

## **CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL WORK SESSION PROCEEDINGS**

**Monday, July 1, 2013**

**City Hall Council Chambers**

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

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

Absent: Bland. (Excused)

Others Present: Lynn Markland, City Manager; Daniel Czarnecki, Director of Public Works; Steve Guy, Water Plant Supervisor, Rick Aro, Police Chief.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Cherie Smith requested to speak about the Holiday Lighting Committee.

### **SERVICE CREDIT PURCHASE FOR RON SKARZYNSKI**

Markland reviewed the request of Ron Skarzynski to purchase an additional five years of generic service credit through MERS, the City's employee retirement plan. Markland explained that Skarzynski would like to fund the \$56,945.10 purchase by using funds accrued through an early sick time payoff, conditional upon the submission of his retirement date. Aro stated that Skarzynski has been a great employee for the Police Department and added that he supported and recommended approval of his request.

King stated that Skarzynski has done a great job but she is concerned about any increased costs to the City for approval of this request. Markland explained how the actuarial was completed to arrive at the figure for the purchase amount and what assumptions were used and how they work. Markland further stated that this would not cause an increased fiscal impact for the City. Jacob, Lockwood, Grossmeyer, and Osborn all supported the request and the Council agreed to place this item on the next agenda for consideration. The Council collectively thanked Skarzynski for his service to the City.

### **DISCUSSION ON THE PROGRESS OF EXPLORATORY WATER WELL DRILLING**

Guy reviewed the history of the City's decision to drill a test site for a possible new well that may provide a better quality of raw water for treatment. Guy further informed the Council, while he was hopeful at first that the test drill site would produce a better quality of water, it has been determined that the water generated at this site is far too salty to warrant using it as a replacement water source to what the City is currently using. Guys stated that possible sites at Silver Lake Park and Trealout Drive present cost prohibitive factors when considering the infrastructure that would be required to transport the raw water to the Treatment Plant.

Guy stated that drilling at Silver Lake Park will likely yield the same result as what was found with the current recent test well and infrastructure costs would be prohibitive at this site. Osborn stated that she is concerned about the safety of the water supply if it were to be located in a public park. Mark Sweatman, of BCI Engineers, stated that this endeavor was a success because a lot of information was learned through the process.

Lockwood stated that the results are disappointing but expressed concern about how Silver Lake would be affected if the City were to drill at Silver Lake Park. Lockwood also confirmed that this project has come in \$28,000 under what was budgeted for it. Lockwood further confirmed that if the Council took no further action at this time, the City's water supply would remain the same, however, there would be no clearly identified contingency site. Grossmeyer questioned if the savings generated by a better water supply would justify the significant cost of new infrastructure. Guy stated that a savings of \$50,000 per year would take about thirty years for the City to recoup its costs. Grossmeyer confirmed that it is unknown if the old infrastructure to the old wells still exists. King confirmed that grant funding was not available for the installation of a new well, unless possible contamination was a serious factor. Guy stated that options are just being discussed right now and more planning needs to take place if the City wants to proceed with this at some point. Czarnecki stated that the City needs to take a step back and look at the operation and function of the City's entire water system.

Markland stated that the review tonight is for informational purposes only and more review of the project is needed. Jacob stated that some valuable information was gained through this process but he feels that the City should rest on this issue for now. Council agreed with Jacob on this matter.

### **ENERGY SAVINGS PROPOSAL FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, WATER TREATMENT PLANT, AND THE LIBRARY.**

Markland reviewed that the ATI Group approached the City about receiving grant funding through Consumers Energy to install more efficient lighting around the City's buildings. Michelle Landon, of the ATI Group, addressed the Council about participating in a pilot program through Consumers Energy to install more efficient lighting. Specifically, Landon explained that indoor lighting could be replaced at the Police Department and the Library and exterior lighting could be replaced at the Water Treatment Plant. Landon explained that the City's cost to install the lighting would be \$3,000 after the rebate and would result in an \$8,000 reduction of expenditures per year.

Osborn confirmed that options could be explored for the Community Center as well. Lockwood confirmed that ATI is a trade ally with Consumers Energy and they partner with them in order to help administer their program. Osborn confirmed that City Hall may qualify for some other programs as well.

Candace Carlson, also of the ATI Group, stated that there are lots of ways to generate funding for this. Grossmeyer added that there are several different rebates available for renovation projects. Carlson explained that ATI would guarantee a three year warranty on the light renovations and labor. Osborn would like to see continued evaluation on the lighting at City Hall as well as exterior lighting at the Police Department. King stated that people do not realize how much it costs to provide streetlights and added that investigation of efficiency changes needs to continue because of increasing costs. Council agreed to address this issue at their next meeting.

### **DISCUSSION ON AMENDMENTS TO THE GENESEE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Markland explained that the Council had been given the proposed amendments to the Genesee County Solid Waste Management Plan for their review and comments. Markland further explained that the County will be looking for a resolution of support from the City for the proposed changes. Markland noted that the City of Flint is now doing curbside recycling and the plan should be corrected to reflect this. Council agreed to address this item at the next meeting.

### **PROGRESS OF THE HOLIDAY LIGHTING COMMITTEE**

King reviewed the history of the Holiday Lighting Committee and the composition of its membership.

King also reviewed the progress that was made by the Committee in the past year by making additions to lighting and garland to the light poles Downtown, as well as additional lighting at the Community Center. King stated that the Committee will be bringing recommendations for further progress to the Council for consideration and approval.

Cherie Smith, a member of the Committee, expressed her disappointment that the Committee has only met twice since its creation, however, she felt that they were on the right track by bringing Bronners in to evaluate the City's current assets. Ms. Smith also stated that there should be a regular meeting schedule set up for the Committee, as many of the members are business owners and need more notification of meeting times in order to fit it in their schedules.

Councilman Smith stated that he does not feel that the Committee is making progress on this task fast enough and added that they need to decide on a timeline for financing the entire project. King stated that the Committee will be making a decision about what to recommend to the Council. Osborn stated that the Downtown looked better at Christmastime this year than it has in a very long time and added that the Committee had limited time and finances to accomplish much in the first year. Lockwood stated that the Committee only had \$5,000 to work with this year and the City is not really funding this project because the business owners have a stake in this project. Lockwood stated that it was good to see this project at least moving forward and commended King for her work. Osborn commended King and Lockwood for their work as

Co-chairs of the Committee as well as the membership of the Committee for what they have been able to accomplish so far.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Grossmeyer stated that there is a great need for a community calendar on the City's website and would like to work towards seeing that accomplished. Lockwood reminded the Council of the reception for the Grand Marshal, Bob Harris Sr., at the Fenton hotel on July 3, 2013 at 8:00 PM.

Markland stated that the prototype of the signs for the North LeRoy Business District is displayed out front and that he has been working with them quite a bit on this matter. Markland stated that he believes the actual signs will be larger than proposed.

### **CALL TO THE AUDIENCE**

Homer Feamster addressed the Council and stated that there was a problem with flooding in their neighborhood after the recent heavy rains and that 10-12 homes were affected by it. Feamster questioned if maybe the drains need to be cleaned out. Czarnecki stated that flooding occurred all over the City after that particular storm and the system was just simply overrun with water. Czarnecki stated that he will follow up on this matter and check to determine if the drains need to be cleared out.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

---

Mayor Sue Osborn

---

City Clerk, Jennifer Naismith