

CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL WORK SESSION PROCEEDINGS
Monday, March 2, 2015
City Hall Conference Room
301 South LeRoy Street
7:30 PM

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

Present: Bland, Grossmeyer, Jacob, King, Lockwood, McDermott, Osborn.
Absent: None.
Others Present: Lynn Markland, City Manager and Dan Czarnecki, Director of Public Works.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSAL 1

Markland stated the Michigan Municipal League (MML) has requested Council consider a resolution in support of Proposal 1 which will be on the May 5, 2015 ballot. The proposal will increase sales tax from 6% to 7%.

King asked if the Council supports this resolution, will the State take revenue sharing monies to balance their budget.

Lockwood stated part of the proposal is to increase revenue sharing to local municipalities. The City will receive a revenue sharing increase of approximately \$186,000 and the road monies that would come back to the City would be close to \$200,000.

Grossmeyer stated the revenue sharing that's part of the proposal is constitutional revenue sharing, not statutory so it cannot be taken away from the municipalities.

Bland stated he is not in favor of a tax increase but the roads need fixing and the only way that will happen is with some sort of tax. He would like to see the City support this proposal to help fix some of roads in the City.

Lockwood stated there is a lot of useful information on the MML website that explains where funds will be allocated should the proposal be approved.

King stated if the City supports this, how would they approach the community and ask for a road millage.

Markland stated that Proposal 1 should not be sold as a 'cure all' for the roads because it's not enough money to fix everything, but it does help. If the proposal passes, the City could ask voters for a lesser local street millage and between the two, it should fix the road problem. He stated the monies generated from Proposal 1 are not enough to do all the needed street repairs.

Grossmeyer stated residents will have to be educated as to the difference between state and local roads so people understand that funds from Proposal 1 will not really help fix local roads but that the money will help and he supports the resolution.

Resolution will be placed on the next City Council agenda for action.

LINDEN-ARGENTINE-FENTON (LAF) TRAILS COALITION PRESENTATION

Victor Lukasavitz gave an overview of the LAF Coalition. The Coalition is comprised of a group of citizens advocating for trails in the Fenton/Linden/Argentine area. In 2009 a trail study

was done and in 2010 the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission completed their 5 year plan and a lot of the trail installations took place north of this area. The 2015 plan lists priority trails and includes three routes in the local area:

1. Silver Lake Road between Linden and Fenton.
2. Silver Lake Road between Argentine and Linden.
3. Owen, Linden and Lobdell Roads.

Mr. Lukasavitz stated a fund has already been established for trail maintenance and the trails should not need any major work for at least five years. A grant match fund has also been established.

Michael Crane, a 5th grade student at State Road Elementary stated he choose trails as the subject of his International Baccalaureate (IB) project. As part of his project he wrote a letter that was sent home to the parents of State Road Elementary students. He reviewed the letter and stated parents can sign the letter in support of the proposed trails. The letter went home today and he hopes to meet with Council to share the results of the letter.

Mr. Lukasavitz stated the LAF Coalition will be at this weekend's Expo and at all parades and community events to inform the public of the work being done towards trail construction. He stated trails will have a positive economic impact on the surrounding areas. He stated grants are available through the MDNR and MDOT as well as various local foundations/service clubs and that Downtown Development Authorities are generally allowed to contribute because trails will bring business to the community. He provided copies of a flier that people can fill out to pledge their support for the trails.

King stated Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation (SLPR) is updating their Master Plan and asked how this project connects to that.

Mr. Lukasavitz stated he does not know what will be presented tonight but trails are listed in the goals and objectives of the SLPR plan but he cannot speak for SLPR because he is no longer on that board, but conversations have taken place between the two groups.

Lockwood stated SLPR is very supportive of trails and considers them a top priority but presently SLPR does not have funding for trails.

Bland stated trails have been talked about for more than twenty years and he is glad to see this moving forward. He hopes a trail can get started and hopefully that will prompt interest in getting more trails in place.

Grossmeyer stated he fully supports trails and asked when the results of the letter will be known. Michael Crane replied the letter is due back by March 9th and he hopes to attend another City Council meeting to share the results.

MILL POND MANOR PILOT ORDINANCE NO. 691

Markland stated Council held the first reading for this ordinance at the February 23, 2015 City Council meeting. Mill Pond Manor is in the process of refinancing and would like the existing PILOT reaffirmed.

Item will be brought to the next City Council meeting for action.

DAUNER HAUS PILOT ORDINANCE NO. 692

Markland stated the first reading for this ordinance was held at the February 23, 2015 City Council meeting. If City Council is in agreement, the ordinance will be brought forward for a second reading and adoption at the March 16, 2015 City Council meeting.

Raquel Whitt from MHT Housing, Inc. thanked the City Manager for working closely with her on this and thanked the Council for considering their request.

Item will be placed on the next City Council meeting for action.

ENERGY CONSULTATION PRESENTATION

Will Stiverson from Consumer Energy Options presented Council with an energy audit proposal from a company his firm works with called Ecore (Energy Cost Recovery Services, Inc.). Ecore audits energy bills for municipalities, school districts, 501C-3 and 501C-4 organizations and large manufacturing complexes to see if they've been overcharged by Consumers Energy or DTE. Ecore will audit four years of billing to look for overcharges to be refunded to the company/organization. If the audit results in a refund or credit, Ecore charges 45% of that amount.

Markland asked if Ecore gets a portion of any future savings. Mr. Stiverson responded Ecore will keep 45% of the first year of savings. He stated if no savings are found, there is no cost.

Markland asked if the City would be reimbursed by Consumers Energy if an overcharge is found. Mr. Stiverson responded Consumers Energy will either cut a check to the City or issue a bill credit. Ecore will bill the City for 45% of the amount of the check or credit the City receives from Consumers Energy. If there is savings during the first year after the audit, Ecore will bill the City quarterly.

Lockwood asked what other municipalities have done this and what the results were. Mr. Stiverson responded the area school districts paid a consultant who as part of their review, a bill audit was done. Linden and Lake Fenton Schools were fine and he is meeting with Fenton Schools this week and he is still in talks with the City of Linden. His firm has worked with Zilwaukee Township and they will be receiving a refund.

After discussion it was decided to place item on the next Council agenda for action.

SOUTHERN LAKES MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION

A motion was made by Osborn and seconded by Bland to table the presentation of the Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation Master Plan until the March 16, 2015 City Council meeting. Motion carried by a voice vote.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOLDING A GOOSE ROUND UP ON LAKE FENTON

Markland stated it is his understanding the Homeowners Association needs a resolution from the municipalities that the lake is in to send to the MDNR with the application to hold a goose round up.

Markland stated Fenton Township has not acted on this yet and will do so at their Township Board meeting on March 16th. After discussion it was decided to wait until Fenton Township takes action before taking up this issue.

A motion was made by Osborn and seconded by King to table the Resolution in Support of Holding a Goose Round Up on Lake Fenton. Motion carried by a voice vote.

PROPOSAL FOR NETWORK WIRING

Markland stated the computer network wiring in City Hall needs to be replaced. It does not have the capacity needed for the computer system and has become a bottle neck in the communications system slowing down the GIS system and internet service. A proposal was

requested from Michigan Communications, Inc. to replace the wiring. He is asking Council to approve Option #2 of the proposal at a cost of \$6,162.00.

Osborn asked if this was budgeted for. Markland responded no, but there is money available in Capital Outlay.

Grossmeyer asked the reasoning for getting a proposal on cat 6 cables and not fiber optic cable. Markland stated fiber optic cost more and it was thought the speed would not warrant the cost but he can get a quote for fiber optic and compare that to the cat 6 cost.

Item will be placed on next City Council agenda for consideration.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Grossmeyer commented he is glad to see the Library is open.

Bland stated he will not be at the March 23rd Council meeting as he will be out of town.

Lockwood reminded all the Expo is this weekend. She stated the first Freedom Festival committee meeting was held last week and the Grand Marshal for this year's parade will be Nick Popa. She commented a company is going door to door dropping off water testing bottles. Osborn stated the company needs to be contacted to inform them if they are going door to door, they need to obtain a solicitor's license.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

Cherie Smith, 200 Union Street, commented the Library looks great.

Doug Tebo, 409 Bent Oak, commented regarding Michael Crane's IB presentation earlier this evening. He stated the IB program is tied to a lot of things going on in the community. He has had students do work in the Cemetery for their IB program community service and thinks it's a great program.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 P.M.

Mayor Sue Osborn

City Clerk, Renee Wilson

Date approved: March 16, 2015