

**CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL WORK SESSION PROCEEDINGS**  
**Monday, August 3, 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; Mike Burns, Assistant City Manager; Mike Reilly, Building and Zoning Administrator and Stephen Schultz, Legal Counsel.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** – None.

**JOINT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAYS**

Markland stated a joint resolution between Argentine Township, Fenton Township, the City of Fenton and the City of Linden is presented for consideration. The resolution supports pathways for pedestrians, bicycles and other forms of non-motorized transportation. The four municipalities are working together on pathways that would be used for recreation, commerce and other opportunities. This resolution would be used as a show of support for grant applications.

King asked how much this will cost the City. She stated it is a good project but is concerned how the City will ask for money for roads and thinks it will be tougher to pass a road millage if the City keeps supporting other projects.

McDermott commented this won't cost the City anything. The resolution is to show support for the project which will allow the project to move forward and possibly obtain grants to help fund the project. King commented she would like to see that in writing.

Bland commented what is presented tonight is not giving permission for the City to spend money, but just supports the project. If there is any cost to the City, it would have to come back to City Council for a decision. He asked who is taking the lead on this project.

Lockwood gave a brief overview of the efforts to get pathways constructed and commented Victor Lukasavitz is heading up the effort to have the southern part of Genesee County recognized as a priority for pathways. This is being addressed at meetings of the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission and she commented the meetings she has attended, area residents spoke in favor of a path system. At this point because the project is not far enough along for the costs to be known. The resolution of support will allow the project to progress to the next step.

Markland stated he talked to Mr. Lukasavitz last week who indicated the money needed for engineering fees has been raised through donations and the cost of the project should be known once the engineering is done.

Grossmeyer commented he supports the project and asked if it is known at this time which pathways will require roads to be widened and which will require sidewalks to be removed. Markland responded that is not known yet and will probably be determined during the engineering.

McDermott commented this topic is consistently mentioned when he talks to residents. Markland stated this topic is also regularly brought up during the expo.

Jacob commented he is in support of the resolution and doesn't think it will affect any potential road millage.

Item will be brought forward for action at the next City Council meeting.

### **DEMOLITION BIDS FOR 309 W. HIGH STREET (SEMINARY BUILDING)**

Reilly stated on July 14, 2015 the City received five bid proposals for the demolition of the Seminary Building. Two bids were incomplete and not considered. The three completed bids are as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Burnash Wrecking, Flint	\$48,900
Lukes Excavating, Bloomfield Hills	\$69,385
L. Zeller & Sons Excavating, Flint	\$74,000

Reilly stated each bid packet, references and insurance documents were checked and he is recommending Council award the bid to Burnash Wrecking.

McDermott asked if retention of the cornerstone was included as part of the bid packet. Reilly responded it was not specifically included but part of the bid documents include the City reserving the right to reclaim one cubic yard of materials. Markland commented in addition to the cornerstone, the plan is to also keep some of the stone.

Bland asked where the money will come from to pay for the demolition. Markland responded the general fund. Osborn asked if there are funds available from the County to help fund the demolition. Markland responded no and stated the City could recover at least some of the money by selling the property.

Lockwood commented the County Treasurer indicated the majority of the funds the County allocates for demolition goes to the City of Flint. The Treasurer did indicate that funds may become available next year. Lockwood asked if the Seminary is demolished before then, would funds for demolition be considered retroactive for a site that has already been demolished and thinks demolition should be done as soon as possible.

King asked if a fund can be created to help pay for the costs of blight clean up or demolition. Schultz responded the only option is for the City to perform the work and place the costs on the tax roll, but if property is reverted for back taxes or foreclosed, there would be nothing to recover.

King asked if the property can be sold at a price that covers the cost of demolition. Schultz responded the property has to be sold at fair market value and has nothing to do with the cost involved to demolish the building.

Bland asked if the bid included capping the water and sewer lines. Reilly responded the water line has to be taken back to the stop box and the sewer taken back to the curb and capped.

Item will be placed on the next City Council agenda for action.

### **UPGRADES TO CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS SOUND SYSTEM**

Markland commented the sound system in the City Council chambers is in need of upgrades. Included in the meeting packet is a proposal from Bogner Sound & Music to replace the system at cost \$3,992.00. Markland stated \$5,000 was budgeted in the fiscal year 2016 budget for this expense.

Item will be place on the next City Council agenda for action.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Osborn asked for Councilmembers to confirm if they will be attending the MML Conference in September.

Jacob gave an update on the Shiawassee River Cleanup that took place this past weekend.

King asked if a fundraiser is going to be held for the Community Center. Osborn responded yes, and that it will probably be held in October.

King commented she would like something put in the local paper regarding the ordinance that addresses cleaning up after animals.

King asked about the status of the City owned lots in the Eagles on the Waters Edge and stated she thinks it is a good time to sell. Markland responded most the property the City owns is in the townhomes area and both the market and financing available for townhomes is not very good, but he will look into it.

Lockwood commented the Taste in Fenton event was great and the Chamber of Commerce did a wonderful job organizing the event. She reminded all Back to the Bricks is this Thursday. She commented Richard Canever is being honored by the Fenton Education Foundation for his commitment to the community through education.

Bland commented he has received a lot of complaints regarding the traffic and street closures due to the construction and asked if more notice could be given when road closures occur. Burns stated notice is given three to four days in advance. He sends notice to the media, posts it on the City's Facebook page and does an email blast and anyone can sign up to be notified via email.

King asked about the solid waste contract and commented she thinks everyone should pay for service year round. Lockwood commented a selling point for seniors that live out of state during the winter and other residents that are out of town for long periods of time is that they won't be charged while they are gone and the City would not be charged for those households either. Council discussed the proposed changes and billing options – quarterly billing vs. tax bills. The Solid Waste Committee will meet to address the remaining details. Markland commented he plans on meeting with Gary Hicks from Republic Services this week and hopes the contract will be ready for consideration at Monday's Council meeting.

### **CALL TO THE AUDIENCE**

Cherie Smith, 200 Union Street, stated if a decision is made to not bill for solid waste for individuals that leave town for an extended period of time and turn off their water, the City would lose water revenue and the revenue burden would fall on the rest of the water customers.

Grossmeyer responded he thinks the minimum amount will still be charged, they just wouldn't be billed for usage.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

A motion was made by Osborn and seconded by King to enter into a Closed Session to discuss a legal opinion.

YEAS: Bland, Grossmeyer, Jacob, King, Lockwood, McDermott, Osborn.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

Recessed to Closed Session at 8:12 P.M.

Reconvened to Open Session at 8:40 P.M.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 P.M.

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Mayor Sue Osborn

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City Clerk, Renee Wilson

Date approved: August 10, 2015