

## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

A Regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, March 18, 2002 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 Mitchell.

**PRESENT:** Bush, Campbell, Hartsock, McShane, Mitchell.

**ABSENT:** None.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, Director Gushman, City Manager Lauhoff, Assistant City Manager Richards.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**03-02-692** MOTION by Campbell, seconded by Bush, to approve the agenda as submitted. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**03-02-693** MOTION by McShane, seconded by Hartsock, to approve the minutes of the regular and special meetings of March 4, 2002 and the special joint meeting with Farmington/Farmington Hills City Councils and Farmington School Board of February 26, 2002.

### **MINUTES OF OTHER BOARDS**

**03-02-694** MOTION by Bush, seconded by Hartsock, to approve the minutes of the following boards and commissions:

- Downtown Development Authority minutes of March 5, 2002.
- Historical Commission minutes of February 20, 2002.
- Farmington Area Commission on Aging minutes of January 22, 2002.
- Commission on Children, Youth and Families minutes of January 17, 2002.
- Farmington Area Arts Commission minutes of February 21, 2002.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**PRESENTATION: MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS RE: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -2-  
March 18, 2002

Todd Lipa, Program Director of Youth and Family Services, expressed his appreciation to Council for providing the opportunity for the members of the Mayor's Youth Council to attend the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C.

Mayor Mitchell delayed the student presentations until later in the agenda when all the students would be present.

**PRESENTATION: RESOURCE RECOVERY AND RECYCLING AUTHORITY OF SOUTHWEST OAKLAND COUNTY (RRRASOC)**

Michael Csapo, General Manager, presented the RRRASOC annual report. He presented quantifiable data on the improvements recycling has made to our environment which include: the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, reduced air and water pollution, increased number of trees saved and conservation of energy. Mr. Csapo discussed changes at RRRASOC that include handling of hazardous and electronic waste.

Mr. Csapo responded to a question by stating that the market has increased for recycled newspapers. In response to an additional question, he stated that used phones are not regulated and can be thrown away with regular trash. He also discussed the extensive education program RRRASOC conducts both in schools and as part of their tour program. In regards to disposal of cell phones, Council member Campbell suggested that during the next hazardous material drop-off day, residents could be encouraged to bring them in for donation to Haven's domestic violence assistance program.

Discussion followed regarding how to access information about RRRASOC and its activities. In response to a question, Mr. Csapo stated that microwaves along with other electronic items are not regulated and are therefore placed with regular trash.

Council thanked Mr. Csapo for his presentation.

**PRESENTATION: MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS RE: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. – CONTINUED:**

Members of the Mayor's Youth Council, Josh Rabinowitz, Madeline McAuley, Sarah Guillou, Fadi Abro and Gregory Wright spoke about their experiences at the recent National League of Cities meeting in Washington, D.C. They spoke about the workshops they attended, including one on racial profiling, and the opportunity they had to network with other youths. They thanked Council for providing this opportunity to participate in such a worthwhile experience.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -3-  
March 18, 2002

Mr. Lipa also thanked the Council for their sponsorship and enabling the students to gain a greater appreciation for the work of government officials and providing them the opportunity to get to know Council a little better.

Council member McShane stated her appreciation for the insights and fresh ideas from the students.

Council thanked the students for attending the conference and for their presentations.

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA) DIRECTOR QUARTERLY REPORT**

DDA Executive Director Downey and President Ronald Oglesby provided an update on the activities of the DDA. Director Downey first addressed the new DDA marketing strategies that were developed in conjunction with a survey of all DDA businesses. She stated that these strategies included a reduction of DDA events and increased marketing efforts with the assistance of the Marketing Communications Counsel. She also spoke about the establishment of a DDA website that would provide regular updates on road reconstruction and other activities, publication of a DDA newsletter and the opportunity for businesses to market their product. She further stated that the DDA would continue with the Halloween Fun Fest, Farmers Market and the Shopping for Holiday Dollars promotion.

Discussion followed regarding the use of Civic Theatre tickets to obtain e-mail addresses for the DDA website distribution list.

Director Downey spoke about the fundraising efforts and publicity for the Community Pavilion Project. She also announced her retirement at the end of 2002.

President Oglesby discussed the three-year action plan proposed by the DDA board. He stated that a significant part of the plan would include the National Main Street program. He emphasized the significant commitment required to not only complete the application process, but the ongoing administration of the program if the grant is awarded. He stated the other components of the three-year plan include the Downtown Center improvement project and the proposed Community pavilion.

In response to a question, Mr. Oglesby stated that they had not yet started the recruitment of volunteers to assist in the National Main Street program. Council member McShane suggested the use of cable and newsletters for recruitment.

Council stated their support for the pursuit National Main Street grant. Mayor Mitchell encouraged merchants in the Community to become involved in this effort.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -4-  
March 18, 2002

Council member Hartsock suggested asking for a zip code on the promotion card for e-mail addresses and to establish an expiration date for use of the theatre tickets.

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO FARMINGTON AREA COMMISSION ON AGING.**

**03-02-695** MOTION by McShane, seconded by Bush, to appoint Maggie Loidas to the Farmington Area Commission on Aging for a three-year term expiring June 15, 2005. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO BOARD AND COMMISSION.**

**03-02-696** MOTION by Campbell, seconded by Hartsock, to appoint Steven Schneemann to the Commission on the Environment for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2005. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY(DDA) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JUDY DOWNEY RE: PERMISSION FOR 2002 DOWNTOWN EVENTS.** Administration advised that Executive Director Downey requested permission to conduct Downtown Development Authority events during the 2002 calendar year, providing Council with a list of proposed events.

**03-02-697** MOTION by Hartsock, seconded by Campbell, to authorize the Farmington Downtown Development Authority to conduct events in the downtown area during the 2002 calendar year in the manner described and during the dates and times listed in the request. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**LETTER FROM JOHN S. CRISSMAN, JR., POPPY CHAIRMAN, GROVES-WALKER POST #346, AMERICAN LEGION, RE: POPPY DAYS SALE AND PROCLAMATION.** Administration recommended granting permission for this annual fundraising event.

**03-02-698** MOTION by Bush, seconded by McShane, to grant permission to the Groves-Walker Post #346, American Legion, to conduct their annual Poppy Days sale on May 17, 18 and 19, 2002 and to proclaim these dates as "Poppy Days" in the City of Farmington. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**LETTER FROM FARMINGTON COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL RE: REQUEST FOR BANNER OVER GRAND RIVER AVENUE.** The Farmington Community Arts Council has requested approval to hang a banner over Grand River Avenue to promote the Festival of Arts as was done in previous years.

**03-02-699** MOTION by Hartsock, seconded by Campbell, to approve the request of the Farmington Community Arts Council to hang a 25' x 5' mesh banner across Grand River Avenue between School and Mayfield Streets from April 27 to May 5, 2002. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**LETTER FROM MOSLEM SHRINE TEMPLE RE: PERMISSION TO CONDUCT ANNUAL FUND DRIVE.** Administration recommended granting permission for this annual fundraising event to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children.

**03-02-700** MOTION by McShane, seconded by Bush, to grant permission to the Moslem Shrine Temple to conduct their annual fundraising drive on June 14, 15 and 16, 2002 in the City of Farmington. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER**

##### **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION RE: PROPOSED DIESEL FUEL TAX.**

Administration advised that the City has been notified that the Michigan House Transportation Committee will soon vote to increase fuel tax by \$.04 with the bulk of this additional revenue going to the Michigan Department of Transportation which is contrary to the normal formula distribution under Act 51. Administration further advised that the Michigan Municipal League believes that it is important that the established formula for distribution of these funds be followed at all times and not diverted for special MDOT use.

**03-02-701** MOTION by Campbell, seconded by Hartsock, to adopt a resolution requesting that the Michigan Legislature support the increase in the diesel fuel tax only if the additional revenue is distributed equitably to the Michigan Department of Transportation, County Road Commissions, Cities, and Villages based on the distribution formula in 1951 Public Act 51 and forward a copy of this resolution to State Representative Raczkowski, State Senator Bill Bullard and the Federal Affairs Division of the Michigan Municipal League. [SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION]. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

##### **CONSIDERATION OF BENEFIT CHANGES FOR DEPARTMENT HEAD GROUP.**

Administration recommended benefit changes to the Department Head group in order to provide equity between employee groups making the same 3% of salary contribution for pension benefit improvements as evaluated by the City's actuary.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -6-  
March 18, 2002

**03-02-702** MOTION by Bush, seconded by McShane, to approve pension benefit changes for the Department Head group (Clerk/Treasurer, Director of Public Services, Assistant City Manager and Downtown Development Authority Director), changing the retirement age from 60 years of age to 58 years of age and changing the final average compensation from the best five of ten years to the best three of the last five years, effective immediately.

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Campbell, Hartsock, McShane, Mitchell, Bush.  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**ANNOUNCEMENT – COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAM HARTSOCK.** Council member Hartsock announced his resignation from the Farmington City Council effective March 31, 2002. He thanked the citizens of Farmington for their kindness and support on many levels including ballot initiatives over the past years. He spoke of the importance of giving back when one has been blessed in life. He gave special thanks to the administration that provided the needed support so that Council could focus on the important issues. He spoke of the benefits of longevity that allows employees and volunteers to indoctrinate newcomers in what it means to serve in our community. He expressed his gratification in seeing employees who work with a passion for many years and then are able to enjoy their retirement. He went on to discuss the importance of the position of City Manager and his good fortune in having worked with two outstanding individuals, current and former City Managers, Frank Lauhoff and Bob Deadman.

Council member Hartsock continued by thanking his fellow City Council members for their support and service. He spoke about the issues faced by Council and the often times difficult challenge of reconciling individual requests with the common good. He discussed Council's careful consideration of each and every request and concern brought to them. He stated that Council has been able to make good, informed decisions because of the support of City administration. He further stated that Council has always worked well together, even following a divided vote, because once a final decision was made Council moved forward in unity of purpose. He also noted the uniqueness of Council members all having served long enough to be appointed as Mayor. He spoke about past Council members with whom he has served and noted that there was always continuity and seamless transition because a new member always served with experienced ones.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -7-  
March 18, 2002

In conclusion, he expressed regret that he would not be serving out his full term which would have given him thirty years of service. He spoke of the many fond memories he would take with him, while leaving behind the "footprints" of positive change he and fellow Council members have made in this community.

**PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Annabelle Gable, Farmington resident, expressed her enjoyment of several Farmington/Farmington Hills activities over the past weekend.

Paul Morrison, Farmington resident, stated he would like to see more activities in the Downtown area and offered his services toward that end.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

In recognition of Council member Hartsock's resignation, Council member Campbell thanked him for his many years of leadership and friendship; Council member McShane recognized the significance of his 28 ½ years of heartfelt leadership and service to the community; Council member Bush stated that life will go on in Farmington without him, but he will never be forgotten; and Mayor Mitchell stated that an era has ended.

**CONSIDERATION TO AMEND CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE DURING SUMMER MONTHS 2002.**

**03-02-703** MOTION by Bush, seconded by McShane, to amend the schedule of regular City Council meetings, canceling the second meetings of July 15 and August 19, 2002. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**03-02-704** MOTION by Hartsock, seconded by McShane, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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JAMES K. MITCHELL, MAYOR

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PATSY K. CANTRELL, CITY CLERK/TREASURER