

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, 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 7:03 p.m. by Mayor Knol.

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Buck.

**CITY ADMINISTRATION:** Director Gushman, City Clerk Halberstadt, Director Nebus, City Manager Pastue.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**01-08-003** MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wiggins, to approve the agenda as amended, moving "Public Comment" to the end of the agenda.

**DISCUSSION – PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT OF SARA BOWMAN**

**01-08-004** MOTION by McShane, seconded by Wright, to add "Appointment to the Planning Commission" to the following regular meeting agenda. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**GRAND RIVER STREETScape PROJECT**

City Manager Pastue reviewed the design plans for the Grand River Streetscape and Grove Street projects and provided an update on the status of those plans. He discussed the goals of the project and identified specific areas where improvements will be made. He stated a primary goal of the project is to create a comfortable and safe environment for pedestrians. He noted an additional goal is to incorporate existing parking on both sides of Grand River into a framework that would allow for a smooth and efficient flow of traffic.

Mayor Knol discussed plans for a public presentation of the projects. She indicated the presentation will be scheduled for sometime in February and will provide detailed plans along with conceptual renderings of the completed improvements.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Wiggins, Pastue stated the reserved area in front of the Civic Theatre would be for temporary use only, such as loading and unloading or as a drop off zone for the Theatre.

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Councilmember McShane indicated she served on the Design Committee throughout the entire planning process for this project. She noted the Committee is a cross section of architects and engineers, residents who have thoroughly examined all aspects of this project to ensure it provides a safe and pedestrian-friendly environment. She requested the public wait for the presentation before judging the final plan. She stated the City needs to do three things: (1) create an environment that attracts and supports new businesses; (2) provide an aesthetically pleasing downtown that will increase home values; and (3) provide an environment where businesses can thrive. She encouraged residents to provide their input and be part of the solution.

Councilmember Wright recommended posting speed limit requirements in the downtown center. He further recommended advanced signage for motorists if the left turn onto Farmington Road from Grand River is eliminated. He supported plans for lengthening and widening the parking spaces on Grove Street, as well as providing wider lanes. He advised the plans might need a little bit more tweaking.

Discussion followed regarding possible dates for the public presentation.

Wright expressed concern regarding the time frame for the public presentation as it relates to the deadline for submission of petitions, noting the petition drive that would require the bond issue for the project be voted upon by the electors. He asked if the deadline could be extended for the petitions.

Pastue proposed repealing the resolution adopted by Council to issue bonds for the project and adopt a new resolution that would provide a new 45-day period for submission of petitions.

Council tentatively agreed to February 25, 2008 at the Maxfield Training Center for the public presentation.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Hank Borgman, 34011 Grand River, stated he did not see the notice in the paper concerning the bond issuance for the Grand River Streetscape project. He expressed concern regarding the cost of the project. He suggested placing barrels of sand on Grand River to simulate the lane modifications provided in the project plans. He stated there was no mention of bump-outs in a traffic study that was done on Grand River.

John Kamstra, 23835 Wilmarth, expressed concern regarding plans for two west bound lanes and only one east bound lane on Grand River. He stated a project of this size and cost should be voted upon by residents.

Betty Borgman, 34011 Grand River, stated she is very interested in a vote on this measure. She asked for clarification about the timing and process of repealing the original resolution and adopting a new one.

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Pastue advised that the language of a new resolution would likely remain the same, however, the petition deadline would be reset for a new 45-day period.

Mrs. Borgman asked regarding the status of the 200 petition signatures that have already been obtained if a new resolution is adopted.

Mayor Knol expressed her opinion that the signatures would likely be voided.

Russ Duncan, 23912 Pickett, recommended waiting until the results of the Plante Moran Collaboration Study are available before moving forward with the Grand River Streetscape project. He expressed concern regarding spending \$3.3 million on a project in a downward economy. He believed the City is rushing into this project.

Sheila Hill, 34236 Cortland, asked if Council objected to a public vote on this project.

Mayor Knol responded that Council does not necessarily object to a vote. She noted, however, that a vote would delay the implementation of the project. She stated that the City has been working on this project for about four years. She indicated one of the goals of the public presentation is to gauge public response to this project.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**01-08-005** MOTION by Wiggins, seconded by McShane, to adjourn the meeting.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

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Valerie S. Knol, Mayor

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Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: February 18, 2008