

CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL WORK SESSION PROCEEDINGS

Monday, June 3, 2013

City Hall Council Chambers

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

Present: Jacob, King, Lockwood, Osborn, Smith.

Absent: Bland. (Excused)

Others Present: Lynn Markland, City Manager; Michael Burns, Rick Aro, Police Chief; Assistant City Manager; Daniel Czarnecki, Director of Public Works; Bob Cairnduff, Fire Chief.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None.

PRESENTATION BY STUDENTS FROM ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL ON RECYCLING BINS

Students from St. John's School in Fenton addressed the Council concerning the placement of recycling bins in various locations around the City. The students stated that there are places in the City where trash is present because there are no receptacles nearby and this could also result in being harmful to wildlife. The students added that there are a lot of items that are placed in the trash that could be recycled. The students feel that adding recycling bins around the City would provide for a cleaner and healthier environment as well as a more professional look around town.

Lockwood stated that the Parks and recreation Board submitted a grant proposal for the City Parks to place recycling bins around. Lockwood added that the City would like to partner with D. McDunnough on this venture and reviewed that bins will be arriving for placement on June 7, 2013 for the City to try the program out. Markland added that the City will be adding new benches and trash receptacles Downtown as part of the Streetscape plan.

PRESENTATION BY STUDENTS AT ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL ON CITY CROSSWALKS

Another group of students from St. John's School in Fenton addressed the Council about the crosswalks in the City. The students stated that they do not feel that pedestrian traffic is safe in the City.

The students reviewed the City's current ordinance concerning crosswalks and felt the ordinance is good but that a plan needs to be devised for better enforcement.

Aro stated that the problem of enforcement arises from the hesitation of the pedestrian because drivers may not always know if a person is planning to cross the street or not. Lockwood stated that the City is working diligently towards making Fenton a more walkable community and they are taking measures to achieve this. Lockwood stated that the issue is difficult to enforce but felt that the new Streetscape design will greatly help with this. Aro added that an officer has to witness an incident happen in order to write a ticket under the City's Civil Infraction ordinance. Osborn thanked the students for bringing both of their presentations to the Council.

DISCUSSION ON STREET ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Czarnecki reviewed that the Council requested that a study be completed on the condition of the City's street system. Czarnecki stated that he has been working with OHM to assess the roads and the study is now complete. Czarnecki added that Tim Juidici and Nick Brass, of OHM, are here to present their findings to the Council.

Juidici reviewed the Paser rating system that was used to address the City streets which is composed of a scale from 1-10, 10 being a brand new street and anything lower than a 4 really cannot be salvaged. Juidici explained that street asset planning is a matter of implementing a mix of restorative methods in order to get the maximum life out of the roads. Smith confirmed that the difference between be able to pulverize and overlay a road versus a total reconstruct really depends on the conditions present underneath the road and can cause problems with curbs and gutters as well.

Juidici explained that now is the time for the City to identify the funding level to address the streets and added that the majority of the City's local streets are at a level 3 or 4 and there are also a lot of streets that are at the 5-6 level that could easily fall to a lower level. Juidici added that most of the deterioration has been caused by water phases. Juidici stated that if nothing is done to improve the city streets, then 95% of the streets will be in poor condition within a period of ten years. Juidici stated that the Council should consider a dedicated road millage or dedicating a percentage of the City's operation millage to this endeavor. Juidici further stated that there are other factors to consider here as well such as base conditions of the streets, drainage issues, coordination with the City's capital improvement plan, as well as use of the streets and aesthetics.

Juidici explained that the City could get funding for streets from Act 51 monies, the Transportation Improvement Program, a dedicated road millage, or possible special assessment districts. Lockwood stated that this is a great beginning on the path to addressing the City's roads but funding is always the challenge. Lockwood added that only 22 cities in the State of Michigan have submitted their street asset management plans to the State for review. Czarnecki stated that it is good to have this type of plan available. Markland stated that it is prudent for the City to submit this plan to the State in case other funding methods for local streets become available. Osborn stated that numbers should be put together as far as what money is available for what areas and the Council should revisit the matter and discuss it again. King stated that she felt a specific road millage is a very good idea and could get passed if there is enough education for the public out in front of the proposal. Osborn stated that it will be important to look at drainage issues as a part of this project too. Smith stated that the plan should be to put funding towards maintaining the roads that are in fair and good condition first then address the streets that are in poor condition when money becomes available. Jacob stated that a special assessment district process could be used to offset the delay in waiting to fix roads that are in very poor condition.

LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST FOR CAFÉ AROMA, LLC

Aro reviewed the request from Café Aroma, LLC to acquire the vacant liquor license that the City has acquired through the increase in population according to the 2010 Census. Aro stated that Café Aroma is a reputable business that has been operating in town for quite some time and now they are moving to a new location in the Cornerstone Building and would like to serve alcohol to their guests there.

King confirmed that the application was incorrect in requesting Sunday morning sales and that the business does not wish to engage in that activity. Lockwood confirmed that the City currently has eight licenses of this nature and that the applicant is the only entity to request acquisition of the license.

Lockwood stated that Café Aroma is a great existing business and this is a great use of the additional license. Jacob and King stated that they have no issue with this request. Smith stated that he is thrilled to see a local family doing so well with their business in Fenton and felt that this is a great move for both Café Aroma and the City.

CHANGES TO FIREFIGHTER PAYROLL

Cairnduff addressed the Council and proposed an increase to the hourly rate of firefighter pay as well as an increase in the per-run contribution from the City for the firefighters 401K retirement program. Cairnduff stated that there is money in the budget to proceed with these changes and it will greatly help the City with retention of good firefighters. Cairnduff further stated that Fire Departments all over are experiencing a problem with retention and municipalities are not getting the return on the investment they are making to train firefighters. Cairnduff further stated that Fenton's Department had a great group of individuals and he feels that the increases are reasonable and needed.

The Council all agreed that the firefighters deserve these increases and that the Department is top notch. Council agreed to address this item at the next meeting.

VACANCY ON THE CITY COUNCIL

Smith stated that the Council should perhaps put off this discussion until all members of the

Council are present. King stated that Bland does not have a problem with the Council beginning to address this matter. Osborn stated that the Council can appoint a member to the Council to fill the seat within 30 days, otherwise, a special election will have to be held to fill the vacancy.

A motion was made by Osborn and seconded by Lockwood to declare a vacancy on the City Council due to the passing of Councilman Michael Piacentini. Motion carried by voice vote.

The Council agreed that letters of interest should be submitted to the City Clerk's office by 5:00 PM on June 14, 2013 for consideration of appointment. The Council will likely hold a special meeting to review candidate and consider an appointment for the vacant seat.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Lockwood reviewed the progress of the Holiday Lighting Committee and added that they received a lot of good information from the presentation from the City of Rochester's DDA consultant regarding their lighting strategies. King added that the North LeRoy businesses are looking for options for their district as well. Lockwood stated that there has been some interest for new appointments to the Committee.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

Czarnecki stated that the water ground storage tanks are being drained and cleaned right now.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Mayor Sue Osborn

City Clerk, Jennifer Naismith