

CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Monday, February 9, 2015
City Hall Council Chambers
301 South LeRoy Street

Mayor Sue Osborn called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

The invocation for the evening was the Lord's Prayer and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Bland, Grossmeyer, Jacob, King, Lockwood, McDermott, Osborn.
Absent: None.
Others Present: Lynn Markland, City Manager; Mike Reilly, Building and Zoning Official; Carmine Avantini, City Planner and Stephen Schultz, Legal Counsel.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Osborn commented a group of Jazz players from France will be spending the day with the high school band tomorrow and there will be a luncheon that Mayor Pro Tem Lockwood will attend. She distributed City Manager evaluation forms to the Council and stated she needs them back by March 2nd. She reminded all that the Expo is scheduled for March 7th and 8th.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Markland commented the Community Center project is nearing completion and still within budget. Preparation for the RFP for the property north of the Methodist Church building is being finished up and more than one party is interested in doing a project there.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Grossmeyer commented last week's Small Cities meeting was well attended. He thanked Summer Minnick from the Michigan Municipal League and stated she did a great job as a speaker at the meeting.

Lockwood gave an update on the Expo and provided the schedule to Council. She stated the Community Planting Day is scheduled for May 23rd and May 30th, information will be available at the Expo. She asked everyone to remember Sandy Mathews-Barnes who recently passed away and commented she had previously served on the Parks Board and Board of Education.

McDermott congratulated Councilwoman Lockwood and the rest of Fenton Education Foundation for their fundraiser Friday night and stated it was a really fun event. He thanked the Police Chief for his social media post regarding using the Police Station lobby for Craigslist transactions and stated a lot of positive feedback has been received.

King commented she was impressed with the Police Chief's interview regarding Craigslist and the City Manager's interview regarding the District Court merger.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Schultz commented he is working on the RFP for the property north of the Methodist Church. He is also working on PILOT ordinances for Dauner Haus and Mill Pond Manor and has prepared the deed for the Cornerstone property.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Osborn reviewed all items that were on the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Bland and seconded by McDermott to approve the consent agenda containing the following items:

- Authorize payment of invoices in the amount of \$153,569.27.
- Approve and place on file the minutes of the January 12th and January 26, 2015 City Council meetings.

YEAS: Bland, Grossmeyer, Jacob, King, Lockwood, McDermott, Osborn.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 689

Carmine Avantini of CIB Planning recapped the amendments being made to Article 22 (Signs) of the Zoning Ordinance. One of the key changes relate to changeable message signs, more specifically to allow for public and semi-public uses to have electronic message signs after obtaining approval from the Planning Commission. Many public and semi-public uses are not located in commercial or industrial districts so the ordinance provides some flexibility to allow the signs in a residential district while still maintaining the sign standards already in place.

Avantini stated Section 22.05, Footnote (c)(11)iii indicates a sign size of forty eight (48) square feet for electronic message signs for a public or quasi-public use located within a residential district but the thought may be to change the size to fifty (50) square feet.

A motion was made by King to adopt Ordinance No. 689. **Motion rescinded.**

Grossmeyer explained the reasoning for changing the size of the sign from 48 to 50 square feet. He measured several existing signs and 50 square feet was the size of some of the signs. Changing to 50 square feet will allow for more even square footage numbers for the changeable message portion of the sign.

Osborn stated this Ordinance will amend Sections 22.04, 22.05, 22.08 and 22.09 of Article 22 (Signs) of the City of Fenton Zoning Ordinance.

A motion was made by Grossmeyer and seconded by King to adopt Ordinance No. 689, to include a change in square footage for an electronic message sign allowed in residential districts for institutional and quasi-public uses from forty-eight (48) square feet to fifty (50) square feet. Motion carried by a voice vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 690

Markland stated after the Human Rights ordinance was adopted, it was sent into Municipal Code for inclusion into the Code of Ordinances. At that time it was discovered the way the Human Rights Ordinance is numbered would require every Chapter of the Code from Chapter 15 forward to be renumbered. If the Human Rights Ordinance is amended to be included in the Code as

Chapter 15.5, the City will not incur the cost of renumbering the subsequent chapters. This Ordinance will amend Human Rights Ordinance No. 679 by renumbering the Ordinance resulting in adding Chapter 15.5 Human Rights to the Code of Ordinances.

A motion was made by Lockwood and seconded by McDermott to enact Ordinance No. 690. Motion carried by a voice vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-3

Markland stated the Genesee County Board of Commissioners approved a merger of the 67th and 68th District Courts and there are plans to locate the court in downtown Flint. Relocation of the Court would place an unnecessary burden and hardship on residents, business owners and senior citizens the court serves. It would also increase the City's costs for court appearances by City employees. He stated this resolution has been passed by other communities and is something the Council should consider and was discussed at last week's work session.

King stated she has a problem with moving the Court. She doesn't think the move will benefit the City or the surrounding areas the Court serves and feels the County should listen to the local municipalities.

Bland asked if the City was notified that a merger was going to take place. Markland responded he is not aware of any notification.

Osborn stated there is added costs to the City to send employees to Flint to deal with court matters.

Bland commented there is also an added cost burden for citizens that would have to go to Flint if the Court is moved. He feels the County should have met with local municipalities before any decisions were made.

A motion was made by McDermott and seconded by Jacob to adopt Resolution No. 15-3, a Resolution opposing the consolidation of the 67th and 68th District Courts.

YEAS: Grossmeyer, Jacob, King, Lockwood, McDermott, Osborn, Bland.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None. **RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

POLICE DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR PROMOTIONAL PROCESS

Aro stated he is requesting funding to contract with Career Directions to conduct a promotional process for a Sergeant's exam for the Police Department. This is the same firm used for the last Sergeant promotion in 2007 and he was very satisfied with the process. The firm is certified by the Commission for Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and using a firm of this caliber will assure testing is fair and unbiased. He stated funding was not anticipated, nor included, in the 2014-2015 budget.

Services provided by Career Directions will include the following:

- Creating a competencies profile
- Developing the written exam
- Meeting with candidates to discuss the process
- Administer the exam
- Conduct oral interviews
- Calculate results
- Provide feedback to individual candidates

Aro stated the costs is a flat fee of \$2500, plus \$400 per candidate and he estimates the total cost will not exceed \$4500.

A motion was made by McDermott and seconded by Lockwood to approve the request for funding to contract with Career Directions to conduct a promotional process for a Uniform Sergeant in an amount not to exceed \$4,500.00. Motion carried by a voice vote.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE – None.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Osborn and seconded by Lockwood to enter into a Closed Session to discuss union negotiations and then reconvene to Open Session.

YEAS: Jacob, King, Lockwood, McDermott, Osborn, Bland, Grossmeyer.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

Council recessed to Closed Session at 7:53 PM.

Council reconvened to Open Session at 8:28 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Mayor Sue Osborn

City Clerk, Renee Wilson

Date approved: February 23, 2015