

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, February 20, 2006, 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 6:48 p.m. by Mayor McShane.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Buck, Knol, McShane, Sutherland.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Wiggins.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, Public Services Director Gushman, City Manager Pastue, Assistant City Manager Richards.

PRESENTATION – RON BAKER, “IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE”

Present: Ron Baker, Civic Theatre Committee member

Ron Baker reported on activities related to the Civic Theatre including the success of the Family Film Festival, creation of a mailing list, generating interest during the Founders Festival and merchant involvement.

Baker reviewed highlights of a Marketing Plan handout including the creation of City Theatre and Film Festival web sites and the design for the City’s website.

Baker stated the film event “It’s a Wonderful Life” was a great success and as a result the committee would like to run the Film Festival twice a year or quarterly depending on its success.

Mayor McShane stated it would nice if the film “It’s a Wonderful Life” could be shown annually as part of a holiday celebration. Baker replied that they had talked to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board to consider combining some activities such as holiday events.

Mayor McShane advised that the Civic Theatre Committee should have more involvement with the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC) making use of free air time. Baker discussed coordinating with SWOCC on events at the Theatre.

Mayor McShane asked about a contact for placing ads on the Theatre screen, noting the high level of interest. Assistant City Manager Richards replied that Council has the directive to limit the number of ads. He advised that the Committee was concerned about reaching the saturation point and noted the delicate balance between airing paid ads and public service announcements. Mayor McShane noted that there is no

response when people call the Theatre. Baker suggested that Committee member Paul put a link to the Civic Theatre website.

Councilmember Buck thanked Baker for his efforts on the Film Festival.

Richards recognized Baker's involvement and willingness to work on Theatre events.

Sutherland commented that the Civic was a "great place to go".

PRESENTATION – CONGRESSMAN JOSEPH KNOLLENBERG

Present: Congressman Joseph Knollenberg, Shawn Ciavattone and Steve Betz, Congressional Aides

Mayor McShane thanked Representative Knollenberg for his support of Farmington, especially for his assistance in obtaining a grant for Shiawassee Park and noted that a grant was not obtained in previous years. Representative Knollenberg recognized the efforts of City Manager Pastue in presenting a well-developed case that demonstrated the need for a grant.

Representative Knollenberg updated Council on pending bills, the Patriot Act, catastrophic disasters and steps that are taking place on the federal level to help disaster victims in the states affected by Katrina. He spoke about his membership on a number of committees and independent agencies. He noted that in a cost saving effort, a review of 50-plus government programs netted \$700 million dollars in savings that was then earmarked for highway transportation. He advised that the social security changes are moving along well.

Representative Knollenberg stated that over the next six weeks it will be difficult to pass bills due to budget tightening. He noted that social security, medicare and medicaid will be on the agenda.

Mayor McShane expressed concern regarding the impact on public services as a result of reduced State revenue sharing and the further concern of reduced Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding that provides transportation to senior citizens in the community. Representative Knollenberg replied he fought to maintain CDBG funding, noting that the budgeted amount is \$1.2 billion less than last year.

Responding to a question from Pastue, Representative Knollenberg stated that he was unaware of specific areas that were targeted for reductions.

Knol commented on the formula determining who gets more funding.

Mayor McShane voiced concern regarding telecommunications and the need for greater competition to enable cities to negotiate rates and maintain control. Representative Knollenberg advised that the Energy and Commerce Committee Chair has no intention

of pursuing pending legislation on this issue and there is a risk that local municipalities may lose funding as well as control.

Discussion followed regarding the revenues the City receives through the Metro Act for use in right-of-way maintenance. Mayor McShane noted that the fees are necessary to provide local community access in keeping the public informed.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Buck concerning job programs, Representative Knollenberg spoke about Michigan's high unemployment rate and struggling economy. He noted the efforts of "Automation Alley" in Oakland County to attract and retain businesses along with his attempts to keep jobs here. He pointed out that the State needs to remove the Single Business Tax, cut internal spending and reduce steel tariffs. He discussed pending legislation that would enforce sanctions against countries who are exporting counterfeit products.

Mayor McShane inquired about homeland security funding and changes by Congress regarding allocation of funds based on risks and population. Representative Knollenberg replied that Detroit is a beneficiary of funding since it is a border crossing and port city.

Pastue stated the City would be supportive of funding for equipment and radios for communication. Representative Knollenberg advised Council of a Michigan company that is developing new technology which enables communication with existing equipment.

Sutherland voiced concern regarding loss of school funding if the single business tax is eliminated during the interim. Representative Knollenberg suggested leaner health care by increasing co-pays and deductibles in Federal or State government programs.

Mayor McShane stated there is a need for a trained work force and noted the loss of a new business in Ann Arbor due to untrained workers.

Jeff McGowen, Farmington resident, voiced concern regarding the project in Shiawassee Park which involved the steps from the City to the Rouge River. He stated the switchback design would have a larger footprint. He asked for an explanation as to why the existing stairs are being replaced by a switchback instead of being repaired and expressed concern regarding the erosion that has occurred. Pastue responded that the City's goal is to stabilize the banks and minimize erosion. He noted that the switchback staircase project would be ADA compliant, would connect the Downtown to Shiawassee Park and would include upgrading the trails for handicap use. Knol noted that the person who created the initial design had worked on similar projects to contain erosion.

Mayor McShane suggested Mr. McGowen meet with City Manager Pastue to discuss the changes in Shiawassee Park.

Mayor McShane thanked Representative Knollenberg for his time and continued efforts for the City.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

JoAnne M. McShane, Mayor

Patsy K. Cantrell, City Clerk/Treasurer

Janice L. Schmidt, Recording Secretary

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| [—APPROVED: March 20, 2006](#)