

CITY OF FARMINGTON
STUDY SESSION
WITH
STATE SENATOR GILDA JACOBS AND
STATE REPRESENTATIVE ALDO VAGNOZZI

A study session of the Farmington City Council was held Monday, March 1, 2004 with State Senator Gilda Jacobs and State Representative Aldo Vagnozzi in Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Bush, Campbell, Knol, McShane.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Mitchell.

FARMINGTON CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, Director Gushman, City Manager Pastue.

OTHERS PRESENT: State Senator Gilda Jacobs and State Representative Aldo Vagnozzi.

Mayor Campbell welcomed Senator Jacobs and State Representative Vagnozzi to the meeting. He asked City Manager Pastue to provide a brief background on the first agenda item concerning the Evergreen-Farmington Sewer District. Pastue advised that the City is considering implementing a footing drain disconnect program to address the issue of sanitary sewer overflow. He further advised that the program would involve approximately 100 homes in the Chatham Hills Subdivision at an approximate cost of \$6,000 to \$7,000 each. Pastue stated that the City would seek grant funding over the next couple of years to help cover the cost of this project. Director Gushman explained the costs associated with this approach to sanitary sewer overflow. Senator Jacobs and State Representative Vagnozzi offered to write letters in support of Farmington's bid for grants.

Pastue next discussed the development of a master plan for the downtown area. He stated that consultants for the plan have addressed the need for more on-street parking particularly along Grand River Avenue, a Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) trunkline. He further stated that the City would need support from MDOT in order to limit the traffic flow to three lanes and to allow two lanes of on-street parking. He advised that the City and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will solicit state and federal funds for road and streetscape improvements. He noted that the project would likely exceed \$2,000,000. Council member McShane added that this plan goes right along with the "Cool Cities" initiative. Pastue advised that plans include creating an urban feel in the downtown area and making it more pedestrian friendly. He

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spoke about plans for a parking structure and discussed other elements to be included. Discussion followed regarding the opportunities available for grant funding. Senator Jacobs talked about proposed legislation that would allow older communities to set up a tax increment financing district.

Pastue spoke about legislation that has been introduced to impose a landfill tipping fee surcharge to fund recycling programs across the state. He stated that the City, as part of the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwestern Oakland County (RRRASOC), is opposed to any landfill surcharge for recycling programs unless the City is funded 100% for its programs. Both Senator Jacobs and State Representative Vagnozzi expressed their opposition to this legislation. State Representative Vagnozzi advised that this legislation was introduced to deter out-of-state trash from coming into the state. Pastue stressed that the proposed bill should include reimbursement to cities that have their own recycling program.

State Senator Jacobs addressed state budget issues and revenue sharing. She spoke about proposed legislation that would move county tax collections up six months similar to the recent change in school taxes. Jacobs expressed concern that this would add an undue burden to taxpayers who have already seen recent increases in their utilities, gasoline prices, etc. She stated that she would work with the governor's office to change this proposed legislation. She advised that Farmington is one of 740 local units that would lose its statutory funding under a proposed plan. Discussion followed regarding the plan and the state's shortfall. Senator Jacobs noted that there is no more "fat" in government that can be cut. Discussion followed regarding communities pooling resources to reduce expenses. Discussion followed regarding the need to overhaul the state tax structure.

Pastue next spoke about the need for legislation that would protect liquor licenses from leaving the community. Jacobs responded that a committee has met with the Michigan Liquor Control Commission to develop a plan to fairly deal with this issue. Pastue spoke about the uniqueness of Farmington's special licenses issued to the Downtown Development Authority some years ago, one of which is currently in escrow. He noted that the escrow license is not providing any economic benefit to the community. Council member Knol suggested that the quota system for liquor licenses based on population no longer makes sense given that consumers regularly travel outside of their communities. She further suggested an alternate approach that would base the number of licenses on trade areas. Jacobs stated that she would discuss changes to the quota system with the Liquor Control Commission.

Pastue expressed his concern that Oakland County is not getting its fair share of federal funding for homeland security. Jacobs stated that she is working with the Michigan

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Municipal League on the "pop up" provision of Proposal A. Discussion followed regarding the need to change the inequities created under Proposal A.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Arnold T. Campbell, Mayor

Patsy K. Cantrell, City Clerk/Treasurer

