

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
May 19, 2008

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, May 19, 2008, 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 7:10 p.m. by Mayor Knol.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: City Clerk Halberstadt, City Manager Pastue.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

05-08-075 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wiggins, to approve the agenda as amended, tabling Item No. 3 "Children, Youth & Families Presentation." MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OTHER BUSINESS

SHARED SERVICES

City Manager Pastue requested feedback from Council on shared services with Farmington Hills.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Wright, Pastue stated Farmington Hills City Manager Brock has indicated interest in continuing shared services. Pastue further stated specific parameters regarding shared services need to be established.

Councilmember McShane asked if Administration had determined whether the current appropriation is equitable and if the number of people that use the service had been identified. Pastue cited the difficulty in determining an equitable share based on usage since both communities use the parks, senior services, cultural arts, school program, recreational program, golf course, ice arena, Civic Theatre, Warner Mansion and the court.

Discussion followed regarding the City's current participation in shared services and whether its current annual contribution of \$250,000 is equitable.

McShane noted Farmington residents could continue to use the recreational services provided by Farmington Hills even if Farmington did not contribute. Pastue noted if Farmington discontinued its contribution it would make it more difficult for Farmington Hills to continue many of the programs. Pastue felt there should be a cooperation between the two cities.

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Mayor Knol expressed support for some type of authority where the residents of both communities would pay to use services based on their property value and that money would go into a pot to pay for the programs utilized. She noted there would need to be representation from Farmington on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Councilmember Buck stated he did not have enough information regarding the City's participation in the parks and recreation programs to determine what is an equitable contribution.

Knol commented it would not be possible to get an accurate headcount of Farmington residents who participate in the Farmington Hills programs.

Councilmember Wright advised there are other ways to estimate program participation, such as the number of seniors in each community and the number of residents under age twenty.

Wright asked if there is a better way to share costs and suggested they look at demographics.

Knol noted the cost savings of participating in the Farmington Hills programs. She advised it would be an advantage for Farmington Hills to maintain Farmington's parks enabling a transfer of some Department of Public Works activities to them.

Buck stated he felt the City's current contribution is a win for Farmington Hills dollar wise. He felt it would be a benefit to study economic development.

Knol noted Farmington Hills could operate Parks and Recreation cheaper because of economies of scale.

Wright commented the City needs to find a way to arrive at a fair formula for sharing costs.

Knol stated they can work on a formula, but they also need to discuss if Farmington Hills can maintain our parks.

Councilmember Wiggins noted registration is required at the Costick Center in order to participate in programs, therefore the City could get some idea of resident participation.

Knol noted a lot of programs couldn't be quantified.

McShane commented that the City is not a part of the cultural arts division. She noted public art is displayed in Farmington Hills only.

Knol discussed using a millage to pay for costs that would be similar to the Library funding.

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Wright commented an authority would be a good idea, but did not believe it would be supported by Farmington Hills. Pastue noted an authority would provide fairness.

Knol felt Farmington Hills is not necessarily opposed to a millage, but rather more information and discussion is needed.

Wright stated if Farmington Hills agreed to the millage concept there would need to be a process to determine a fair amount. He felt a proportionate benefit would have to be measured.

Buck commented it must be a compelling case in order to save dollars.

Knol noted the cost savings by having the entire community fund the two libraries. She noted the benefits of Farmington Hills residents paying for the Farmington Library.

Wright noted the importance of the two communities working together.

Buck noted Farmington Hills residents use many of the programs offered by Farmington and he was not convinced that participation in programs is totally out of balance.

Pastue concurred with Buck and noted he could probably provide an answer on whether the City is paying more than their share.

Knol stated they need to look at opportunities to continue to provide services to Farmington's residents, save money, and maintain a good working relationship with Farmington Hills. She noted the opportunity for both cities to save money.

McShane stated she does not object to saving money or maintaining a good relationship with Farmington Hills, however, she needs more information on actual costs for sharing services.

Wright stated it would be helpful to compare demographics of people over 55 and those under 18 in order to determine use of programs.

Pastue commented he could obtain census information to use those numbers on spreadsheets for Council's review.

Knol requested that Pastue provide different proposals for the best cost saving opportunities and the most realistic for both cities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Annebell Gable, Farmington resident, noted a recent wedding at the Warner Mansion.

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COUNCIL COMMENT

There were no Council comments.

ADJOURNMENT

05-08-076 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wiggins, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Valerie S. Knol, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Janice Schmidt, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: July 21, 2008