

CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
WORK SESSION
Monday, November 7, 2005
City Hall Conference Room
301 South Leroy Street

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

Present: Angeluski, Hammond, King, Medor, North, Osborn, Rauch.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Michael Senyko, City Manager; Christopher Wren, Assistant City Manager.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None.

CITY HALL IMPROVEMENTS

Wren delivered information about the improvements to be made at City Hall. These improvements include re-carpeting all of City Hall, reconstruction of the Council Chambers, and possibly redesigning and renovating the front office area. Wren informed the Council that the City has begun budgeting for these improvements in the past few years. Wren recommended the firm Space Incorporated to complete the project. Wren informed the Council that Space Inc. has received the opportunity to use State bidding processes, which will cause a reduced rate for the materials they will use. Wren is composing a group of City Hall employees to help by adding their input to this project as well.

North questioned if work on these projects could be completed on the weekends and Wren answered her that it could. Wren further stated that they will put together the best game plan for the renovations to have minimal or no loss of service to the public. Rauch stated that he felt the front office should be a higher priority than the Council Chambers. Osborn suggested replacing the audience chairs in the Chambers to give more comfort to the citizens. King inquired about the replacement of the damaged ceiling tiles. Wren stated that there was some difficulty in locating replacement tiles and King suggested the possibility of re-working the grid for the ceiling so that new tiles can be ordered. Wren stated that the building itself is still in good shape, however the entire room will be renovated.

King questioned if the DDA or the LDFA could share some of the cost for this project. Senyko stated that the LDFA could not, but the DDA could. However, the DDA has donated \$300,000 into the General Fund, so it would not be recommended to request more funding. King also agreed that City employees need to be involved in this process. North questioned if there were any visions for the front office space. Wren replied that some designs have already been considered, in the hopes to make the front office more user friendly.

Angeluski questioned if there was a local business that could perform the same services as Space Inc. and Wren stated that he had not found any local businesses that would complete the job from start to finish as one cohesive unit. Angeluski expressed his thoughts that Space Inc. should try to

hire local people to provide services and materials if at all possible and Wren said he would pass that along to them.

Medor inquired about new storage advancements as far as methods of storage are concerned, as well as, making sure that the improvements would be ergonomically correct. Medor shared the opinion that using local labor would be rewarding. Angeluski asked if there would be regular communication with the Firm about their progress and Wren stated that there would be weekly meetings concerning this matter and expressed the importance of the employees taking a "hands on" role in this endeavor. North was impressed with the credentials of the company, as well as the fact that they are women owned and operated. Senyko stated that this item will come back to the Council for their approval at a regular meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Senyko announced that he requested Melinda Carrier, City Clerk, to prepare examples of consent agendas so the Council could view the types of items that would be placed in a consent agenda.

Senyko explained that the purpose of a consent agenda is to create a higher level of efficiency for the Council meetings by reducing the time allotted for mundane, routine items. Senyko further explained that any item that is on the consent agenda can be removed at the request of a single Council Member if that member feels that discussion should occur for that item. Senyko distributed the aforementioned examples for the Council to review.

North expressed the concern that the public would not be as well informed by the synopsis of the meetings if the items in the consent agenda were not listed individually. Senyko stated that the meeting synopsis could be written in a manner in which the consent agenda items were listed individually. North also stated that she felt that controversial items should not be placed in the consent agenda and Senyko stated that they have the authority to choose what is entered into the consent agenda and what should be listed as a separate item on the agenda.

Rauch stated that a consent agenda would make the meetings more efficient, and furthermore, the intent of the consent agenda is not to be subversive because almost everything the Council discusses is a matter of public record anyway. Rauch felt that concerns such as questions about payables could be handled ahead of time by calling the administration about these matters before the meeting takes place.

Angeluski feels that Council discussion is very important and does not see the need to change the process that the Council currently follows. Rauch repeated that this process would increase efficiency. King does not feel that her questions can be answered over the phone. Hammond stated that the process is designed to clear up the agenda quicker, as a courtesy to those members of the public who choose to attend the meeting. Hammond also stated that this was a request of some of the Council members, not the request of the City Administration. Mayor Osborn suggested ending discussion on this item for the evening, and revisiting it when the Council holds their retreat after the election, due to very opposing opinions on the matter. The Council was in agreement to postpone discussion about consent agendas until a later time.

CULTURAL CENTER

Senyko stated that it was announced at a mid-October event that the committee has raised 1.2 million dollars toward the new Cultural Center, of the 3.5 million that is needed to construct. In essence, 40% of the funding has been raised and the committee is hopeful to have all funding in place by Spring 2007.

Angeluski expressed his disappointment that the Council and the Mayor were not recognized at this event, especially Councilman Medor, for all of the effort he has put into the support of this project. North and Osborn agreed. Medor stated that he did not attend the event for personal reasons, but he does not need to be in the spotlight. Medor has been a supporter of this project for a great deal of time now, and he is content with seeing the idea come to fruition. Osborn thanked Medor on behalf of the Council for all of his dedication to this project.

OTHER

Hammond reminded the Council that they need to start considering the Fire Contract with Tyrone Township again soon and get it back on the agenda.

King expressed her concern about some trees that were trimmed in Freedom Park. Senyko requested some clear direction of how the Council would like him to proceed with this matter.

Cherie Smith, of 200 Union Street, spoke on behalf of the Beautification Commission by stating that this unsightly trimming should have been discussed with the Commission first, and the results of the trimming are very unsatisfactory. Osborn stated that the Beautification Commission and the Parks Board should get together and decide how the trees should be trimmed. Rauch stated that the Parks Board is responsible for the trees so they should direct Les Bland, DPW Director, about how they want them trimmed. Osborn suggested getting together and setting a policy about how the trees are to be trimmed.

King inquired about the trucks on Adelaide street that seem to be continuing to cause a problem. Senyko stated that the issue has been raised about whether these gravel trucks are allowed on the street or not. The trucks are suppliers to Target and the Lockwood Group and since they are making local deliveries, they are not in violation of the Ordinance. Senyko stated that as of 4:30 that afternoon, both companies confirmed to try to send the delivery trucks on a different route. Senyko stated that the City is trying to handle this situation in the best manner possible, but the trucks have a legal right to do what they are doing.

Elizabeth Evans, of 607 Adelaide Street expressed her displeasure about the situation and stated that there are other industrial streets that are designed for this traffic that could be used. Osborn stated that she would consult the City Attorney about ways to identify the trucks that are for local delivery and asked that Senyko bring the three opinions from Stephen Schultz for the Council to review. Osborn stated that the City is diligently working on this matter and have developed a few suggestions to work from, but the City cannot deliver instant results no matter how much they would like to.

King reviewed the exhaust stack on the Wolcott house that is causing a dispute with a neighbor. King feels the exhaust should be higher than it is because it appears to her that the exhaust is a nuisance. Senyko stated that the exhaust stack has been inspected by the State and the City and has been

approved for use. Osborn added that the Wolcott house has a special permit to burn. Hammond added that this exhaust has been inspected and approved by the DEQ as well. King maintained that it is a nuisance.

Rauch announced that he would be absent from the November 14, 2005 meeting. King thanked all of the Council members for a job well done and wished everyone luck in the upcoming election.

Medor reviewed details from the Bush Park Initiative and announced that the project came in \$2000 under budget. Medor stated that there were a few items remaining to be paid to Southern Lakes regarding the use of a credit card, but the costs were legitimate and there is money in the budget to pay it since the project came in under budget as a whole. King inquired if St. John's helped out with the drain. Medor stated that they were very interested, gracious, and helpful in completing that portion of the project. Medor also briefly discussed the old No. 2 Pumphouse by the Mill Pond and some ideas for its future use.

Medor announced that the last four years have been a wonderful experience for him. Medor stated that the Council has achieved quite a bit and their passion is inspirational. Medor announced his interest in continuing involvement with the City Parks. Medor concluded that his term of public service as a Council member has been an honor and privilege and he has been blessed to have had the opportunity to do it. Osborn thanked Medor and expressed the appreciation on behalf of the entire Council for his dedication.

CALL TO AUDIENCE

Cherie Smith complimented Medor's work and expertise and stated that he had done a lot for the City. Medor responded that giving back is what life is all about and the whole Fenton Community is just a great place to be because the people make it special.

Ken Trimmer, of 211 Riggs, expressed his extreme displeasure about the neglect that the Museum is experiencing. As the Curator of the Museum, he feels the Historical Society is treated very badly, and the Museum Board is not productive because they can never conduct business because of a lack of quorum. Osborn stated that if members are not attending then they should be replaced and she requested that Wren gather copies of the attendance records for review. After some discussion about the Museum being a venue for the Jubilee event, Cherie Smith stated that she did not feel that the Museum was the place for this event to be held. Medor stated that there will only be a small classical music set in the Museum. Medor further stated that all of the venues will be treated impeccably and the Museum is not slated to be a food venue. Wren asked that all maintenance issues with the Museum be reported to him directly, so they can be handled in a timely manner. Osborn stated that the focus should be to get the carpet and windows in good repair.

Angeluski inquired about Trimmer's work with the VFW on a veterans project. Trimmer stated that he was putting together a book to commemorate the World War II veterans whose names were on a local sign in Fenton.

Doug Tebo, of 409 Bent Oak, updated the Council on the headstone replacement project that he and his son, Matt Adair, were working on in Oakwood Cemetery and further announced that the

project is complete. Tebo also described the restoration processes that they used. Tebo stated that they plan to restore the Veterans statue on Chapel Hill, and the cannons at the old Fire Hall before the rededication ceremony on July 4, 2006.

A motion was made by Osborn to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing strategy related to collective bargaining agreements.

YEAS: Angeluski, Hammond, King, Medor, Osborn, Rauch.

NAYS:North.

ABSENT: None. Motion carried.

Council entered into closed session at 10:25 PM.

Council reconvened at 11:29 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 PM.

Mayor, Sue Osborn

Deputy City Clerk, Jennifer Wills