

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL/STUDY SESSION
June 18, 2012

A special/study session of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, June 18, 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 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Buck.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Buck, Cowley, Galvin, Kuiken, McShane.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: City Clerk Halberstadt, City Manager Pastue.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

06-12-126 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Cowley, to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BOARD AND COMMISSION INTERVIEW

Patrick Thomas – Corridor Improvement Authority or Traffic & Safety

Council interviewed Patrick Thomas for openings on either the Traffic and Safety Board or Corridor Improvement Authority.

REORGANIZATION RESTRUCTURE

Pastue discussed proposed organizational restructuring including: departments that would be affected; objectives of the proposed restructuring; actual proposal for reorganization and related timetable.

Responding to a question from Kuiken, Pastue confirmed code enforcement would report to the head of economic development who in turn would report to the City Manager.

Kuiken noted how important an economic development position would be to the city.

McShane asked about the City Manager's proposed greater role on the Downtown Development Authority Board.

Pastue stated he would be more involved with the Board working on a number of issues. His primary task would be to assist the Board in focusing on economic development.

SPECIAL MEETING -2-
June 18, 2012

McShane expressed the importance of a unified effort towards a unified goal by the DDA Board.

Discussion followed regarding how the Main Street Program will fit within the DDA going forward; and working with Oakland County regarding any changes.

In regards to the Economic Development Director, Galvin identified two words: focus and connection. He stressed the importance of having someone dedicated to economic development. He further stressed the importance of finding someone who has connection resources outside the community.

REVIEW OF ITEMS ON THE REGULAR AGENDA

Pastue discussed alternatives to concerns expressed by Council regarding the chicken ordinance.

Discussion followed regarding moving public comment to earlier in the agenda. Council concurred to move public comment to item 6 on the regular meeting agenda and move the remaining agendas items down accordingly.

In regards to the chicken ordinance, McShane indicated she will make a motion to amend the ordinance to read chickens must be 10' from the adjoining dwelling, not 50' as currently stated; and to strike the provision that the accessory structure must be at least 15' from the dwelling. She stated the structure needs to abut or be near the dwelling in order to run electricity. She also pointed out it would keep the structure further away from the adjoining dwelling.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Kuiken suggested inviting Matt Gibbs, Oakland County Economic Development and Community Affairs, to a study session or potentially having a forum, to learn more about what other communities are doing in this area.

Mayor Buck concurred with this suggestion.

Kuiken concurred with Galvin regarding his earlier comment that the City needs a focused approach to economic development.

Cowley suggested seeking help from the County in obtaining statistically valid information that shows the positive impact rebirth of a downtown has on housing values. He stated residents need to understand the value in investing in the downtown. He advised the value is not only financial but increased quality of life.

SPECIAL MEETING -3-
June 18, 2012

McShane expressed the importance of getting information out to the public, noting the City has not yet done this. She stated there will be no buy-in from residents until they know what the city is doing. She pointed out representatives from Oakland County would be happy to conduct a session for the city.

ADJOURNMENT

06-12-127 MOTION by Kuiken, seconded by Cowley, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

J.T. (Tom) Buck, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: July 16, 2012