

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2011

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, March 7, 2011, 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 7:16 p.m. by Mayor Buck.

PRESENT: Buck, Knol, McShane, Wright.

ABSENT: Wiggins.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: City Manager Pastue, City Clerk Halberstadt.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

03-11-034 MOTION by Wright, seconded by McShane, to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

INTERVIEWS WITH DDA MEMBERS UP FOR RE-APPOINTMENT

Pastue indicated there were four Downtown Development Authority (DDA) board members whose terms expired at the end of February. He noted there was one additional vacancy due to the resignation of Michele Jakacki.

Council interviewed three of the four DDA board members who are up for reappointment including: Greg Cowley, Walt Gajewski and Bob Rock.

REVIEW DRAFT RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO CREATE A JOINT CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY FOR GRAND RIVER AVENUE

Pastue recommended Council consider adoption of a resolution of intent to create a Joint Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) which would be the first step in the process of establishing a joint authority.

Council reviewed the map of the proposed CIA District for the City of Farmington.

Wright asked about the downside of expanding the proposed CIA District.

Pastue responded a wider expansion of the district may cause undo concern to residents who ultimately may not be affected.

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Discussion followed regarding the challenge of developing the property east of Brookdale and south of Grand River as a result of its topography. Pastue recommended leaving that property in its natural state. Responding to a question from Wright, Pastue did not believe it would make a viable park.

Knol recommended expanding the CIA District to include both sides of Mooney Street up to Shiawassee. Pastue agreed to this recommendation.

Discussion continued regarding boundaries of the proposed District; difficulties of over expansion; and the need for depth in defining the corridor.

McShane expressed concern that assumptions were being made without a clear vision.

Buck suggested overlaying the Farmington District on the Farmington Hills' map.

Council concurred to move forward on the Resolution of Intent to create a Joint Corridor Improvement Authority for Grand River Avenue.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS COMPOSITION

Pastue recommended reducing the Planning Commission from nine to seven members. He cited several reasons for recommending this change including: seven members would not diminish the effectiveness of the Commission; volunteers will be needed for the proposed Corridor Improvement Authority; operational improvements; and given there are currently three vacancies, Council would only need to make one new appointment.

In order for this change to occur, Pastue cited sections of the City Code that would need to be revised.

Wright pointed out the terms of office as defined in Section 23-29 of the draft Code need to be changed to reflect seven not nine members.

Council concurred with the recommendation to reduce the number of members serving on the Planning Commission from nine to seven.

PROGRESS REVIEW OF WORK PLAN

Council concurred to delay discussion of the Work Plan until the next meeting in order to provide Council an opportunity for further review.

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OTHER BUSINESS

Pastus provided an update on the traffic study of Farmington Road; status of the 2011 Capital Bonds; and Library millage renewal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Cassidy, owner of Legato Salon, discussed an opportunity to join with the Chamber of Commerce in bringing back Alley Regalley to the Founders Festival. She cited the parking lot on the south side of Grand River as a possible location. She stated part of the proceeds from the event would be donated to non-profit organizations such as after school programs. She requested Council's feedback on this proposal.

McShane expressed her support, but asked that the Warner Mansion or Civic Theatre be considered for donations.

Knol noted in the past it was difficult for people unfamiliar with the area to find Alley Regalley because of its location. She stated the proposed new location should provide better visibility.

COUNCIL COMMENT

McShane noted John and Shirley Richardson recently made a donation toward the repair of the Warner Mansion. She requested the City send them a thank-you letter.

McShane suggested the formation of "Friends of the Mansion" committee. She suggested there are people who would be more than willing to donate money. She offered to help form such a committee.

Pastue advised the Historical Commission has recommended establishing a 501(c)3 for the Mansion which would further encourage donations. He discussed the composition of the board that would direct the Mansion.

Wright noted that when a charitable contribution is made to a Library, the donation is not only deductible on the Federal tax return, but it is also 50% deductible on the Michigan tax return. He suggested asking the Library to oversee a fund that would benefit the Warner Mansion, noting the Mansion satisfies the educational requirement.

Knol asked about repairing Farmington Road north of Shiawassee. Pastue responded repairs will be made in 2012. He stated patchwork repair would be done in the meantime.

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CLOSED SESSION – LAND ACQUISITION

Mayor Buck requested a motion to enter into closed session.

03-11-035 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wright, to enter into closed session to discuss land acquisition.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Knol, McShane, Wright, Buck.

Nays: None.

Absent: Wiggins.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council entered closed session at 9:00 p.m.

03-11-036 MOTION by Wright, seconded by Knol, to return to open session.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council returned to open session at 9:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

03-11-037 MOTION BY McShane, seconded by Wright, to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

J.T. (Tom) Buck, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Approved: April 18, 2011