

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, May 21, 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 8:09 p.m. by Mayor McShane.

**PRESENT:** Buck, Knol, McShane, Wiggins, Wright.

**ABSENT:** None.

**CITY ADMINISTRATION:** Director Gushman, City Clerk Halberstadt, Director Nebus, City Manager Pastue, Attorney Schultz, Treasurer Weber.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council approved the following items on the consent agenda:

- Joint meeting minutes of March 27, 2007
- Special and regular meeting minutes of April 16, 2007
- Joint meeting minutes of April 25, 2007
- Department of Public Works and Water and Sewer Department report for quarter ended March 2007.
- City of Farmington Monthly Payments Report – April 2007
- Monthly Public Safety Report – April 2007
- City of Farmington financial report for quarter ended March 2007
- 47<sup>th</sup> District Court financial report for quarter ended March 2007
- Huron River Hunting and Fishing Club outdoor events
- Special event request from the Moslem Shriners

**05-07-093** MOTION by Knol, seconded by Buck, to approve all items on the consent agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA**

**05-07-094** MOTION by Wiggins, seconded by Buck, to approve the agenda as submitted. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GREENE'S HAMBURGER 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

Mayor McShane presented a proclamation to the Greene family in recognition of their longstanding business presence in the City of Farmington.

## **MDNR GRANT APPLICATION**

Administration advised the City would like to apply to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for a grant to fund two projects provided for in the City's Recreation Master Plan: 1) improvements to existing footbridge and 2) baseball field improvements.

### **Public Hearing**

Mayor McShane opened the public hearing and invited comment regarding a proposed MDNR grant application.

Betty Borgman, 34011 Grand River, requested clarification on the projects included in the grant application. She further asked regarding the status of the switchback ramp in Shiawassee.

City Manager Pastue stated the City is still waiting for federal funds for the switchback ramp project.

Upon hearing no further comment, Mayor McShane requested a motion to close the public hearing.

**05-07-095** MOTION by Knol, seconded by Buck, to close the public hearing.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Consider Authorization of MDNR Grant Application**

**RESOLUTION 05-07-096** Motion by Wright, seconded by Wiggins, to adopt a resolution authorizing City administration to submit a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for improvements in Shiawassee Park. **[SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION]**.

### **ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Knol, McShane, Wiggins, Wright, Buck.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT**

Director Nebus provided an overview of the 2006 Annual Report for the Public Safety Department. He noted "Part A" serious crime was up 10% last year partially due to the fact that it was down 9.5% in 2005. He further noted that for the first four months of 2007 serious crime was down by 25%.

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Nebus advised the increase in serious crime was also a result of school larcenies and forgeries. He stated the theft in schools was a result of unattended and unlocked electronic devices.

Nebus highlighted a number of new community policing programs including: development of a public safety website, sobriety court and hiring fire reserves only.

Nebus advised the department is fully staffed and noted a number of promotions that occurred last year. He noted there were 929 arrests last year which is the highest number in the last five years.

Nebus thanked Council and City Manager Pastue for their ongoing support.

Councilmember Buck congratulated Director Nebus on the quality of the report.

Mayor McShane congratulated Director Nebus on the number of grants and partnerships his department obtained over the past year. She stated the City takes great pride in the Public Safety Department.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE C-723-2007, DOWNTOWN CENTER TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER**

**05-07-097** MOTION by Buck, seconded by Wiggins, to adopt Ordinance C-723-2007 to permanently establish 30-minute parking in the Downtown Center located in front of the Office Depot site. **[SEE ATTACHED ORDINANCE]**.

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: McShane, Wiggins, Wright, Buck, Knol.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION TO RE-ESTABLISH PRINCIPAL SHOPPING DISTRICT FOR A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD**

**RESOLUTION 05-07-098** Motion by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to adopt Resolution No. 5 to establish the Principal Shopping District for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2007. **[SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION]**.

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Wiggins, Wright, Buck, Knol, McShane.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Pastue noted that City Charter allows tax to be levied only once a year, however, historically taxes have been split between summer and winter bills, therefore a resolution allowing the split will be provided to Council for adoption at a future meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE FARMINGTON AREA FOUNDERS FESTIVAL (FAFF) SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST**

Administration highlighted some of the significant features of the 2007 festival, noting the festival's theme, "In the Good Old Summertime."

Henry Tarnow, President of FAFF, was present to respond to questions.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Knol, City Manager Pastue confirmed phase II of the Shiawassee road construction would be underway during the festival and as a result current traffic problems on Power Road caused by phase I would not be a factor.

Mayor McShane noted there have been requests for more information regarding the festival budget and in-kind services between the two cities. Mr. Tarnow stated he would make that information available.

Discussion followed regarding the operation of the Founders Café. Mr. Tarnow indicated the festival would manage the Café.

Mr. Tarnow noted the budget reduction for this year's festival and the additional sponsors they have secured.

**RESOLUTION 05-07-099** Motion by Motion by Buck, seconded by Knol, to grant a Special Event Permit for the Farmington Area Founders Festival for the dates of July 18-22, 2007; and further:

- Authorize the closing of Shiawassee between Power Road and Farmington Road (east) between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for Kids Day in the Park.
- Authorize the Department of Public Safety to apply for the permit necessary to close Grand River Avenue from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 21, for the purpose of conducting parade activities and the Fun Run.
- Adopt a resolution holding the State of Michigan Department of Transportation harmless for liability, which may result in the closing of Grand River and authorize City departments to provide the service required for the Farmington Area Founders Festival.

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- Authorize submitting temporary liquor license application to the Liquor Control Commission for the Founders Cafe that would run July 19 (Thursday) thru July 21 (Saturday).
- Authorize submitting temporary liquor license application to the Liquor Control Commission for the Alley Regally that would run July 19 (Thursday) thru July 21 (Saturday).

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CERTIFICATION OF 2007 DELINQUENT INVOICES AND WATER AND SEWER BILLS**

**RESOLUTION 05-07-100** Motion by Wright, seconded by Wiggins, to place delinquent invoices and delinquent water and sewer bills, in the amount of \$98,997.44 on the 2007 City of Farmington tax roll. **[SEE ATTACHED LISTING].**

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Wright, Buck, Knol, McShane, Wiggins.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATE #1 FOR THE SHIAWASSEE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AND WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

**RESOLUTION 05-07-101** Motion by Wiggins, seconded by Buck, to approve payment of construction estimate #1 to Peter A. Basile Sons in the amount of \$127,156.99 for the Shiawassee Road project.

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Buck, Knol, McShane, Wiggins, Wright.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CONSIDERATION TO CONTINUE GENERAL ACCOUNTING SERVICES FOR SWOCC**

**RESOLUTION 05-07-102** Motion by Wright, seconded by Wiggins, to authorize continuation of general accounting services for SWOCC for a one-year period beginning July 1, 2007, with compensation set at \$14,340 in cash, and in-kind production services equivalent to \$5,363.

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ROLL CALL

Ayes: Knol, McShane, Wiggins, Wright, Buck.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FOR PROPOSED FY 2007/09 BUDGET PROPERTY TAX RATE**

**05-07-103** MOTION by Wright, seconded by Knol, to schedule a public hearing to review the FY 2007-08 proposed budget and millage rate, on Monday, June 4, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. and authorize the City Clerk to publish a notice of the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT JOINT RESOLUTION WITH THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS TO PETITION OAKLAND COUNTY TO FINANCE A STUDY TO EVALUATE EXPANDING SERVICES UP TO AND INCLUDING CONSOLIDATION.**

City Manager Pastue advised the joint resolution is a follow-up from the joint meeting held with Farmington Hills on April 25, 2007. He further advised it is the desire of both cities to pursue funding from Oakland County for a study to evaluate expanding services up to and including consolidation. He discussed the components of the resolution which incorporates Council comments made during the joint meeting.

Councilmember Buck stated it is prudent to conduct a study of shared services. He suggested a revision to item no. 5, adding "disadvantages" of a single larger city. He stated the importance of continuing to do everything possible to provide a full welcome to Farmington Hills residents just as though they were Farmington residents and he expressed his hope that Farmington Hills would do the same.

Councilmember Wright expressed concern regarding a provision in the resolution regarding a guarantee of employment. He noted expenditure for employees is a significant part of the budget. He agreed with the policy of reducing staff through attrition where possible. He noted the difficulty of hiring an expert to provide a comprehensive study when a significant percentage of the overall possible savings is removed. He stated the expert should be informed that all aspects of possible benefits from shared services up to and including consolidation should be reviewed and let the chips fall where they may. He advised Council would then have all the possible benefits available from which choices could be made.

Pastue stated a study should reveal all possible efficiencies. He stated a target has to be abundantly clear and part of getting there is a transitional process that would reveal overall turnover rates to assess actual employment needs.

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Councilmember Wiggins recommended replacing the words “advantages” and “disadvantages” with the word “impact” in item no. 5 of the resolution.

Councilmember Knol noted the efforts put forth by both City Managers in developing the joint resolution. She expressed her agreement with the resolution including the recommended change made by Councilmember Wiggins.

Mayor McShane expressed concern regarding the social and cultural impact this study and subsequent decisions will have on Farmington residents. She further expressed concern that the resolution does not address regional services. She stated the resolution is a good start, but it is incumbent on the City to search in the region for opportunities to share services.

Pastue stated that due to the broad language of the resolution the door is left open to include evaluation of regional shared services.

Councilmember Wright asked about the timing of public input. Pastue responded there would be many tracks taking place concurrently during the study including community involvement such as focus groups.

**RESOLUTION 05-07-104** Motion by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to adopt a joint resolution petitioning Oakland County to fund a study to expand shared services up to and including the effects of consolidation, as amended, replacing the word “advantages” in item no. 5 with the word “impact.” [\[SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION\]](#).

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: McShane, Wiggins, Wright, Buck, Knol.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Hank Borgman, 34011 Grand River, asked how a consolidated city would benefit him. He stated “bigness” does not necessarily save money nor does it ensure more grant money if there are no state or federal funds available.

Dick Carvell, 33906 State Street, noted the success of the Lions Club recent participation in the Farmington Hills Open House where they photographed young children to spot potential eye problems. He stated one in twenty children is found to have eye issues.

**COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilmember Buck requested discussion regarding a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the IDEA program.

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Pastue advised that at an earlier meeting the Main Street Promotions Committee expressed support for the program. He stated there is some question as to whether the program is a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) or City project. He further stated an RFP had been developed incorporating the data that had been collected from the focus groups and market analyses. He advised a brand image would be developed for not only the entire City of Farmington, but also in conjunction with the DDA for their marketing materials.

Buck stated he is willing to continue to shepherd the project as long as City Manager Pastue is willing to dispense the RFP out of City offices. He stated his belief that the project offers great potential to the City. He noted this project was one of Council's goals for this year. He stated his belief that the DDA will support the project. He requested Council's support that the City continue to drive this project.

Councilmember Knol stated she had not heard much about the program over the last several months until the introduction of an RFP. She agreed branding would help Farmington, however, she stated the Downtown is what differentiates the City and that is where the marketing efforts should be focused. She stated if the Downtown is what is being marketed, the DDA needs to lead the effort. She further stated that once the DDA has approved the project, she supports joint funding. She emphasized the DDA must approve and lead this project.

Pastue stated the importance of consistent city-wide communications which would be part of the branding program. He indicated the project has not yet been presented to the full DDA Board.

Buck noted that the DDA has not led the project thus far and questioned whether they are ready to do so now. He stated no one from the DDA has stepped up to drive this effort forward. He advised the City needs an identity that supports all of its commercial areas, not just the Downtown. He cited other commercial areas that are struggling and the opportunity to boost pride in City neighborhoods. He stated the project needs to encompass the whole City including the Downtown.

Knol stated a strong Downtown will help support outlying commercial areas. She noted that a Marketing Director position is included in the DDA budget. She stated this project could fall under that position and that person could spearhead the initiatives included in the RFP. She noted the DDA Board takes marketing the Downtown very seriously.

Councilmember Wright stated the City is made up of all its components and expressed the importance of having someone looking at wider City issues.

Knol advised the DDA as a partner with the City needs to buy into the project.



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Buck concurred that this project is a partnership and offered to continue to lead the effort.

Mayor McShane questioned if there was no DDA funding could the project move forward. She asked about the outcome of the project and how it would benefit the City.

Buck identified the objectives of the project including: creating an image or brand that suits the City and Downtown, including a view of the IDEA project's themes and data that has been collected; development of an example graphics and artifacts package that would serve as a recruitment tool; help to identify immediate placement strategy relevant to developers and retailers; help to identify target markets relative to retail and residential development; assist in a review of public relations to create more consistency with the City's brand; and would help identify any additional communications vehicles that would help the broader community. He expressed his belief that the DDA will support the project regardless of who is leading it.

Discussion followed regarding where the project is funded in the DDA budget.

Knol expressed appreciation for all of Councilmember Buck's efforts, but expressed a desire to hear from the DDA that they support the project and have included it in their budget.

Buck noted the DDA delayed reviewing the RFP for four months. He expressed concern that the project has not moved forward in a timely manner.

Pastue noted he was surprised by the questions he received from the DDA and their lack of understanding of the project.

Mayor McShane expressed two concerns regarding the project: lack of input from a future DDA Marketing Director and funding.

Buck advised the only concern expressed by DDA Director Knowles concerning the project is whether the City or the DDA would be responsible for the RFP.

Mayor McShane requested Administration discuss this issue further with the DDA to arrive at a definitive response from the DDA in writing.

Buck stated the goal is to mail the RFP to consultants by no later than Friday of this week. He stated the Main Street Promotions Committee has requested 1 ½ days to provide additional edits to support the RFP so that it can go out by Friday.

Councilmember Knol requested that the DDA Director state in writing that the DDA supports this project and agrees to a 50/50 split in funding.

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Pastue agreed to speak with the DDA Director regarding written support of this project.

Wright thanked Director Nebus for his great presentation. He stated the Public Safety Department provides a very secure and safe community in which to live.

Knol recognized Public Services Director Gushman and his department as part of National Public Works Week.

Councilmember Wiggins noted a timely letter received from Senator Jacobs that included legislation regarding outsourcing for school boards.

Wiggins asked how the Wilmarth/Oakland neighborhood fared during a recent storm in light of their history of power outages. Pastue responded there were no outages in that area.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**05-07-105** Motion by Wright, seconded by Wiggins, to adjourn the meeting.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

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JoAnne M. McShane, Mayor

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Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: June 18, 2007