaller than the path at Kensington Park and is mainly a walking and running path.

SPECIAL MEETING -3-
March 20, 2006

Pastue commented on a plan to add a walking and running trail around Drake Park that would incorporate Longacre Elementary School.

Knol noted there would be nothing for the east end of town and stated that for runners there was no comparison between Shiawassee Park and Drake Park.

Mayor McShane questioned the location of the new pavilion. Pastue replied they did not know of another convenient area to place the pavilion. Responding to a question, Pastue stated that depending on funding the pavilion could be redesigned.

Sutherland questioned if the parking lot next to the baseball diamonds on the west end of the park could be relocated. Pastue stated the parking is next to the dugout and that the situation would have to be reviewed. Richards suggested fencing off the entry way to the diamond and to exit on the third base side as it would be expensive to move the backstop.

Mayor McShane questioned who was doing the architectural and engineering work on the switchback. Pastue advised it was Schneemann's firm and that engineering might be done separately.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

JoAnne M. McShane, Mayor

Patsy K. Cantrell, City Clerk/Treasurer

Susan K. Halberstadt, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: April 17, 2006