

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Friday, March 17, 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 5:32 p.m. by Mayor McShane.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Buck, Knol (arrived 5:55 p.m.), McShane, Sutherland, Wiggins.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**CITY ADMINISTRATION:** Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, Director Gushman (left at 6:30 p.m.), City Manager Pastue, Attorney Schultz (left at 6:30 p.m.).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**03-06-041** MOTION by Sutherland, seconded by Wiggins, to approve the agenda as submitted. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CLOSED SESSION – CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING CHATHAM HILLS FOOTING DRAIN DISCONNECT & DOWNTOWN PARKING ISSUES**

**03-06-042** MOTION by Buck, seconded by Wiggins, to enter into closed session to discuss a confidential communication from the City Attorney regarding Chatham Hills Footing Drain Disconnect Program and Downtown Parking Issues.

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Buck, McShane, Sutherland, Wiggins.

Nays: None.

Absent: Knol (arrived 5:55 p.m.)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council entered into closed session at 5:35 p.m. and adjourned to open session at 6:30 p.m.

*Attorney Schultz and Director Gushman left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.*

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

**DOWNTOWN CENTER IMPROVEMENT CHANGE ORDERS**

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City Manager Pastue stated that the Downtown Center and Pavilion projects would probably be \$150,000 under budget. He reviewed the requested change orders and discussion followed regarding striping and crosswalks in the Downtown Center. Pastue noted the project would begin late April or early May. Mayor McShane requested that the Downtown Development Authority send fliers to merchants to keep them informed of upcoming improvements.

Knol advised that the manager of Fitness 19 has requested a bicycle rack be placed between Bargain Books and their building to accommodate their many bike riding customers. Pastue noted a unit cost for a bicycle rack. Knol advised that a light needed replacing in front of Fitness 19.

Knol noted a request for outdoor tables and chairs at the Pavilion. Council discussed the merits of outdoor seating with City Manager Pastue noting that outdoor seating had not been included in project costs and would required an additional \$10,000-\$15,000.

### **PAVILION COMPLETION**

Pastue advised that he would provide projected Pavilion costs at a later date.

### **GRAND RIVER SEWER WORK**

Pastue advised that the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) project would begin after June 1<sup>st</sup>. He further advised Council of the sewer main collapse on Grand River near Burger King. He requested the authority to work with the contractor, on a time and materials basis, to replace that section of the sewer main. Pastue noted additional work required including replacing sections and lining. Gushman reviewed the findings of the collapsed sewer sections. He advised of the cost effectiveness of repairs based on time and materials at \$250,000 versus \$400,000 in anticipated costs. Knol asked if the project could be timed with Grand River being torn up. Gushman responded that the only savings would be the overlay. Discussion followed regarding the repair on a time and materials basis. Pastue advised that he would bring a bid waiver request to Council.

### **JURISDICTIONAL TRANSFER WITH MDOT**

Pastue advised that taking over the jurisdiction of Grand River from MDOT would give the City greater control over the future of the Downtown. He expressed concern regarding how the City would hold itself harmless financially. He advised that he would request that the City engineers develop cost estimates. He noted that MDOT has made similar changes in the past that included financial commitments for maintenance. Pastue discussed the MDOT proposal that included: (1) continuing the bridge replacement and overlay project within the City, (2) approval of the City's proposed streetscape improvements from Liberty to School Street and, (3) financing as approved by the Transportation Enhancement Grant that was requested in the amount of \$1,000,000.

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Pastue discussed the details of the long term financial impact including: classification of Grand River as a major street utilizing a factor that includes Farmington and Farmington Hills population, reconstruction of Grand River from Shiawassee to Farmington Road, funding for a five-year period for upgrades to signaling and total reconstruction of Grand River in ten years. Mayor McShane noted that it will be interesting to see what assurances will be met.

Discussion followed regarding reconstruction of Grand River and the MDOT proposal. Pastue will provide information to Farmington Hills for their review.

Mayor McShane inquired about a ring route around the City. Pastue responded that it needed to be added to the agreement for MDOT to address. Responding to a question from Councilmember Buck, Pastue stated the City could discuss with MDOT the viability of an entrance ramp onto M-5 from Farmington Road.

Knol expressed concern regarding the responsibility of funding reconstruction of Grand River in 2026 and the need to obtain a financial commitment of \$1.8 million from MDOT. Pastue responded that an agreement would be contingent on any MDOT default. Buck inquired about the issuance of a bond if reconstruction is required within a fifty-year period. Pastue replied that would be the way to fund it. Mayor McShane indicated that she would want to know the downsides of the MDOT proposal. Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell discussed long term decreased maintenance costs with reconstruction.

### **DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA) APPOINTMENTS**

Council reviewed and discussed nominations for the DDA board.

**03-06-043** MOTION by Buck, seconded by Wiggins, to appoint Linda Batzloff, Steve Schneemann and Mark Ziegler, to the Downtown Development Authority each for a four-year term to expire on February 28, 2010. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Responding to a question from Knol, Pastue stated that four appointments would be made in 2007.

Knol stated that she would contact O'Connell to consider joining the Economic Redevelopment Committee.

Mayor McShane asked that Craig Grace be recognized for his service on the DDA board.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

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**COUNCIL COMMENT**

Buck thanked Council for the opportunity to be a representative at the National League of Cities. He stated he obtained a lot of ideas from a seminar on "Branding Your Community" and would like to capture some of the ideas for the City.

Mayor McShane noted her attendance at a Leadership and Communications Seminar and found the booklet they provided helpful.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**03-06-044** MOTION by Knol, seconded by Sutherland, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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JoAnne M. McShane, Mayor

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Patsy K. Cantrell, City Clerk/Treasurer

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Susan K. Halberstadt, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: April 17, 2006