

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
October 20, 2008

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, October 20, 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 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Knol.

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** McShane.

**CITY ADMINISTRATION:** City Clerk Halberstadt, and City Manager Pastue.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council concurred to approve the agenda as submitted.

**47<sup>th</sup>-DISTRICT COURT ANNUAL REPORT**

Present: David Walsh, Court Administrator, Stacy Parke, Deputy Administrator, Judge Parker and Judge Brady

Administrator Walsh reviewed new filings & dispositions; traffic filings; revenue and expenditures. He explained Farmington's Department of Public Safety (FPS) caseload is up overall and the impact on revenue and expenditures. He discussed the monthly caseload for both Farmington and Farmington Hills stating ticket writing has directly affected each Cities contribution to the Court.

Responding to a question from Mayor Knol, Walsh replied the City's contribution is defined by it's percentage of the caseload. He explained the formula is based on long term population percentages between the two Cities and annual caseload percentages.

Walsh discussed the Show Cause Program noting in 5 years the program has generated over 2 million dollars in delinquent payments.

Walsh explained the monthly docket of 150-300 delinquent cases are ordered to appear for a Show Cause hearing. He stated as a result of this hearing, payments are received by some, others choose to appear, and the remaining cases are issued a bench warranted for failure to appear. He noted an additional \$100.00 contempt of Court cost is tacked on to the amount owed.

Walsh pointed out how this program is recognized by court administrators and judges all around the state as an outstanding model.

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Mayor Knol pointed out the City of Waterford has decided to implement the Show Cause program after learning of its great success rate.

Walsh added the Court has collected over \$350,000 just in the added contempt of court fees and of that \$55,000 has come back to Farmington.

Councilmember Wright asked how this program might affect behavior.

Judge Brady responded there is no way of knowing, he hopes behavior is affected, but if nothing else, people are answering to the Court and paying what is owed.

Councilmember Wiggins asked what will happen to people who are unable to pay.

Judge Brady explained he listens and tries to weigh the circumstances before making a decision. He discussed alternative action taken regarding delinquent payments including: waiving fines, payment plans, and wage garnishment.

Judge Brady turned the floor over to Deputy Administrator Parke to discuss the Farmington Public Safety (FPS) Bond Posting Project.

Parke explained through the third party vendor Government Pay Express (GPS), Farmington Public Safety can expedite the release of prisoners from holding cells and thereby limit staff exposure to risk. She noted the program has had 40 cases since its inception in March of this year.

Judge Brady commented Farmington Hills will implement this program next year.

Walsh reviewed the new Clemis E-Ticket Project, a Court Law Enforcement Management Information System Organization for Oakland County. He explained this new ticket writing system has been successfully piloted in the cities of Waterford and Troy.

Walsh provided the Council with an E-ticket sample stating the ticket can be received in paper form, but the Court chose to receive it electronically in order to reduce data entry time & eliminate mistakes in transcribing. He noted the E-Commerce component will utilize the Oakland County website allowing payments to be made online. He stated training has been set for November 4<sup>th</sup> and program implementation scheduled for January 2009.

Judge Parker gave a brief summary of the Sobriety Court program stating the success is seen in the changed lives of graduates. She confirmed through exit interviews that graduates had better relationships at work and in their personal lives thus making them better citizens in their communities.

Councilmember Wright asked if there were any thoughts of expanding the program.

Judge Parker answered the program is in the midst of a study tracking a control group to review applied criteria and its affect. She explained a long term study is needed

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regarding the program's impact on recidivism. Judge Parker speculated on how the program could be expanded, possibly to include people outside of Farmington/Farmington Hills or by expanding into Judge Brady's courtroom.

Walsh felt it would be necessary to wait for the study to be completed and its data available in order to see the program's effect on recidivism.

Judge Parker felt the state and nationwide data is amazing noting 60%-80% of people convicted will re-offend. She noted only 12%-17% of Sobriety Court graduates offend again.

Walsh reminded Council of how time consuming this program is and from a resource management standpoint how it is necessary to measure success rates against the cost.

Councilmember Buck mentioned a past graduate of the program as a prime example of a Sobriety Court success story and applauded the Court on their leadership.

Walsh stated Oakland County Court received the highest annual audit rating by Plante Moran and gave credit to Deputy Stacy Parke.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **MDOT Resolution**

City Manager Pastue reviewed MDOT's concerns regarding the removal of the left-hand turn lane onto Farmington Road. Pastue felt they were concerned with the level of service and traffic flow through the Grand River corridor. He asked that Council add this item to the regular agenda and make a change in the resolution.

Knol asked where the signage would be located to alert drivers to the change regarding the no left-hand turn at Farmington Road. Pastue answered west of Oakland and Shiawassee Roads might be an option but he would ask the traffic engineers to address that concern.

Discussion followed regarding appropriate placement of signage.

City Manager Pastue noted MDOT is in the process of approving drawings relating to the City's permit and felt an addendum could be added to address the signage issue.

Council concurred to add this item to the regular agenda.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Annabelle Gabel, 23089 Violet Street, asked about Sitar.

Mayor Knol explained it was a relatively new funeral home/crematorium located on Grand River Road in Farmington Hills.

**COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilmember Wright commented after visiting Brookdale Court he felt the size and proximity of the drive defined it as a driveway for residents not as a City street. He discussed the many changes the City has made citing a recent change in charges for recycling as an example.

Pastue noted the many improvements made by the City prior to the planned Brookdale Court vacation.

Councilmember Buck explained Brookdale Court started as a private road and became a City road in order to receive state funding and now it will revert to its original plan.

Brief discussion ensued in regard to vacating Brookdale Court and other examples of similar condominium developments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**10-08-195** MOTION by Wiggins, seconded by Buck, to adjourn the meeting.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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Valerie S. Knol, Mayor

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Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

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Susan Pohto, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: November 17, 2008