

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held Monday, June 3, 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, Harrison, McShane, Mitchell.

ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, City Attorney Donohue, Director Goss, Director Gushman, City Manager Lauhoff.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

06-02-754 MOTION by Campbell, seconded by Harrison, to approve the agenda as revised. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

06-02-755 MOTION by Bush, seconded by McShane, to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 20, 2002. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MINUTES OF OTHER BOARDS

06-02-756 MOTION by Campbell, seconded by Bush, to receive and file the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees minutes of April 11, 2002. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED FY 2002-2003 BUDGET

Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing and requested that City Manager Lauhoff present the proposed budget. City Manager Lauhoff reviewed the proposed budget and tax rate for the 2002-2003 fiscal Year.

Mayor Mitchell invited public comment. There was no public comment.

06-02-757 MOTION by Bush, seconded by Harrison, to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

QUARTERLY UPDATE: COUNTY COMMISSIONER TERRY SEVER

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -2-
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County Commissioner Sever asked the Council for their feedback on placing the Art & Cultural tax proposal on the November ballot.

Council members concurred that the "Arts" plays a vital role in the community, however, this would be an inappropriate time to place such a proposal on the ballot given the present economy and increasing costs of water and sewer and other public services.

In response to a question from Council, Mr. Sever stated that this proposal is not just for Oakland County, but would affect Wayne County as well. He also expressed concern about the timing of this proposal given the current economic environment.

Commissioner Sever discussed the inequity of court funding and funding of the sheriff's department. He spoke about the Farmington Road construction and congratulated City administration for their immediate and effective response to concerns that have been raised by residents relative to this project.

Council thanked Commissioner Sever for his comments.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

06-02-758 MOTION by Campbell, seconded by McShane, to appoint Tracy Thompson to the Cable Access Committee for an unexpired term ending November 2004.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

REQUEST FOR SIGN VARIANCE, MODERN MOVING AND STORAGE, 34200 NINE MILE. Administration advised that Richard Briggs of Premier Sign Solutions, representing Modern Moving and Storage, 34200 Nine Mile, has requested consideration of two sign variances for this property. Administration further advised that the first variance request is for a high ground sign that would require an additional 23 square feet of signage, per side, than allowed by ordinance, and the second request is for a second ground sign which require Council approval. Administration advised that Council has approved similar requests in the past.

Mr. Briggs answered questions from Council concerning the current and proposed high ground sign and the proposed style of the second ground sign.

City Manager Lauhoff noted that the current sign is located on the highway right-of-way and the proposed sign will be set back further which will diminish its apparent height.

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06-02-759 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Bush, to grant two sign variance requests from Modern Moving and Storage, 34200 Nine Mile; the first variance to Section 25-4, Subsection (1)(c) of the City Code, allowing the installation of a new ground sign, 14' in height and 12' in width; and the second variance to Section 25-4, subsection (1)(e) of the City Code, allowing a second ground sign, 20' tall with a 5' x 10' sign, installed at the rear property line. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER

ADOPT FY 2002-2003 BUDGET AND ESTABLISH MILLAGE RATE. Administration recommended that Council approve a resolution to adopt the 2002-2003 fiscal year budget and to establish the local property tax millage rate for 2002.

06-02-760 MOTION by Harrison, seconded by Campbell, to adopt the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year Budget and establish the local property tax millage rate for 2002. [SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION].

ROLL CALL

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDERATION TO RENEW OAKLAND COUNTY PERSONAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AGREEMENT. Administration recommended that the City enter into a two-year contract with Oakland County Equalization Department to provide personal property assessing services for the 2003 and 2004 Assessment Roll period. Administration advised that this proposed contract is identical to the one signed in 2000 except for a per parcel rate increase of 4.87%.

06-02-761 MOTION by Bush, seconded by Harrison, to enter into a contract with the County of Oakland for the 2003 and 2004 Assessment Roll period for personal property tax assessing services at a cost of \$12.04 per parcel, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement.

ROLL CALL

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CONSIDERATION OF POLICY RE: FENCES ON CORNER LOTS. Administration advised that in response to Council's concern regarding recent fence variance requests from property owners on corner lots, a policy has been developed, in conjunction with the City Planner and Landscape Architect, to effectively respond to both the safety and aesthetic concerns of these residents.

In response to a question from Council, City Attorney Donohue stated that specific requirements such as vinyl coated fences and greenbelts should be made on a case-by-case basis and not included in this policy.

06-02-762 MOTION by Campbell, seconded by McShane, to adopt a policy wherein properties in residential areas that were constructed with fences as a normal part of property line separation, allow for the placement of fences on corner lots in the open space areas by Council; that Council maintain discretion as to the distance that the fence may be placed between the rear building line of the property and the sidewalk and on whether plantings either inside or outside of the fence shall be required; and that the policy be incorporated in the Zoning Ordinance. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council agreed to address two pending corner lot fence variance requests at the next meeting set for Monday, June 17, 2002

MISCELLANEOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Annabelle Gabel, Farmington Resident, questioned the status of a vacant property and asked about the City's pet ordinance and activities at the Civic Theatre.

COUNCIL COMMENT.

Council member Campbell, speaking as Chairman of the annual Croquet Invitation, talked about the event to be held at the Mansion during the Founders Fest.

Council member McShane expressed concern about parking at the Farmington Branch Library and City Hall when patronage at the Library will increase during the time when the Farmington Hills Branch will be closed. City Manager Lauhoff suggested the placement of pylons in the 20 minute parking area to ensure spaces are available for City Hall parking and he spoke about the availability of parking in the surrounding residential area.

In response to a suggestion from Council member McShane, City Manager Lauhoff stated he would look into the possibility of the Cable Access Committee providing a quarterly report to Council.

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY OPERATIONS REPORT - JANUARY – MARCH 2002. Director Goss reported that crimes continue on a downward trend. City Manager Lauhoff noted the increase in total arrests and speeding violations can be attributed to the return to full staff.

06-02-763 MOTION by Bush, seconded by McShane, to approve the Public Safety Department Quarterly Operations Report for period ending March 2002. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVE MONTHLY PAYMENTS REPORT

06-02-764 MOTION by Campbell, seconded by Harrison, to approve the Monthly Payments report for May, 2002. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

06-02-765 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Campbell, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

JAMES K. MITCHELL, MAYOR

PATSY K. CANTRELL, CITY CLERK/TREASURER