

CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL WORK SESSION PROCEEDINGS
Wednesday, July 5, 2017
City Hall Conference Room
301 South LeRoy Street
7:30 PM

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Draves, Grossmeyer, Jacob, Lockwood, McDermott, Osborn, Smith.
Absent: None.
Others Present: Lynn Markland, City Manager; Michael Hart, Assistant City Manager and Christopher Patterson, Legal Counsel.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – Pam Fairbanks asked to speak on the Cornerstone parking agreement agenda item.

Dawn Overmyer asked to speak on the street/infrastructure improvements ballot language agenda item.

TRAFFIC STUDY AT NORTH AND TORREY ROADS

Markland stated Administration and Council have previously discussed traffic issues at North and Torrey Roads. He reviewed a proposal received from the City's Traffic Engineer, Pete Lamourie. Once the proposal is approved, the work will take 3-4 weeks to complete at a cost of \$3,715. Markland stated he also asked for a study on Silver Lake Road but that won't take place until after the Poplar Street project is completed.

Item will be added to the next Council agenda for action.

CORNERSTONE PARKING AGREEMENT

Markland stated shortly after the Cornerstone building was built, the City agreed to provide parking permits to residents. The agreement was for one year to test out the permitting process. The agreement has since expired and was not renewed. Many residents have not used the spaces as intended. When residents use spaces not designated for residential parking, the practical result is they are using two spaces for one vehicle, which has led to complaints from businesses in the Cornerstone building. Council requested this item be placed on a work session agenda for discussion.

Pam Fairbanks, 134 N. Leroy - #207 agreed there are concerns from the businesses at Cornerstone regarding how parking spaces are utilized. At the last work session this was discussed, a number of suggestions were made and she feels when trying to foster residential and commercial units within the same building, it is important to work out parking issues. She thinks these issues can be worked out and a solution can be found that works for everyone.

Smith asked if the payments due to the City for the lease of the parking spaces have been received. Markland responded yes.

Grossmeyer commented he noticed only about half a dozen vehicles with parking stickers on them and asked if it's known how many residents applied stickers to their vehicles. He feels this issue needs to be addressed now with the upcoming Caroline Street construction and suggested most of the 'reserved' parking signs could be removed and only leave signs for those who have

purchased stickers. Ms. Fairbanks responded she does not know how many residents have applied stickers. She stated she serves on the homeowners' association board and will work on getting that information.

Grossmeyer stated when the agreement was originally implemented, the homeowners' association informed the City they would monitor and enforce the parking agreement. Ms. Fairbanks stated she was not aware the association was to monitor the parking situation but they are willing to do so. She asked the association be allowed time to gather information on which residents are utilizing the parking spaces and assess that data before any signs are removed. She will work on getting this information as soon as possible. Markland commented he previously offered to attend a homeowners' association meeting to discuss parking issues.

Jacob asked if there have been any issues with residents coming home and not having access to their reserved spot. Ms. Fairbanks responded not that she is aware of.

Council discussed ways to address the parking situation at Cornerstone. Ms. Fairbanks will provide parking permit information to the City Manager from the homeowners' association. Once that information is received, Council will again discuss possible solutions to this issue.

BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR STREET/INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Markland stated Council has had several discussions regarding the condition of City streets. He would like Council to consider placing a dedicated street millage on the ballot for consideration and would like to ask for a ten year levy but the City Charter states "No such increase shall be for a period of more than three years." This means the City would have to ask for a renewal every three years. He would like Council to consider placing a millage request on the November 2017 ballot and consider amending the Charter at a later date.

Osborn stated if a three year millage is placed on the November ballot and approved, she is concerned if any subsequent renewals are voted down, that only a portion of the City streets will be repaired. She suggested asking for a Charter amendment to allow for a ten year levy and then place a streets millage on the ballot at an election in 2018.

Council discussed establishing a Road Authority. Patterson stated establishing a Road Authority would allow the Authority to ask for a millage that is not subject to the three year charter restriction, but the Authority would be governed by a Board other than City Council. Markland stated this would essentially be adding another layer of government.

Patterson recapped the process for amending the Charter. Once language is put together for a Charter amendment, the Attorney General's office reviews the language. The question is whether this process can be completed before the deadline to submit ballot language for placement upon the November 2017 ballot. Lockwood suggested looking at both the Charter amendment and Road Authority options.

McDermott stated he is not in favor of asking for a three year millage and is hesitant to establish a Road Authority due to the fact members of the Authority are not elected but would have control over monies collected from City residents.

Smith is also not in favor of a Road Authority or asking for less than a ten year millage.

Dawn Overmyer, 826 Southwood Drive, commented she believes asking for a Charter amendment should be done first and the City needs to let the community know why things are being done in the order that they are.

After discussion, Osborn asked for a consensus from Council on how to proceed. Unanimous consensus was to proceed with amending the Charter to provide for a ten year levy

and then ask voters for a streets millage. Patterson will provide Council with an opinion on the Charter amendment process.

McDermott departed at 8:31 P.M.

SCHEDULE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Patterson stated at the last meeting, Council acted on a resolution to vacate a portion of First Street near the Fenton Hotel. A public hearing was required, but one was not held. In addition, notice of a public hearing must be published a week in advance of the meeting so Council will need to address this issue again and hold a public hearing to accept comment on the proposed street vacation.

After discussion, Council decided to schedule a special meeting on Monday, July 17, 2017 at 6:00 PM.

COUNCIL COMMENTS – Draves asked what the status is of demolishing the house at 324 W. Caroline. Markland responded the City still needs to close on the property and a request for proposal to demo the house has been sent out. Council discussed possibly obtaining funds from the Land Bank to help offset demolition costs.

Smith thanked Councilwoman Lockwood for her work on the Grand Marshal reception. She suggested when Councilmembers are newly elected, that they not vote on the City Manager's evaluation since they have not had the opportunity to work with the City Manager.

Grossmeyer commented regarding the Freedom Festival and stated the event would not be possible without the help of the Police and Fire Departments and the Department of Public Works.

Osborn commented on the Freedom Festival and stated it was one of the best she's been to, the event gets better every year.

Lockwood recapped Freedom Festival events and stated there is a follow-up critique meeting scheduled for Friday morning.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE – Tim Scarberry, 16062 Pavilion Drive, Fenton Township commented he owns the property adjacent to the old Seminary property. He previously approached the City about possibly selling or developing both properties at the same time and asked if that's still something the City is interested in. Markland will follow up with Mr. Scarberry.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Mayor Sue Osborn

City Clerk, Renee Wilson

Date approved: August 14, 2017