

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
September 6, 2011

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Tuesday, September 6, 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 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Buck.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Buck, Knol, Wiggins, Wright

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** McShane.

**CITY ADMINISTRATION:** City Clerk Halberstadt, City Manager Pastue (arrived 7:15), Thomas Schultz (arrived 7:15)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**09-11-143** MOTION by Wright, seconded by Wiggins, to approve the agenda as submitted. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**BOARD AND COMMISSION INTERVIEWS**

Council interviewed Jill Babcock and Kenneth Chiara for an opening on the Planning Commission; and Emily Towleron for an opening on the Beautification Commission.

**BUSINESS ITEM - SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST, 911 MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Pastue described a Special Event Request from the American Legion for their annual 911 ceremony at Riley Park, similar to last year's event, to be held on Sunday, September 11, 2011 from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

**09-11-144** MOTION by Wright, seconded by Wiggins, to approve a Special Event Request from the American Legion Groves -Walker Post 346, to conduct a 911 Memorial Service on Sunday, September 11, 2011, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m., at the Sundquist Pavilion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**PROGRESS REVIEW OF WORK PLAN**

Pastue provided Council with a handout of the 2010-11 City Council Goal Statements and Work Plan wherein it was indicated the progress achieved on each item.

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Pastue indicated City Administration continues to work with Farmington Hills regarding shared services. He advised more information may be available at an October meeting.

Pastue stated he and Treasurer Weber continue to work on modifications to the Retiree Health Care contribution plan that would save approximately \$70K a year.

Pastue advised City Administration's goal is to implement and continue development of a strategic plan. He recommended Council hold a goal setting session in January to further define a strategic plan.

Discussion was held regarding the City Website and some of the issues that have been addressed.

Under the goal of Economic Development, Pastue indicated the Corridor Improvement Authority has been completed.

Discussion followed regarding the use of incentives for economic development.

Responding to a question from Knol, Pastue advised he has had recent contact with a number of the major property owners in Farmington. He indicated he has upcoming meetings with the owners of the Worldwide Shopping Center and the T.J. Maxx Center. He noted the owner of the Uptown Plaza lives in Arizona making it difficult to arrange a meeting.

Responding to a question from Wiggins, Pastue indicated the recent seal coating of the Uptown Plaza parking lot was inadequate.

Wright asked about taking legal action to force the owner to complete the work satisfactorily. Pastue indicated that action may be contemplated in the future. Further discussion was held on this topic.

Buck asked about an update on parking plans in the downtown. Pastue responded the City received a proposed contract from the Masonic Temple to use their parking lot. He stated this issue would be discussed under Other Business later in the agenda.

Pastue advised Thomas Street from Farmington Road to Warner Street will be paved on the following Thursday. He stated the adjoining parking lot to the south is under the DDA purview. He noted a few problematic areas were patched and an overlay and striping are scheduled. He stated that also includes the entryway from Grand River between Grace Insurance and the bakery which will freshen up the look. He noted the parking pattern will remain the same.

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Wright inquired regarding the City's use of a standard contract with all contractors. Pastue responded that liquidated damages are usually included in a contract if the work is not completed by a certain date. He advised this provision will be in all future contracts. Pastue pointed out that this is the first time such a simple project has had such lengthy delays.

Buck asked if the City is pleased with the contractor's work thus far. Pastue responded yes with the exception of the delays.

Wright inquired as to the business registration fees and how much it is on an annual business. Pastue responded \$40 for most businesses and \$100 for businesses that sell alcohol. The City has recommended reduced penalty fees.

Buck stated that the workplan is a helpful guide for Council and everyone concurred.

**DISCUSSION TO AMEND CHAPTER 3 OF THE CITY CODE, ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS**

Pastue stated that he met with a start-up business that is considering adding a location in downtown Farmington. The business conducts art classes where attendees can bring in their own wine and food. He stated current City Code is unclear whether this is permitted within the City. He advised they are looking to amend the Code to accommodate this type of business as well as wine tasting events.

Further discussion was held on the parameters of current code and the possible amendment.

Wiggins pointed out the Liquor Control Commission does not govern those establishments that do not sell liquor, but allow it to be brought on site.

Schultz advised the current ordinance states if a business is not licensed to sell alcohol then alcohol cannot be consumed on premises.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Masonic Hall Parking Lot License Agreement**

Pastue stated the City has been working with the Masonic Lodge to use their parking lot in an effort to create more public parking in the downtown. He advised the Downtown Development Authority has agreed to appropriate a little over \$10,000 to patch, overlay and restripe the parking lot. He indicated the proposed agreement from the Lodge has areas that are problematic and need to be changed, i.e., length of agreement and reserved rights.

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Buck expressed concern with the list of restricted dates identified by the Lodge and how it has grown since the first discussions were held regarding the City's use of the parking lot.

Knol asked if parking passes would be provided to employees to control usage. Pastue responded the intent is to control employee usage of the lot north of Grand River to provide more public parking of the same.

Further discussion was held concerning access of the parking lot during events and other restrictions and terms of the agreement.

Knol pointed out appropriate signage must be installed.

Wright noted that this agreement with the Lodge does not solve the City's public parking challenge.

Pastue indicated that his intent is to gain Council's support of the agreement with the understanding the areas of concern will be addressed. He stated the agreement will be brought back to Council for ratification.

### **Appointment to Election Commission**

Pastue advised that as a result of Wiggins' resignation from Council there is an opening on the Election Commission. He further advised that it must be a Councilmember who is not running for re-election. Knol indicated she would be happy to serve on that Commission.

Pastue also advised a special meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2011 in order for Council to review candidate applications for the vacancy.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

In response to a request from Mayor Buck, Council candidates for the November election introduced themselves including: Sean Murphy, Jeff Taylor, Bill Galvin, and Kristen Kuiken.

Annabelle Gabel, 23089 Violet, indicated she recently went to Civic Theatre and was impressed by the cleanliness and lighting of theater and the higher attendance number.

Kristen Kuiken, 33808 Glenview Court, asked Pastue regarding a website he had referred to earlier in the meeting. Pastue responded it was the Michigan Economic Development Corporation website.

Bill Galvin, 35697 Briar Ridge, asked regarding the five-year operational and

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capital financial plan. Pastue indicated workplans have been utilized in the past but this was the first time a regular review was conducted. He noted the work plan is updated approximately every two years. He also asked regarding the Oakland County Prosper Magazine, its readers and distributorship, and Livonia's vacant commercial building inspection program. Pastue advised the City decided not to follow through on these initiatives.

**COUNCIL COMMENT**

Wiggins noted this would be his last Council meeting. He spoke about his history with the City going back 32 years when he first became a Public Safety Officer.

In recognition of his fellow Councilmembers, Wiggins stated McShane was a fine example of what a Councilmember should be and was instrumental in getting him to apply for the Council position and thanked her for that. He was impressed with Knol's commitment, her ability to manage a full schedule, and he recognized the valuable resource her connection to Lansing was for the City. He indicated Wright's probing questions led to greater discussion and a more thorough understanding of issues before the Council. He recognized Buck as a great ambassador for the City and the significant amount of time he has devoted as Mayor. He thanked the dedicated City staff for making the Council's job easier by providing information which facilitated the decision-making process.

Wiggins also thanked the voters for electing him twice in his position and his family for the sacrifices they made and support they gave him.

Wiggins also cited the highlights and disappointments of his terms and stated not finishing this second term as one of the disappointments.

Wiggins thanked the current candidates for running and commented on the importance of volunteers to keep the City running.

Mayor Buck thanked him for his wonderful closing comments.

Knol stated that Wiggins was an excellent listener and very thoughtful and deliberate in his decision-making process. He understood the fabric of the community and carried a very valuable skill set that was instrumental to the Council.

Wright indicated that it was a privilege to serve with Wiggins, that they respected each other's opinion even when they disagreed.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**09-11-145** MOTION by Knol, seconded by Wiggins, to adjourn the meeting.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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J.T. (Tom) Buck, Mayor

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Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: October 3, 2011