

**CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, May 1, 2006  
City Hall Conference Room  
301 South Leroy Street**

Mayor Osborn called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Present: Angeluski, Hammond, King, Moffitt, North, Osborn, Rauch.  
Absent: None.  
Others Present: Michael Senyko, City Manager; Christopher Wren, Assistant City Manager;  
Les Bland, Public Works Director; Abe Munfkah, Engineer; Vince Paris, SLPR  
Executive Director; Cynthia Shane, Treasurer; Paul Stauder, Stauder & Barch.

**CROSS CONNECTION UPDATE**

DPW Director Bland introduced Edward Auferoth, of Hydro Designs who was present to provide an update on the Cross Connection Program. The City of Fenton is mandated by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to make sure there are no potential connections which could contaminate the water supply. All commercial, industrial, and institutional sites have been inspected at least once. He reported that Fenton's Program is in the top 10% in the State of Michigan in compliance. They have found that approximately 35% of sites visited will need corrective action. This is an ongoing process which will require re-inspections every one to five years. Bland then went on to explain the inspection process. He reported that the City will soon be required to inspect all residential sites. This will be funded entirely through the water fund.

**DWRF & SRF PROJECTS UPDATE**

Senyko updated council on the projects which Council authorized to be done through the DWRF and SRF funding. Senyko also informed them of the proposed rate increases which resulted in a lengthy discussion. Also discussed was the Genesee County directed increases for sewer rates.

Abe Munfkah reviewed and discussed the approved projects. In addition, they are proposing to pick up a dead-end water main servicing Whisperwood Condominiums, which will provide water in the event of a main break. This will allow for better circulation of water and better water quality. An easement will be required before any work can be completed. All lines on North Road will be totally replaced. Also the twelve inch main on Adelaide Street to the reservoir is scheduled for total replacement with ductile iron piping. Angeluski expressed his appreciation for the work to be done on the water main in Whisperwood Condominium. Munfkah reported that the project is scheduled to be funded sometime in July through September, the last quarter of the State's fiscal year. Senyko noted that the designs must also be finished, final approval must be received from Genesee County and there is a resolution to be adopted.

The sewer project is a similar program funded through low interest loans. With this project, the City will be attempting to eliminate storm water from the sanitary sewer system to avoid being charged

for treating it. Five of the City's pump stations are aging and will be upgraded. Replacement of the sanitary sewers in the Elmwood Subdivision will include re-routing of the residential patio storm drains to the storm sewer system. This project will be paid for through the loan program. There is an estimated cost of \$2.6 million for the sewer project and \$1.9 million for the water project.

Paul Stauder, of Stauder and Barch, the City's Financial Advisor, pointed out a couple requirements to apply for funding of projects. The City must demonstrate need and show the impact on water rates. After this report was submitted, information from the utility system was received and has generated some changes. There has been a pronounced drop in water usage, which has helped to develop Stauder's recommendation on rates. Usage will be tracked closely over the next year or two. In addition, Stauder reported that Genesee County has increased their sewer rates. The proposed rate increase is approximately 23% in order to accommodate funding and county rate increases. Senyko needs Council guidance in order to develop a plan for implementation of this rate increase. Moffitt expressed concerns over putting the financial burden of system repairs on the residents. Discussion continued regarding alternative funding options. Rauch stressed the importance of explaining the proposed increases clearly to the citizens.

## **SOUTHERN LAKES PARKS & RECREATION**

Vince Paris, Executive Director, Justin Sprague and Dave Osborn, all representing Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation, were present to update the Council on the progress of their programs and to answer any questions Council may have. Paris stated he felt the need to improve the lines of communication between SLP&R and the local municipalities.

Paris provided a publication giving a brief history of the Southern Lakes Regional Metropolitan Parks & Recreation District. He also provided an administrative organizational chart and reviewed the programs in the shared collaborative with the area school districts. Paris pointed out that 19% of the millage revenue is donated each year to the Loose Senior Center to help fund their operations and a small portion is set aside for scholarships.

Paris then reviewed the SLP&R millage information for budget year 2006, reviewing expenses and the millage revenue captured. A list of administrative employment statistics, wages, and benefits was also provided.

Rauch felt the history provided was not complete. It was his recollection that the original intent for usage of the millage revenue was to provide programs for low income families. Paris pointed out that Southern Lakes is basically an independent government body, and it requires a lot of time and staff in order to continue functioning.

Angeluski reviewed documents, minutes and the process for adoption of the charter and his opinion of the intent of the charter language regarding maintenance of the parks. Osborn explained the language regarding park maintenance, stating that it referred to property which may be purchased by the SLP&R and then maintained. There was never an intent for them to maintain any of the local community parks.

Moffitt questioned Southern Lakes involvement in the Lake Fenton Lakers Little League. Paris explained that they provide them with a mini grant and receive no money from that organization.

Osborn feels this program has provided programs for the area residents far greater than could

be done without it.

David Osborn, noted the LDFA money doesn't have to be spent on parks, but the City has made a decision to do so. Southern Lakes said they would like to see some of the facilities in the area improved. Emphasis has been placed on seniors and kids, but has not been limited to just youth and seniors. They also recognize the need to do more for lower income families.

King stated her perception of the program was to keep it affordable.

Angeluski pointed out the prices in the catalog are too high for area youth to afford. He also felt that too much of the revenue was being spent for employees and benefits.

Rauch stated he supports Southern Lakes, he supports some of what it stands for, but does not agree with its definition of recreational programs. It was his understanding that part of the revenue would help people with low to moderate income. He felt it was not being promoted to encourage these people to apply for available grants.

King suggested higher non-resident fees.

When Paris came on, he was asked by the board to focus on collaboration, working with non profits and youth groups. He stressed that communication is key to the success of the organization.

Hammond noted the DDA has money in its budget for Bush Park and the initiative was taken by Southern Lakes to improve and repair the drains.

## **CULTURAL CENTER**

Senyko reported fund raising still continues.

## **OTHER**

Rauch complimented the Fire Department on the new ISO rating of four.

North asked when joint meetings will be brought back. Senyko confirmed it will happen in July.

King passed out fliers for the Loose Center PJ Party. She reviewed some of the events planned for the evening.

Osborn made various announcements for upcoming events to be placed in the Friday Memo.

Moffitt referred to entries in DDA minutes referring to the liquor license issue and potential use of the Old Fire Hall which raised some concerns on his part. Senyko then explained the intent of those statements and elaborated on the discussion. He explained the current law on the 500 foot requirement from a church. He explained that the Methodist Church has the right to oppose the sale of liquor within the 500 feet, however the Michigan Liquor Control Commission has the final right of approval.

Osborn reported receiving calls from Elizabeth Evans who reports problems with gravel trucks using city streets. She stressed the need to meet with Legal Counsel because the truck traffic is not being controlled. Senyko explained that if the trucks are turning north from the gravel pit they are legal for local deliveries once they enter the City.

## **CALL TO AUDIENCE -**

Pete Medor, Davis Street, reported that Thursday is a National Day of Prayer. A service will be held at noon.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 P.M.

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Sue Osborn, Mayor

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Melinda Carrier, City Clerk