

CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL WORK SESSION PROCEEDINGS
Monday, July 6, 2015
City Hall Conference Room
301 South LeRoy Street
7:30 PM

Mayor Sue Osborn called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Present: Bland, Grossmeyer, Jacob, King, Lockwood, McDermott, Osborn.
Absent: None.
Others Present: Lynn Markland, City Manager and Mike Burns, Assistant City Manager.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None.

REVISED ROUTE FOR BASTILLE DAY 15K RUN AND 5K RUN/WALK

Markland stated the Bastille Day race is scheduled for July 11th and part of the original route included the portion of Shiawassee and South Leroy that is currently under construction. It was anticipated the street paving for Phase I of the Streetscape project would be completed prior to the race. Mark Hamel, who organizes the race, provided an alternate race route that was distributed to Council prior to tonight's meeting.

Lockwood asked if the revised route had been approved by the Police Chief. Burns stated the Police Chief and Mr. Hamel discussed the revised route on Friday. Grossmeyer commented he has worked on this race before and there are a lot of volunteers to help with the race and he is confident that whatever intersections are affected will be handled very well.

A motion was made by Lockwood and seconded by Jacob to approve both routes based on the decision of Administration. Bland and Markland stated only the alternate route needs to be approved. Motion was amended by Lockwood and re-supported by Jacob to approve the alternate route. Motion carried by a voice vote.

MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

Markland stated Tami Seago from APM Mosquito Control asked to address City Council regarding accusations she has been spraying in areas that she has been requested not to spray. Markland stated Ms. Seago indicated to him she has a GPS system that shows what areas have been sprayed and she wanted to talk about that and discuss the mosquito control program in general. Item was postponed until Ms. Seago can attend a meeting.

SIDEWALKS DISCUSSION

Markland stated Councilwoman King asked for this to be on the agenda. He stated there are issues with the sidewalk around the Cornerstone building and he thinks the issue should be tabled until the developers are available to attend a meeting to discuss the issue.

Osborn asked what the issue is. Markland stated the sidewalk was installed late in the year when the weather wasn't the greatest. The first five feet of the sidewalk is the responsibility of Cornerstone, the rest is the responsibility of the City. The sidewalks are scaling and he thinks it is due to a combination of the weather conditions when the sidewalk was poured and the solution used to clean the brick on the building during construction.

King stated she is concerned taxpayers will have to pay for the repairs. Bland asked if the damage is on the area of the sidewalk that the City is responsible for. Markland stated there are issues on both parts of the sidewalks.

Jacob stated if concrete is not poured in the right conditions during the winter months and is exposed to the elements, it won't cure properly and the top layer will begin to scale.

Markland stated the brick on the building was acid washed after the sidewalks were installed so a combination of things caused this issue.

Bland suggested meeting with representatives of Cornerstone to discuss this issue. Markland stated the plan is to fix the sidewalk when the Streetscape project reaches that end of town. Only the first ten feet of sidewalk was poured; the rest was planned to be completed during the Streetscape project.

Osborn asked if something could be placed over the existing concrete to fix the problem. Markland responded that isn't an option as it would separate from the sidewalk already in place.

King stated she would like a discussion to take place on who is responsible for paying for repairs. Jacob stated he thinks this should be looked into to determine if anyone other than the City should share in the cost of repairs.

Markland stated Administration will look into this more before the next work session.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Osborn stated the Freedom Festival Committee did an excellent job on this year's festival and thanked all involved for their work. She expressed her gratitude to Councilwoman King for delivering items for the Freedom Festival parade and Grand Marshal Reception so she could tend to a family matter. She thanked Councilman Jacob for his work on River Fest.

Grossmeyer conveyed concerns with businesses selling fireworks inside tents in the parking lots along Silver Parkway. He stated a lot of the tents have signage that indicate no fireworks within 300 feet and stated those businesses should be given the ordinance that states it is illegal to discharge fireworks anywhere in that area and he picked up firework shells within 100-200 feet from the tents. He asked to get advice from legal counsel to come up with regulations that indicate no tents with fireworks are allowed within 1000 feet of a public event. He knows businesses along the parkway are allowed to have outside sales for two weeks and suggested the two weeks be allowed, but indicate the tents cannot operate on the 4th of July. He expressed concerns with signs that violate the zoning ordinance and vendors sleeping in their cars next to the tents.

Markland stated he does not think there is much that can be done as the City must follow state law. He can check with the legal counsel to see if it is allowable to not permit fireworks to be sold from tents.

Grossmeyer asked that tighter restrictions be put into place if possible. Lockwood stated several things were observed both during and after the festival and suggested compiling those observations and recommendations and contact legal counsel to see what can be done.

King commented regarding appointments to boards and commissions. Osborn stated people are sitting on two or three different boards. It was discussed restricting the number of boards an individual can sit on as to open up opportunities for individuals to serve that are not already serving on a board or commission. King asked the procedure if someone is serving on more than one board and their term is not up and an individual applies to that board. Would the individual already serving be removed or serve out their term. Osborn responded they would serve out their term.

King inquired about appointments to the Cemetery Board. Bland stated a recommendation was made to the City Council for an appointment to the Cemetery Board. He would not like the policy of board and commissions making recommendations for appointment to change as he thinks that will discourage people from serving. Osborn stated she will attend the next Cemetery Board meeting to address this issue. Lockwood stated individuals can stay on a board after their term expires until the position is filled and that is true for every board and commission.

McDermott stated he has received complaints about the noise from events the Freedom Center host outdoors and asked if they are required to obtain a permit to hold these events. Markland stated he is not sure but will follow up.

Lockwood thanked the Freedom Festival Committee, the Police and Fire Departments and the Department of Public Works for their help with the Freedom Festival. She asked anyone with suggestions on how to improve the festival to forward them to her.

Bland stated he was concerned attendance for the Freedom Festival would be lower due to the downtown construction but the event had a great turnout and everyone involved with the event did a good job.

Jacob thanked all for their work on the Freedom Festival and stated it was a great event. He gave an update on River Fest that took place on June 28th and thanked Beth Granger for her work on the event. He stated he has received a lot of positive comments about the sidewalks and curbs recently installed downtown.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

Cherie Smith, 200 Union Street, commented regarding the policy for appointing individuals to boards and commissions and feels exceptions are made to the policy.

Kristen Beebe, 239 Andover Woods Drive, commented on the construction at the site for the new Trinity Lutheran Church stating work begins at 6 AM. Markland will look into and follow up and stated they should be starting at 7 AM.

Doug Tebo, 409 Bent Oak Street, suggested when the City Attorney looks at issues surrounding the sale of fireworks, that it be suggested that the businesses that allow tents to sell fireworks in their parking lots, that those lots not be opened to people to watch fireworks.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 P.M.

Mayor Sue Osborn

City Clerk, Renee Wilson

Date approved: July 27, 2015