

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, February 12, 2007, 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 8:00 p.m. by Mayor McShane.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: City Clerk Halberstadt, City Manager Pastue.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

02-07-020 MOTION by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to approve the agenda as submitted. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY INTERVIEWS

Council interviewed the following candidates for vacancies on the Downtown Development Authority Board: Ken Murray, Dara Weber, David Cornwell and David Richardson.

Council set a special meeting for February 26, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. to interview the remaining two candidates for Council and to make appointment(s) to Council and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board.

Discussion followed regarding input from the DDA Board concerning the candidates.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None were heard.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember Knol stated her interview question for the DDA candidates was framed to determine whether candidates had an understanding of the DDA and whether they would bring to the Board energy and willingness to work.

Councilmember Wiggins stated he was very happy to see the number of qualified candidates. Councilmember Buck noted the number of strong candidates for the DDA Board. He stated he is looking for board members that have a number of sharp ideas, are prone to action and interested in leading.

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Mayor McShane stated more attention needs to be given to the east and west end of the DDA District. She noted all the DDA activities occur in the center of the district. She stated Council is blessed with excellent choices for the vacancies. She further stated she would like to see board members that are proactive with no ulterior motive and are eager to work for the whole of the district.

Mayor McShane asked about the planned insert in the water bill.

City Manager Pastue stated the plan is to provide information to residents regarding the process necessary to merge two cities and provide comparable data.

Mayor McShane suggested that the insert might be done professionally.

Pastue stated the insert would be an educational piece that would also solicit feedback. He confirmed the water bill would be sent out mid March.

Buck expressed concern regarding the time pressure to complete a mailing.

Knol asked about arranging a meeting with Farmington Hills to discuss the merger issue. She suggested the meeting take place prior to the mailing.

Buck stated the first step should be to understand from a representative of Farmington Hills the content of the sustainability study. He stated it would be premature to solicit feedback from residents before Council fully understands the study. He stated this should be a thoughtful and deliberate process and questioned the need to get something in the March water bill. He noted that Council has not received anything from Farmington Hills Council that addresses this issue.

Pastue stated a meeting with Farmington Hills would provide clarification on the issue.

Mayor McShane advised that Governor Granholm has proposed a 2 ½% increase in revenue sharing for those communities who consolidate services.

Knol noted that Governor Granholm has also proposed a penalty for those communities who do not cooperate in consolidating.

Buck noted that Farmington and Farmington Hills are a model for shared services. He voiced concern regarding rushing into a study and using resources that could be used otherwise.

Knol expressed the importance of meeting with the Farmington Hills Council to determine how they intend to proceed with the merger issue. She stated Farmington Hills City Manager Brock could make a presentation on the sustainability study prior to a meeting.

Wiggins expressed concern regarding sending out information to residents prematurely. He stated Council still needs more information before communicating to residents.

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Discussion followed regarding an appropriate response to Farmington Hills regarding the sustainability study.

Mayor McShane commented they have received nothing in writing from Farmington Hills therefore it is unclear what would be addressed at a meeting. She advised an agenda should be set ahead of time so both Councils would have a clear understanding of discussion topics.

Pastue noted that there are items in the sustainability study, other than the merger recommendation, that would impact Farmington and should be discussed at the meeting.

Buck stated he does not understand why the City is inviting Farmington Hills to have a discussion on a recommendation that was in their report. He expressed disappointment that Farmington Hills has not initiated a dialogue.

Discussion followed regarding an appropriate response to the merger recommendation; requirement for a successful petition drive; and educating residents.

Pastue stated he would meet with Farmington Hills City Manager Brock to gain clarification on the issue.

Mayor McShane expressed concern that this issue could affect morale of City employees and impact future recruitment.

Pastue stated the importance of bringing this issue to a resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

02-07-021 MOTION by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

JoAnne M. McShane, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: February 19, 2007