

CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL WORK SESSION PROCEEDINGS

**Monday, April 7, 2014
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, McDermott, Osborn.
Absent: King (excused), Lockwood (excused).
Others Present: Lynn Markland, City Manager and Mike Burns, Assistant City Manager.

CITIZENS COMMENTS None.

SALE OF 703 MAIN STREET

Markland stated the City used the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) to purchase the home at 703 Main Street. The property was in such disrepair that the home was demolished. The vacant property has to be sold in accordance with NSP guidelines. This was discussed with Genesee County and they recommend the City consider selling the property to Habitat for Humanity, who indicated they are interested in the property and have provided examples of house elevations that would fit into the character of the neighborhood.

Grossmeyer commented the lot is narrow and inquired if variances would be needed to make the lot buildable. He is in favor of selling the property to Habitat for Humanity but wants to make sure it's a buildable lot before the City sells it and feels it is up to the City to get any required variances.

Markland commented he agrees and stated if the lot is the lot of record, it does not have to meet the minimum width requirements, but the house would have to meet setback requirements.

Grossmeyer stated there may be an issue with the fence on the lot and feels it's the City's responsibility to take care of any issues with the lot before it is sold.

Markland commented he has worked with Habitat for Humanity on different projects that didn't include garages and feels the City should require this project to have a detached garage and noted most homes in the area have one.

Osborn stated she feels it is only fair that the purchaser of the lot know the requirements for the land before the City offers it for sale.

Markland commented he will look into these issues before the next City Council meeting.

SUNDAY LIQUOR SALES

Jacob stated he has been approached by businesses and individuals in town who have mentioned to him that they have to go outside of the City to purchase alcohol on Sunday morning. He stated local stores are missing out on sales and feels not allowing Sunday morning sales creates a loss of sales for local businesses as people are traveling outside the City to make their purchases. He thinks this issue should be revisited and asked what everyone's feeling on the issue is.

Grossmeyer commented he was not on the Council last time this was addressed and would be interested to know how the discussions went and why it was turned down. He is in

favor of it and noted that areas all around the City allow Sunday morning sales. He thinks people would be purchasing on Sunday morning that are headed up north, on their way to a party, etc. and feels the businesses within the City should have the opportunity to make those sales that are now being made outside the City.

Osborn asked that Council members be provided with the meeting minutes and information from the last time this topic was addressed before it is placed on a City Council agenda. She stated individuals have approached her who indicated they are not in favor of allowing Sunday morning sales and they feel if individuals are adamant about having alcohol Sunday morning that it can be purchased Saturday night.

Bland stated he is in agreement with the comments made to the Mayor. He feels if someone wants to drink on Sunday morning, they have the opportunity to purchase it Saturday night. He doesn't feel that just because the surrounding areas allow sales means the City has to and he is not in favor of allowing Sunday morning sales.

McDermott asked if the City has been contacted by local businesses. He has been in local businesses and has been asked what the City thinks. He told those individuals to write a letter to City Council and ask to address this issue. Markland responded he has had contact with local businesses that have commented on the issue.

McDermott asked if the City could set specific use cases for allowing early sales (i.e. selling packaged goods vs. restaurant sales) or if the City isn't allowed to differentiate. Markland commented he will check with the City Attorney.

Osborn commented she would like to go over this again at the next work session when the entire Council is present and have had a chance to review the information from the last time this was addressed.

Bland commented to his recollection the last time this was discussed, statements were made that local businesses were losing money and doesn't know how that information could be determined. Grossmeyer responded he had heard it was determined by the amount of alcohol that had to be returned to the shelf that people tried to purchase before noon.

Consensus was to revisit this issue at a future work session when all Council members are present.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Grossmeyer commented the Fire Department's monthly newsletter indicated Al Morea celebrated 40 years and Mike Peterson celebrated 30 years with the Department. He asked that they be sent a letter of appreciation or some sort of recognition take place. He commented at the Small Cities meeting last week Genesee County wanted to appoint new members to the 911 consortium and they came to the Small Cities for approval of the two new members. Markland commented one of the reasons the Genesee County Small Cities and Villages Association was formed was so small cities get a voice on issues at the County level.

McDermott complimented the D.P.W. for their work at the City parks. He visited all the parks this weekend and was impressed how clean they were. He commented the parks clean-up is scheduled for May 15th.

Osborn shared with Council a card received from students at State Road Elementary thanking the Council for allowing them to present their letters regarding the Therapy Animal Ordinance.

Bland asked for an update on the streetscape project. Markland responded the road portion has been approved; the landscaping hasn't been approved yet, but expects federal

approval to take place on April 25th, then it has to go to MDOT to be bid out. The road portion was approved in February and there used to be three years to spend the funds obligated to the project. He was told the rules were changed and now money has to be spent within a year so there is talk of de-obligating the funds and re-obligating them.

Osborn commented the Fire Chief applied for a S.A.F.E.R. grant for the Fire Department and was informed today that it was denied.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE – Tim Jagielo, Tri-County Times, commented regarding Sunday morning liquor sales stating if the City allows it, businesses would still have to get a permit from the State and that’s how it’s determined who is actually selling liquor on Sunday mornings.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

Mayor Sue Osborn

City Clerk, Renee Wilson

Date approved: April 28, 2014