



FINAL

SPECIAL STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES

A Special Study Session meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on October 29, 2012, in Conference Room A, Farmington City Hall, Farmington, MI. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Buck.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
J.T. Buck	Mayor	Present	
Greg Cowley	Councilmember	Present	
William Galvin	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	6:20 PM
Kristin Kuiken	Councilmember	Present	
JoAnne McShane	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present

City Clerk Halberstadt
City Manager Pastue
Attorney Schultz

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Greg Cowley, Councilmember
SECONDER:	JoAnne McShane, Councilmember
AYES:	Buck, Cowley, Kuiken, McShane
ABSENT:	Galvin

3. DRAKESHIRE SHOPPING CENTER PROPERTY OWNERS PRESENTATION

1. Drakeshire Shopping Center Property Owners Presentation

Rajesh Immadisetty, along with two other co-owners of the Drakeshire Shopping Center, were present to discuss their plans for the center including: facade improvements, prospective tenants, financing interior spaces, and plans for debt repayment.

4. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Pastue discussed Kevin Christiansen's credentials and background for the position of Economic and Community Development Director.

Responding to a question from Kuiken, Pastue stated Christiansen's private and public sector experience give him a well-rounded background that makes him a good fit for the city.

Kuiken stated in having served with Christiansen on the Planning Commission she was always impressed with his level of insight and depth of knowledge. She noted his tremendous amount of experience.

McShane asked how Christiansen's salary compares with similar positions of other communities.

Pastue responded it is on the high side for a community the size of Farmington. He pointed out the City is getting a high level professional with significant experience.

McShane noted Christiansen in his new position will wear many hats justifying a higher salary. She further noted his background is very diverse and he is talented and well connected.

Responding to a question from Galvin, Pastue stated most of the feedback he has received regarding the reorganization has been limited to the DDA Board.

Discussion followed regarding the initial responsibilities Christiansen would undertake.

Cowley was very pleased with the selection of Christiansen. He noted this is also a step in the right direction towards succession planning.

Buck commented that during his time on the Planning Commission, Christiansen always found a way to encourage development in a style that suited Farmington. He is glad to see Farmington has a quality candidate that is ready to start.

Motion to approve an Employment Agreement with Kevin Christiansen as Economic and Community Development Director effective October 31, 2012 and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Greg Cowley, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Kristin Kuiken, Councilmember
AYES:	Buck, Cowley, Galvin, Kuiken, McShane

The votes were taken in the following order: Cowley, Galvin, Kuiken, McShane, Buck.

[SEE ATTACHED AGREEMENT]

5. CONSIDERATION TO REVIEW AND ADOPT POLICY REGARDING THE SALE OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE SITE [CSM 10-12-195]

1. Consideration to Review and Adopt Policy Regarding the Sale of the Old Courthouse Site

Pastue reviewed the provisions of the policy regarding the sale of the Old Courthouse and the process going forward.

Cowley expressed support for holding onto the property till the economy recovers. He does not see the benefit in selling at this time.

Responding to a question from McShane, Pastue stated the City will clean up the building.

McShane expressed support for moving forward with the sale. She noted it has sat empty for the last 8 years. She commented on the possibilities the sale could bring to the community. She would like to see the Economic Development (ED) Director involved in the sale.

Pastue confirmed the ED Director would be involved.

McShane stated the policy will serve the City well in the future for sales of other buildings. She stated it is fair and open, allowing for a transparent process.

Galvin also expressed support for the policy statement. He stated it gives Council the flexibility to ensure a sale is in the best interest of the City.

Kuiken expressed support for the sale of the courthouse and using a broker for that purpose.

Buck also expressed support for the sale of the courthouse. He stated the City is not in the business of keeping an inventory of properties. The City needs to ensure properties are fully deployed, creating jobs and taxable value.

Move to adopt a resolution establishing a policy regarding the sale and/or lease of the Old Courthouse building and property and authorize the City Manager to enter into a broker agreement with the Thomas A. Duke Company.

[SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION]

The votes were taken in the following order: Galvin, Kuiken, McShane, Buck, Cowley.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	JoAnne McShane, Councilmember
SECONDER:	William Galvin, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Buck, Cowley, Galvin, Kuiken, McShane

6. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Buck stated he would like to modify the resolution by adding that the City would like to see a more active solution that engages the Farmington Community in helping residents get to shopping areas, airport, downtown and to points north of the city.

He noted the transportation solution now being considered by the legislature leaves out a Grand River route. He would be happy to assist in modifying the language of the resolution. In his opinion Farmington is being left out of a proposed regional solution.

Kuiken concurred routes need to extend further west which would relieve some of the backups on the I-96 expressway.

McShane stated if Farmington is expected to contribute tax dollars to regional transportation it should receive equal benefit as other areas. She stated once the resolution is adopted the City needs to promote it and lobby the State Legislature for an effective and comprehensive regional transportation system.

Kuiken noted public transportation is important in attracting a younger workforce to the region.

Cowley expressed support for regional transportation and the inclusion of the Grand River route.

Buck would like Council to have a dialogue with surrounding communities regarding this issue since many have the same concerns as Farmington.

No action was taken.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

8. COUNCIL COMMENT

No Council Comment was heard.

9. CLOSED SESSION - LABOR NEGOTIATIONS AND LAND ACQUISITION

Motion to enter closed session to discuss Labor Negotiations and Land Acquisition.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	William Galvin, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Greg Cowley, Councilmember
AYES:	Buck, Cowley, Galvin, Kuiken, McShane

The votes were taken in the following order: Kuiken, McShane, Buck, Cowley, Galvin.
Council entered closed session at 7:25 p.m.

Motion to exit closed session.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	JoAnne McShane, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Kristin Kuiken, Councilmember
AYES:	Buck, Cowley, Galvin, Kuiken, McShane

Council returned to open session at 9:07 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Greg Cowley, Councilmember
SECONDER: William Galvin, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES: Buck, Cowley, Galvin, Kuiken, McShane

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

J. T. (Tom) Buck, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Approval Date: _____