

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, April 4, 2005, 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 6:15 p.m. by Mayor Campbell.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Bush, Campbell, Knol, McShane (arrived 6:20 p.m.), Mitchell.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, City Manager Pastue, Attorney Schultz (left at 6:45 p.m.).

CLOSED SESSION – REVIEW OF CITY ATTORNEY’S OPINION

Mayor Campbell requested a motion to enter into closed session.

04-05-063 MOTION by Bush, seconded by Mitchell, to enter into closed session at the request of the City Attorney regarding contracts related to real property.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Campbell, Knol, Mitchell, Bush.

Nays: None.

Absent: McShane.

MOTION CARRIED, ALL AYES.

Council entered into closed session at 6:16 p.m. and returned to open session at 6:45 p.m.

Attorney Schultz left at 6:45 p.m.

DISCUSSION – GOVERNOR WARNER MANSION

City Manager Pastue discussed some of the upcoming events planned for the Mansion that will be carried forward by volunteers. He suggested that the Mansion remain open on its regular schedule, as well as continue ongoing activities such as archiving, until Council reaches a decision on the direction of the Mansion.

He stated that with Director Horvath’s resignation, Council needs to reach a consensus on whether the Mansion should function strictly as a museum or be made available for more events and activities. He noted that any decision should be made with a “tight” City budget in mind.

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Responding to a question, Pastue stated that Dick Carvell is coordinating the volunteers for the Mansion and previously planned activities are expected to move forward.

Councilmember Knol requested a date by which Council would reach a decision on the direction of the Mansion. Pastue stressed the importance for Council and the community to reach consensus on the Mansion.

Councilmember McShane noted that the community has already spoken based on a survey conducted regarding the Mansion. She stated her concern that the longer a decision is delayed the more precarious the situation at the Mansion becomes. She stated the need for the development of a backup plan.

McShane and Knol requested that a meeting be scheduled to discuss the Mansion. Knol suggested that Assistant City Manager Richards facilitate a meeting to brainstorm ideas for the Mansion. Pastue suggested meeting within the next six weeks.

Knol stated that she would like members from other Boards and Commissions included in the meeting for additional input. She suggested that another survey of the community might be worthwhile.

Councilmember Mitchell stated that the Historical Commission should be involved because the Mansion was originally under their direction. He stated that it would be important to see what the City Manager is proposing for next year's budget.

Discussion followed regarding maintenance and capital outlays projected for the Mansion.

Mayor Campbell suggested planning a meeting at the Farmington Training Center and extend an invitation to a broad cross section of the community, including docents, Historical Commission, Historical Study Committee, etc.

McShane noted prior meetings, discussions, etc. regarding the Mansion and expressed her hope that Council doesn't reinvent the wheel.

Knol emphasized the need for broad input from the community. Pastue stated that specific invitations would be sent out and the meeting would be publicized. McShane offered to provide assistance where needed. Pastue responded that his office should be able to handle the arrangements.

Discussion followed regarding the ongoing operation of the Mansion. Council expressed concern that they did not want to overburden Dick Carvell with responsibility for the Mansion. Knol suggested developing a spreadsheet to schedule use of the Mansion grounds. Mayor Campbell suggested moving forward with a re-orientation of the sign currently on the Mansion grounds.

DISCUSSION WITH COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES (CYF)

Farmington/Farmington Hills members present: Wendy Munson, John Golaszewski, Chuck Nebus, Chair Andy Nickelhoff, Carol Robb, Joan McGlincy, Allison Zolad, Mary Mullison (arrived at 7:22 p.m.)

Chair Nickelhoff reviewed past and ongoing projects of the Commission including: distribution of a video on diversity and a brochure on financing college education, "Take Your Kids to Vote" project, and the annual "Volunteer Recognition" event scheduled for April 18th at both Farmington/Farmington Hills Council meetings.

Chair Nickelhoff spoke about "family friendly" events planned in the community, noting the availability of a family calendar on the Commission's website. He stated that a list of unstructured family activities was distributed in the community. Commissioner McGlincy noted that the state has designated April as "The Month of the Young Child."

Chair Nickelhoff discussed a new project, "Marketing to Kids," which addresses the impact of commercialization on children. He stated that the Commission has reviewed the effects of media and advertising on kids and how parents can respond. He further stated that the Commission has been both researching and developing a program of community education and action. He discussed the impact of excessive TV watching. He spoke about a forum discussion that took place with the Mayor's Youth Council regarding advertising and exposure to media that will be aired on Channel 8.

Chair Nickelhoff discussed an annual event, "TV Turnoff Week," scheduled for April 25 – May 1, 2005. He stated that the purpose of this event is to encourage families to turn off TV for an entire week. He stated that the Commission would ask Council to formally endorse this event. He noted that the Commission is working with an organization in New York that originated the annual "TV Turnoff" event.

Chair Nickelhoff stated that the Commission has been active in raising its profile in the community. He noted that they received a \$3,400 grant from the Economic Development Commission for this purpose.

McShane suggested including CYF brochures in new resident packets distributed by the City.

Commissioner McGlincy noted that CYF student member, Allison Zolad, had suggested "job shadowing" as a future program for the Commission.

McShane thanked the Commission for all their efforts and for their support of proposed City Ordinances. She expressed her support of the Commission in their pursuit to show the film, "Supersize Me," in the community. She suggested planning a "Healthy Kids Week" in connection with the movie.

Commissioner McGlincy noted that there is a vacancy for a Farmington resident on the Commission.

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Knol thanked the Commission for including "Super Saturdays" at the Civic in their list of family activities. She noted that the pavilion would provide another opportunity to host family activities.

Council thanked the Commission for their continuing efforts and offered assistance wherever needed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Arnold T. Campbell, Mayor

Patsy K. Cantrell, City Clerk/Treasurer

Susan K. Halberstadt, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: APRIL 18, 2005