

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, October 16, 2006, at the 47<sup>th</sup> District Courthouse, 31605 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**CITY ADMINISTRATION:** City Clerk Halberstadt, Director Nebus,  
Treasurer Weber.

**47<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COURT – FINANCIAL REPORT QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2006**

Court Administrator, David Walsh, provided an overview of Court operations including a caseload review, performance standards and an analysis of Court funding and revenues. He noted in October 2003 the State created “judicial assessments” which significantly increased costs on civil infractions and misdemeanors. He advised the Court increased fines and costs at the same time to offset those increases. He stated every time the State increases their assessments it makes it increasingly difficult for the Court to make the necessary adjustments on traffic fines and costs to increase revenue.

Mayor McShane asked if the City should be talking to the State about the “judicial assessments.” Administrator Walsh advised the Court, as well as other City and judicial organizations, have voiced strong objections to the state regarding the increasing amount of the assessments.

Mayor McShane asked for advance notice of future State increases so the City can take appropriate action. Administrator Walsh stated he has notified the City of increases in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

Discussion followed regarding the process for setting fines and what can reasonably be expected for misdemeanors.

Administrator Walsh discussed the City of Farmington’s case filings, broken down by felonies, misdemeanors and drunk driving. He noted the overall caseload for Farmington/Farmington Hills has decreased over the last five years, however, Farmington’s percentage has increased significantly due to a major drop off of traffic cases in Farmington Hills. As a result, he stated Farmington’s percentage of contribution for fiscal year 2006-07 will increase from 13.1% to 15.3%.

Administrator Walsh discussed the success of the Court’s collection program, noting they have collected over \$100,000 between the two cities. Judge Parker recognized the

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING -2-  
October 16, 2006

efforts of Deputy Court Administrator, Stacey Parke, in developing and implementing the program.

Judge Parker spoke about the great success of Sobriety Court, a closely supervised, four-phase program that seeks to rehabilitate drunk drivers.

Mayor McShane asked about increases in zoning infractions. Judge Brady responded that most infractions related to weeds and cars with no license plates.

Mayor McShane stated the Council has a concern with regard to blight, the recent rat problem and a perception of decrease in home values. She asked about a stronger response from the court to repeat violators.

Judge Parker noted most zoning violations are resolved before they go to hearing. She further noted that the court is unaware if a violator is a repeat offender.

Administrator Walsh discussed the implementation of video arraignments which has eliminated the 2+ hours it can take to transport prisoners.

Director Nebus discussed the success of video arraignments, noting three arraignments that had taken place earlier in the day took a total of twenty minutes. He expressed appreciation for the great relationship the City has with the Court. He further expressed his strong support for the Sobriety Court. He noted that since 2005 the City has received a fee of \$200 for each drunk driving case accounting for approximately \$25,000 in annual revenue.

Councilmember Knol expressed concern regarding the high number of crime cases cited in Public Safety's quarterly report involving teenagers and additionally apartment complexes. She stated the community needs to find ways to address these issues.

Mayor McShane expressed appreciation to the Court for their ongoing cooperation and good working relationship with the City. She stated the City is very proud of the Court and what it represents to the Community.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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JoAnne M. McShane, Mayor

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Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: NOVEMBER 20, 2006