



FINAL

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A Special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on April 6, 2015, in City Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, 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 William Galvin.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Greg Cowley	Councilmember	Present	
William Galvin	Mayor	Present	
JoAnne McShane	Councilmember	Present	
Steve Schneemann	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Jeff Scott	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present

Director Christiansen
City Clerk Halberstadt
City Manager Pastue
Attorney Beth Saarela

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Pastue advised an ordinance variance would be required in order to allow the placement of collection containers at locations in the City by the American Red Cross and suggested that Item No. 4 on the agenda be removed.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended, removing Item No. 4, "Approve Temporary Permit for American Red Cross."

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jeff Scott, Councilmember
SECONDER:	JoAnne McShane, Councilmember
AYES:	Cowley, Galvin, McShane, Schneemann, Scott

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Manti, owner of The Cheese Lady, 33041 Grand River, expressed excitement about the redevelopment of the Maxfield Training Center and particularly the

new residential aspect of it within walking distance to the downtown.

4. ADOPT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TEMPORARY RELOCATION OF PRECINCT 6

A. Consideration to Adopt Resolution to Approve Temporary Relocation of Precinct 6 and Absent Voter Counting Board

Clerk Halberstadt advised at the March 2, 2015 meeting Council approved temporarily moving Precinct No. 6 and the Absent Voter Counting Board from Our Lady of Sorrows Family Center to the lower level of the Parish. Subsequent to that action she was advised that the Our Lady of Sorrows Board stated they had too many activities scheduled that day and could not accommodate voting at their location. She indicated that Salem United Church of Christ has been found as a replacement site and is a perfect fit as it is ADA compliant, has adequate parking and is an ideal location for that precinct. She may consider designating the Salem Church a permanent replacement site for Precinct No. 6 if things work out.

Motion to adopt a resolution to temporarily relocate Election Precinct No. 6 and the Absent Voter Counting Board from Our Lady of Sorrows Parish to the Salem United Church of Christ for the May 5, 2015 election.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	JoAnne McShane, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Jeff Scott, Councilmember
AYES:	Cowley, Galvin, McShane, Schneemann, Scott

5. APPROVE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROPOSAL 1 BALLOT INITIATIVE

A. Presentation/Discussion - Proposal 1 Ballot Initiative

Pastue gave a brief power point presentation developed by the Oakland County Road Commission in support of the Proposal One ballot initiative.

McShane inquired about the increase in registration rates in hybrid and electric vehicles. She then asked if there would be a proposal for a Southeast Michigan Transit Bond and further discussion was held.

Cowley expressed his opposition to the proposal and noted the Detroit Free Press reported the initiative will lose 3:1.

McShane stated that she is very disappointed in the legislature for not doing their job. She indicated she will not be in favor of the proposal and stated she does not like the way it was presented or done.

Scott stated there needs to be a way to get more funding for the roads, but it seems this is not a priority for Lansing. He understands the need, but is torn on this issue as he doesn't want to see taxes go up.

Galvin stated he is disappointed in the legislature and the Governor for putting this initiative forward. He indicated it shows a lack of effort to reallocate the budget. It appears a tax increase always seems to be the solution. He stated there is probably enough funds in the State budget to reallocate more money to the roads, however, the roads don't have a special interest group behind them and that is why we're looking at a tax increase. He understands the Michigan Municipal League is supporting the Proposal because it will push more money towards communities. He stated Council has no obligation to support or not support this initiative. This can simply be an informational agenda item and he doesn't see a need to support a tax increase on citizens at this point in time.

Motion to deny a resolution in support of Proposal One ballot initiative.

Galvin voted no because he would have preferred no action was taken.

RESULT:	APPROVED [4 TO 1]
MOVER:	JoAnne McShane, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Greg Cowley, Councilmember
AYES:	Greg Cowley, JoAnne McShane, Steve Schneemann, Jeff Scott
NAYS:	William Galvin

6. PRESENTATION

1. Downtown Parking Ad Hoc Committee

Pastue provided a power point presentation on the North Parking Lot Study.

Pastue stated that in January or February Council approved the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to study the parking problem, and installation of meters as a possible solution. He listed the members of the committee who worked together to assemble information and collect data. The study addressed four main areas: 1) parking counts, including identifying when there is peak demand for parking, 2) stakeholder surveys were accomplished by meeting with neighbors and surveying businesses and stakeholders in the immediate area, 3) Technology and Policy Research, looked at existing technologies that could be utilized to help with the problem, and 4) enforcement.

Pastue stated the results of the stakeholder survey showed that demand for parking exceeds supply. It also showed the majority of business owners did not endorse requiring their employees to park at a different location. Business owners did not support parking meters or valet parking. He indicated an informational workshop was held at Cowley's where a petition from local businesses was submitted for DDA review. The petition supported

additional enforcement, escalating fines, and discussion of a surcharge to the Civic Theater. Other areas of discussion included overnight parking permits, citing the four residents on the second level of the Cook Building, daytime permits, and short term parking without charge.

Pastue discussed the technology that was reviewed including: parking meters, sensor devices cored into the pavement, cameras, and parking kiosks. The installation of cameras to monitor parking activity was also discussed. He stated enforcement of parking with the utilization of Public Safety Cadets appeared to be a viable solution to the problem.

Pastue discussed operational recommendations including: 1) the installation of three parking kiosks, two in the North lot and one in the Los Tres Amigos lot; 2) metered parking at designated times; 3) enforcement to coincide with metered parking hours; 4) overnight permits for tenants on second floor of Cook building; 5) day permits; 6) designation of up to ten spaces for 30 minute parking at no charge; 7) escalating fines; and (8) financial management.

Pastue reviewed the operating budget as outlined in Exhibit E of the report. The establishment of an Enterprise Fund to account for parking activity as a stand-alone operation was also discussed as an important step in the process.

Pastue stated his recommendation is for the City to establish a permanent seven person parking committee to provide general oversight, engage in ongoing business/customer relations, plan future parking expansion projects, locations, regulations, maintenance, enforcement and financing.

In conclusion Pastue stated he would like City Council to consider two items at the April 20th meeting, first, to accept the parking report and authorize further engagement with businesses in the immediate area in discussion of a potential timeline for implementation; and two, to establish a Downtown Parking Advisory Committee.

Scott stated it is counterintuitive to limit overnight parking and the consequences of it. He also questioned the number of parking permits that would be offered, who would receive them and the problems that may arise in that situation. He supported the idea of short term, 30 minute free parking. He then asked about current enforcement of parking and if enhancement of same could alleviate some of the parking problems.

Pastue responded that the committee could look at the overnight parking and day permit issue as well as the designation of same. He discussed the cost of implementing enforcement now.

McShane agreed that the City needs to address the parking issue and find a solution. She expressed concern that there were no members on the parking committee from the south side of Grand River. She is concerned that the

City is simply shifting the problem to the south side. She agreed with Scott regarding enforcement and monitoring the impact. She inquired about way finding signs. She stated the City needs a comprehensive plan and that a good start would be enforcement and signage. She would like to see a permanent solution to this ongoing problem.

Pastue responded there will never be a permanent solution, but rather a constant, evolving set of circumstances as parking demands change. He spoke about meters being a funding mechanism for the enforcement of parking. He stated the parking problem is most acute in the North Parking Lot.

Schneemann questioned the excessiveness of two kiosks recommended for the small north parking lot. Pastue responded it is driven by convenience. Schneeman pointed out the lot is small enough where one kiosk in the middle would be sufficient. He noted two kiosks may cause confusion and he would be in support of one kiosk.

Schneemann asked about charging for ADA spaces and Pastue responded there would be no charge or change to those spaces.

Schneemann questioned whether controlled parking would help or hurt businesses.

Cowley stated that during the lunch hour there are approximately 80 parking spaces and 40 are occupied by employees. He stated metering the lot would free up more parking spaces during that time. He endorsed designated off-site employee parking.

Schneemann expressed concern that the survey showed the vast majority of businesses are opposed to paid parking. He recommended revisiting this issue before passing a rule that nobody wants. He would like to see more buy-in by those who would be affected.

Cowley stated that nobody, including both customers and businesses, want paid parking. He stated this is the only solution to freeing up parking. He noted as a business owner he would validate parking. He would like to see the value of parking appreciated and acknowledged Council will be swimming upstream with this approach. He believes businesses in the long term will see a benefit. He stressed the importance of a revenue stream. He believes people expect to pay for parking in a downtown like Farmington. He thinks metered parking would bring some of the private parking online. He pointed out the proposed plan is not a lot of money. He emphasized the lack of employee parking. A loss of businesses will occur if the City does not manage its assets. He said he would like to see something implemented by the Fall. He suggested ramping up enforcement in the North Lot now.

Responding to a question from Cowley, Pastue stated he did not address Grand River parking because approval would be needed from MDOT.

Galvin expressed surprise that audience turnout was low given the importance of the parking study and its impact on the City. He requested that the study be posted online.

Responding to a question from Galvin, Pastue stated the next step in this process would be for Council to accept the report and hopefully get a Committee in place.

Galvin stated Farmington is one of the only downtown areas in Southeastern Michigan that does not charge for parking. He stated the one thing lacking from the report is addressing the supply and demand, particularly the supply. He spoke about paid parking in other communities, citing Birmingham as an example. He questioned after enforcement, meters, etc., how do we create more parking? He concurred with McShane that we need a more comprehensive parking plan for the City. He stated the need to start looking at growing the downtown and how to put nonrevenue producing properties back on the tax roll.

Galvin expressed concern regarding the process for selecting the seven members of the Parking Advisory Committee. He commended the ad hoc committee for their hard work and thanked them for their participation. Galvin advised this item will be re-visited at the April 20th meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Galvin discussed the next steps in the process of selecting a new City Manager. At the April 14th Study Session candidates will be selected to move to the interview stage in the process. These candidates will participate in a "Meet and Greet" sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on Friday evening, May 8th. Candidates will then be interviewed the next day, Saturday, May 9th. Council may make a decision immediately following the interviews or delay until Monday, May 11th. He noted the City has received 40 resumes.

8. COUNCIL COMMENT

No Council comment was heard.

9. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	JoAnne McShane, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Steve Schneemann, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Cowley, Galvin, McShane, Schneemann, Scott

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

William E. Galvin, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Approval Date: _____