

CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
WORK SESSION
Monday, April 3, 2006
City Hall Conference Room
301 South Leroy Street

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

Present: Angeluski, Hammond, King, Moffitt, North, Osborn, Rauch.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Michael Senyko, City Manager; Christopher Wren, Assistant City Manager; Richard Aro, Police Chief.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None.

FLINT AREA NARCOTICS GROUP (FANG)

Senyko reported to the Council that FANG was on the agenda for the evening in order to discuss a series of issues that have arisen over time between both parties. Senyko announced that there is new leadership in Fang at this point, and keeping them in the community merits a discussion.

Chief Aro was present to discuss the matter and he introduced Mitch Krugielki, commander of the FANG operations, to answer any questions as well. Aro stated that he has seen an improvement and growth of confidence in FANG.

Aro sparked a discussion on the issue with the large forfeiture that was received from the City in the last year. Aro stated that sharing forfeiture money was not a standard practice for FANG. Aro also stated that the forfeiture was not as large as originally thought. Aro went on to explain that a forfeiture is a civil prosecution, and generally, the judges in Genesee County do not take these cases to court, but rather they try to settle them out of court. As a result of this process, more than half of the forfeiture money went back to the accused. King inquired if the Council should pass a resolution in support of changing this process and Aro stated that the Council could help by maintaining a dialogue with higher elected officials on this matter and expressing their opinion about it.

Senyko explained that the frustration on the City's part in this situation stemmed with how the matter was handled. Senyko stated that there should be some administrative changes made because now the City is not receiving any dues credits and there was no notification about this change. Rauch inquired who sets the amounts for dues and Krugielki explained that the County uses a set formula to determine the amount. Aro went on to explain that the initial dues is always a set amount, however if they have a good year, then the municipality will receive a larger credit; the City was previously paying approximately 30% of their initial dues amount because of this. Krugielki explained that FANG is facing some serious budget cuts so the dues credits had to be reduced and he stated that 100% of those dues will go towards maintaining staffing. Krugielki felt it was better to move the dues credit to the end of the year so that all costs were sure to be met. Furthermore, Krugielki agreed that the message was

delivered poorly to the municipalities. Aro stated that FANG's sources of revenue are forfeitures and federal grants, which are used to supplement the cost of the salaries of the officers. Aro stated that he felt it was very important for all the municipalities to act as a team in this situation, working towards a common goal of alleviating drug sales and use. Hammond asked if the ZONE program designed by Sheriff Pickell was still operating, and if they were crossing paths with FANG. Krugielki stated that both groups maintain good communication and there are measures in place to make sure that either party does not interfere with the other.

Osborn questioned how the forfeiture money is spent. Krugielki explained that the money is used to pay for vehicle and training expenses, as well as the cost involved with proving the validity of the forfeitures themselves. Krugielki explained that the budget obligations must be met first, and that is the reason why there was not a dues credit this year. Osborn asked how often FANG is in Fenton and Aro stated that they have been in the City twice since January. Hammond stated that the organization is important because it is helping to take drugs off the market and out of our communities. Hammond inquired if FANG notified non-members if there was activity in their communities. Krugielki explained that he is speaking to the participants now to encourage their membership and to explain why FANG is so necessary.

Angeluski inquired how the group was organized and Krugielki stated that it is largely administered by the Michigan State Police. Aro stated that all of the leaders come from the State Police, but there are other officers from different municipalities as well. Angeluski asked if someone could be appointed from Fenton, and Aro stated that he would like the opportunity to send someone from Fenton's department, however, they do not have an officer to spare at this time.

Osborn questioned why FANG can cross county lines. Krugielki stated that they have to go where the case takes them, so sometimes it is necessary. Rauch mentioned a newsletter to inform the elected officials of FANG's work. Krugielki stated that there is nothing printed in the newsletter that would jeopardize one of their cases, however FANG doesn't just respond to drug incidents. Aro stated that FANG is designed to address the hierarchy of drug dealers, and the City of Flint simply does not have the manpower to maintain control of the lower level.

Osborn was still skeptical but she feels that everyone should have to pay their fair share of dues. Rauch asked how the FANG board was chosen and Aro described the various boards and explained how they were selected. Osborn inquired when the next FANG meeting would be and Krugielki stated that it would be on June 22nd at 9:00 AM at Burton City Hall.

WEBSITE

Wren reported that the City website is progressing well and he reviewed some of the objectives of the site as well as some of the material that will be on it. When Osborn inquired about on-line bill payment, Dale Keipert, of Creative Web Spinners, stated that it is best not to overwhelm the public with the information on this site at first. However, Keipert and Wren did assure her that on-line payment will be coming in the future after further research is conducted on the credit card fees associated with this type of bill payment.

Keipert explained that they will use demographic information to decide the top tasks of the site

that people will use most frequently. Wren explained that seasonal topics will be addressed on the front page as well. Rauch expressed concern for having too much information available, which would make the site very overwhelming to the average user. Wren explained that the information on the site will all be layered so that the site is as easy to navigate as possible.

Wren requested that the Council give him ideas of what they would like to see on the site pertaining to the Council, such as pictures, e-mail links, and other contact information. Senyko stated that they have met with all departments regarding what should be on their individual sites and Wren explained that the site can be updated on a daily basis because there will be direct access at City Hall to do so. Wren stated that they are hoping to launch the site in mid May of this year.

Moffitt expressed that the Council's page should be kept simple, with just contact information for now. Wren stated that they can set up a secure e-mail account through the City server, which the Council members can access at anytime, from anywhere they have internet access. North described her picture of how the user would access information on the site, which was on point with the "Three Click" system that Keipert and Wren had described. King suggested having statistical information about the growth and development of the City. North suggested having a section on the History of Fenton, as well as links to the schools. Hammond expressed that the web site will be a great asset to builders and contractors in the City. Angeluski questioned the benefit this web site would have for those people who don't own computers and expressed his concern that those people would not be able to conduct their business with the City. Wren explained that while the web site is designed to be a virtual City Hall, all of the same services will still be offered at City Hall. Wren stated that nothing will change except that people will have more availability to conduct business with the City. Keipert explained that the purpose of the site is to present the most consistent and accurate information possible. Keipert also stated that this site gives the administration of the City more ability to offer options for people to conduct business.

CULTURAL CENTER

Senyko did not have an update for the Cultural Center except that they are still fundraising. Senyko announced that there will be a wine tasting on Saturday at the Community Center to raise funds. Senyko suggested that interested parties contact Nancy Draves for ticket availability.

OTHER

Rauch expressed his displeasure with the administration of Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation because he feels the millage money is being used improperly by using it to pay for employees, rather than programs. Angeluski agreed with Rauch by stating that the purpose was to develop the parks and programs, but the money is going to the wrong place. Osborn requested getting Vince Paris to come speak to the Council about the Southern Lakes organization.

King reviewed the retreat she attended last Saturday, pertaining to the Loose Senior Citizen Center and the Interlocal agreement dealing with Community Development Block Grant funds.

Senyko requested that the Council return their prioritized list of goals to him at their earliest convenience. Senyko will redistribute a copy in the next Friday Memo.

King inquired if there was any decisions made about the vacant Fire Chief's position and Senyko

stated that there have not been any decisions yet. King also stated that the rubbish on Torrey Road and the intersection of North Road and US-23 is very noticeable at this time. King reminded everyone that there will be a PJ Party fundraiser on May 13th from 7-11 PM at the Fenton Community Center to raise funds for the Loose Senior Citizens Center. King stated that the tickets are \$35 a piece, and anyone interested can contact her for more information.

Moffitt would like to see the Fire Chief's position filled.

CALL TO AUDIENCE - None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Mayor, Sue Osborn

Deputy City Clerk, Jennifer Wills