

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 21, 2011

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, March 21, 2011, 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 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Buck.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Buck, Knol, McShane, Wiggins, Wright.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: Director Gushman, City Clerk Halberstadt, City Manager Pastue, Director Schulz, Treasurer Weber.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA

03-11-039 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wiggins, to approve the consent agenda as amended; removing Item No. 3H, Consideration to Approve Special Event Request – Memorial Day Parade, to Item No. 5A under Presentations/Public Hearings. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- A. Special Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2011
- B. Regular Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2011
- C. Regular Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2011
- D. Joint Meeting Minutes Farmington Planning Commission and City Council February 14, 2011
- E. Monthly Public Safety Report - February 2011
- F. Farmington Monthly Payments Report February – 2011
- G. Special Event Request – “Poppy Days”

REGULAR AGENDA

03-11-040 MOTION by Wiggins, seconded by Knol, to approve the regular agenda as amended; removing Item No. 3H, Consideration to Approve Special Event Request – Memorial Day Parade, to Item No. 5A under Presentations/Public Hearings. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST – MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Present: A. Rocky Raczowski – Parade Chairman – Post 346 American Legion

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Rocky Raczkowski requested Council approval for use of Grand River on Monday, May 30, 2011 to conduct a Memorial Day parade. He invited Council to participate in the parade as well.

03-11-041 MOTION by Knol, seconded by McShane, to approve the use of Grand River on Monday, May 30, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a Memorial Day parade; further, the Council holds the State of Michigan Department of Transportation harmless from any liability that may result from the closing of Grand River and authorize the Public Safety Department to file for the permit with MDOT for the closing of Grand River. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BILL DWYER – OAKLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Dwyer introduced himself as the recently elected Oakland County Commissioner for the Cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. He briefly discussed his background and the various committees to which he has been appointed. He discussed the budget challenges faced by Oakland County. He will meet with residents on a regular basis for a “coffee hour” at Big Apple Bagel.

Council thanked Commissioner Dwyer for his updates and looked forward to future presentations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW WARNER MANSION TEA - CHRISTIANE LENZ AND MARY JONES, TEA SPECIALIST

Also present: Sharon Bernath and Jean Schornick, Mansion Docents

Christiane Lenz provided a brief background on Mary Jones, tea specialist, and introduced her to Council. Mary Jones spoke about the inspiration behind the Mansion Tea and the blend of ingredients represents what would have been available in the Victorian era. A tin of the tea was presented to each Councilmember.

Jean Schornick spoke about Mary’s donation of her time and talent in blending the tea for the Mansion. She advised the tea will only be for sale at the Mansion for a price of \$12. She noted the Mansion will re-open to the public on Sunday, April 3 from 1-5 pm.

Sharon Bernath spoke about volunteer opportunities at the Mansion including participation in the Warnerettes.

Buck encouraged everyone to visit the Mansion and take advantage of purchasing the Mansion tea.

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PUBLIC HEARING – RIVER GLEN SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Pastue advised at the February 21, 2011 meeting City Council accepted the preliminary assessment roll and scheduled a public hearing for the River Glen Special Assessment District.

03-11-042 MOTION by Knol, seconded by McShane, to open the public hearing on the River Glen Special Assessment District. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Pamela Stopper, Unit D3, stated that given the taxes already paid by River Glen residents and the limited service provided by the City, a 50/50 split with the City would be more equitable.

Tom Sanderson, River Glen Association Treasurer, shared the residents are supportive of the proposed road project.

James Thede, Unit B1, advised three quarters of the residents support the assessment. He pointed out the road is in sorry shape and in desperate need of replacement.

Pamela Carney, Unit B23, expressed her support for the project and hoped the City will use high quality material.

Don Vainer, owner of two units, complimented the City on their budget management and for providing River Glen residents with the opportunity to fix their roads. He takes great pride in living in the City of Farmington.

Tom Sanderson complimented the City for its cooperation during these difficult economic times in order to get this project completed.

Maureen McClorey asked if there are any other apartment complexes with roads comparable to those of River Glen.

Pastue responded all other apartment complex roads have been vacated by the City.

Gushman discussed the construction project and the scheduled timeframe for completion.

Pastue noted the resolution for the Special Assessment District will be on the April regular meeting agenda. He further noted he has been unable to contact Novi Music.

Sanderson confirmed a \$150 assessment will be on the July tax bill.

Hearing no further comment, Buck requested a motion to closed the public hearing.

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03-11-043 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wright, to close the public hearing on River Glen Special Assessment District. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was heard.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COMPLETE STREETS GUIDING PRINCIPALS

Knol, noting the current budget constraints of the City, asked whether this resolution would tie the hands of the City in terms of how project dollars are spent. Pastue replied the resolution only gets the City thinking about pedestrian friendly streets when making capital improvements.

RESOLUTION 03-11-044 Motion by Wiggins, seconded by Wright, move to adopt a resolution supporting the Complete Streets Guiding Principals. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. [\[SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION\]](#).

CONSIDERATION OF ANIMAL CARE CENTER SERVICES AND DISPOSAL INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT 1

McShane commented this is a good way to participate in shared services.

Buck inquired if the City is obligated to use Oakland County services. Pastue responded there is no obligation and it is more convenient to use local veterinary services.

03-11-045 MOTION by Wright, seconded by Knol, move to approve renewal of the interlocal agreement with Oakland County Animal Care Center for the boarding and disposal of small domestic animals. [\[SEE ATTACHED AGREEMENT\]](#).

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION INITIATIVES

McShane asked if the initiatives would be a joint effort between Farmington, Farmington Hills and Farmington Public Schools.

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Pastue replied he and Director Schulz will attend an upcoming joint meeting to discuss moving forward on these initiatives.

03-11-046 MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wiggins, to adopt a resolution in support of youth suicide prevention initiatives. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. [SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION].

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH GRAND RIVER CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

Knol inquired whether Farmington Hills has a similar resolution on their agenda this month as well. Pastue responded they will have a study session to define the corridor boundaries and the resolution will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

Knol outlined the process by which each City will form a Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA); followed by the approval of an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement; and finally appointment of members to the board that would form the joint committee.

Pastue advised the intergovernmental agreement ties the two authorities together.

Knol stated the intent of the joint authority is for the cities to work together on projects in the corridor that have a common look and feel.

Pastue supposed the cities would have identical design standards to ensure a uniform look along the corridor.

Responding to a question from Wright, Pastue stated one City could continue with its Authority even if the other withdrew. He stated the benefits of a CIA would merit going it alone.

Wright discussed the process for capturing future taxes from the corridor businesses and asked if it is possible for one community to capture a different percentage. Pastue responded he hoped that would not be case. He stated for the CIA to function effectively the rate would have to be the same. He noted Oakland County has a significant say in this process.

Wright inquired if it is possible to force a capture amount in the intergovernmental agreement. Pastue replied that is where it would take place.

Pastue explained how a Corridor Improvement Authority functions.

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Knol stated a CIA can be used to improve esthetics of the area by planting trees, landscaping, lighting and signage improvements. She stated it will provide the tools and vision for future projects, even if the funds are not currently there.

Buck advised a CIA would be led by a board of vested business owners and residents who would assist in driving the development effort, similar to the Downtown Development Authority.

McShane pointed out this is a great opportunity for both cities to work together to avoid blight and increase property values.

RESOLUTION 03-11-047 Motion by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to adopt a resolution providing Notice of Intent to establish a Grand River Corridor Improvement Authority, establish district boundaries, and schedule a public hearing for May 16. **[SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION].**

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REAPPOINTMENTS

Pastue noted Bob Rock has requested to serve a two-year term.

Buck pointed out Council still needs to interview Boardmember Cornwell and fill a vacancy left by Michelle Jakacki.

Knol noted applications for the DDA opening are being taken by the City Manager's office.

03-11-048 MOTION by Wiggins, seconded by Wright, to reappoint Greg Cowley and Walt Gajewski to the Downtown Development Authority Board each for a 4-year term ending February 28, 2015; and reappoint Bob Rock to a two-year term ending February 28, 2013. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pamela Stopper, River Glen resident, asked about the boundaries of the proposed Corridor Improvement Authority.

Buck replied the CIA would include Grand River Avenue within the boundaries of the City of Farmington extending from Mayfield Street east to the border of Farmington Hills.

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Pamela Stopper asked that bikers and walkers wear reflective vests at night to be more visible. Buck replied it would be wise and Schulz concurred.

Janice Maxey, 22109 Hawthorne Street, asked about the date of the public hearing for the Authority.

Pastue replied Monday, May 16th and advised notification will be sent.

Ms. Maxey stated she would be interested as a resident in volunteering to serve on the board. She asked if Hawthorne is included in the sewer lining project.

Pastue discussed the upcoming sewer lining project in Floral Park.

Hank Borgman, 34011 Grand River, expressed concern regarding the formation of the CIA and questioned its purpose.

Buck shared the public hearing will take place on the proposed CIA and more information will be provided. He stated this is an opportunity to work with Farmington Hills to revitalize the Grand River corridor.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Wright commented the CIA is not a mechanism to take anyone's property. This is a joint effort to strategize on how to improve the corridor.

Wright shared he is gratified by the positive feedback from River Glen residents on the proposed street project.

Wiggins reaffirmed Wright's comments that there is no intent to take property under the CIA. He shared his observation that there were no Civic Theater show listings in the local paper; only a web site address and phone number to check for show times. He stated this cost effective change was proposed earlier by the Theater's General Manager because of the availability of show times on the internet.

Wiggins inquired about TechRadium. Schulz responded it is a new company that will replace the City's current paging and messaging system. He confirmed this is not available to the general public.

Buck inquired if the Nixle System used for sending out emergency messages is available to the public. Schulz stated due to costs the system is now used for emergencies only. He is exploring social media options for sending out information to residents.

McShane commented on a recent letter from Governor Snyder regarding streamlining government services. She spoke about the efficiency of a Public

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Safety Department and noted Farmington has the best in the state. She suggested the Public Safety Department hold an Open House to share and demonstrate the effectiveness of its operations.

Schulz replied the Farmington Public Safety Department has received several inquiries from other cities regarding its operations. He would be happy to entertain the idea of holding an Open House.

ADJOURNMENT

03-11-049 MOTION by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

J. T. (Tom) Buck, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Approved: April 18, 2011