

CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL WORK SESSION PROCEEDINGS

**Monday, August 5, 2013
City Hall Conference Room
301 South LeRoy Street
7:30 PM**

Mayor Osborn called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Present: Bland, Grossmeyer, Jacob, King, Lockwood, Osborn, Smith.
Absent: None.
Others Present: Lynn Markland, City Manager

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None.

CONFIRMATION OF CITY CLERK

Lynn Markland introduced Renee Wilson, the candidate for the City Clerk's position. Markland reviewed Wilson's resume and advised that his investigation into her references yielded excellent results. Markland requested Council to confirm Renee Wilson as City Clerk. A motion was made by King and seconded by Lockwood to approve the appointment of Renee Wilson as City Clerk.

YEAS: Bland, Grossmeyer, Jacob, King, Lockwood, Osborn, Smith.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
Motion carried by roll call vote.

TURN THE TOWNS TEAL

Lynn Markland reviewed a letter from volunteer, Shelley Offer with Turn the Towns Teal Campaign. This is a national campaign to bring awareness to communities regarding ovarian cancer and its often silent symptoms. The campaign consists of volunteers tying ribbons (which are biodegradable and made in the USA) primarily in town centers and providing stores, health clubs, spas libraries, etc. with symptom cards and information pertaining to ovarian cancer done in the month of September which is the National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. There was Council discussion regarding their concern with the rules and regulations to placing the ribbons on public property. The Council would like to request volunteer Offer be present at the next Council meeting. Markland will notify Offer of the Council's request to be present. King asked that in the future, if requesting parties could always be present to answer possible questions or concerns of the Council. Council agreed to address this request at their next meeting.

CITY OF FENTON AND CITY OF GRAND BLANC AGREEMENT FOR SHARED ASSESSING SERVICES

Markland reviewed that he and Grand Blanc City Manager Paul Brake have been collaborating on assessing services. They have come to an agreement that the City of Fenton will provide assessing services to the City of Grand Blanc for a cost of \$45,000 per year. Fenton City is in the process of filling the Deputy Assessor position and that position will be responsible for residential properties in both communities. Our Assessor will be responsible for the

commercial and industrial properties in both communities and will supervised the Deputy Assessor. Although we will receive funds from Grand Blanc for performing this service, there will be some additional costs for the City of Fenton. The City Assessors position will receive an increase in pay for taking on additional duties. The City will also contract with a company/individual that will be responsible for doing residential reappraisals for both communities. According to property assessing practices, municipalities should reappraise approximately 20% of residential units each year which is currently done in-house. Contracting out this service will allow the department to take on more work and do the assessing for both units of government. Someone has been found who will do the reappraisals for both units. The cost of this will be approximately \$10,000 with a savings in the first year to the City of Fenton for these services of approximately \$25, 000. Markland stated that both City attorneys have worked together to complete the agreement. Markland feels this will work well for both units of government. This is a new venture for the assessing department which may lead to more collaborations with other units of government. Markland thanked Tonya Lall for her hard work on this matter. King asked if Grand Blanc was splitting the costs for assessing. Markland stated they were not, however, Grand Blanc is paying more than they have in past for assessing services. The City of Fenton will see a savings in assessing costs. The deputy assessor position will once again be a full time position with the new employee starting at the top pay, with the consent of Clerical Bargaining Unit II in order to make the pay more desirable, which in turn will make the position easier to fill. The assessing department will be able to purchase new computers which will allow them to be mobile. There may be a possibility of grant funds to help with the cost of the computer purchase. Grossmeyer felt this is a great idea to be sharing services. Lockwood agreed and stated this is a win-win for both municipalities. She went on to say that other communities using shared initiatives feel it has helped their communities. Jacob wanted to express his appreciation for everyone's hard work on this project. The Council agreed to address this item at their next meeting.

APPLICATION FROM LYNN MARKLAND FOR ADDITIONAL CREDITED SERVICE

Markland respectfully requested that the City Council consider his request to purchase five (5) years of service credit in the MERS Retirement System. Markland provided the Council with a cost estimate from MERS explaining the cost of the purchase. Markland stated he had no plans to retire for several years however, is making this request now to financially prepare. Markland explained that he is vested in MERS due to his fifteen (15) years working in Durand. This request was previously approved by the City Council, however, the purchase had to be made within sixty (60) days of the actuarial which was not able to be completed before the time had elapsed. The request is coming back to the City Council due to an increase in the cost of the purchase. The cost of the purchase is being paid entirely by the employee, however, the City Council has to approve the request and amount. The Council agreed to address this item at their next meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

King asked if the trees being removed with the streetscape project can be replanted elsewhere in the city to save money. Markland said it can be looked into but doubted that the process to remove them would be cost effective and the trees might not survive. King remarked that the businesses on N. LeRoy Street may help financially to plant new trees. King reminded the Council that their pictures are being taken on Monday August 12th at 6:30 PM.

Lockwood stated that there has been more interest each week with donors for the Community Center and they continue to move closer to their goal. Lockwood also wanted the Council to be aware that there has been damage to several of the picnic tables in Bush Park. Markland stated that he would have Czarnecki and Chief Aro look into the situation.

Bland asked that the Council send Thank You notes to Leo's Coney Island and Boston Pizza for their invitation to attend their "soft openings" as it is quite costly for the restaurants. Bland further stated that these businesses will be assets to the city.

Markland stated that the Bond Council advised that due to the bankruptcy of Detroit, this may not be a good time to sell bonds as Michigan will see a higher interest rate on the bonds. The Genesee County CBG funds came in and the grant for the Community Center's elevator was signed. Markland attended a FACT meeting where they discussed a cost allocation proposal regarding hiring/contracting for a PEG Coordinator/Station Manager for the public access channel. Markland reminded Council of Detective Ron Skarzynski's retirement party on Friday August 16th.

Osborn expressed her appreciation for Lynn Markland's outstanding service in the five (5) years he has been with city. Osborn went on to list some of the projects he has worked on such as; the repaving of Silver Lake Road, Adelaide and N. LeRoy Streets; health care sharing cost implementation; Fire Hall project; Library renovation; Community Center renovation; Cornerstone Building; Streetscape; Acument Funding; and shared assessing contract. Markland thank Osborn for her appreciation stating that many people are and have been involved in these projects as they take a full team effort.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

Cherie Smith asked if the transplanting of the trees removed from the streetscape project would be feasible. Smith questioned if picnic tables from Parks Board could be donated to Bush Park to replace the damaged ones. Lockwood stated that the board would look into possible solution for the donation.

Doug Tebo wanted to extend a big thank you to the DPW for their help and work they have done with the fallen/damaged trees along with the washed out areas of the road due to storm damage in Oakwood Cemetery.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Mayor Sue Osborn

City Deputy Clerk, Sue Walsh

Date approved: September 9, 2013