

CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL WORK SESSION PROCEEDINGS
Monday, November 2, 2015
City Hall Conference Room
301 South LeRoy Street
7:30 PM

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

Present: Bland, Grossmeyer, Jacob, King, Lockwood, McDermott, Osborn.
Absent: None.
Others Present: Lynn Markland, City Manager; Mike Burns, Assistant City Manager and Dan Czarnecki, Director of Public Works.

Osborn stated a recommendation from the Compensation Committee will be added to tonight's agenda.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None.

MILL POND PARK PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE

Czarnecki stated the Parks Board would like to discuss with Council the possibility of installing a new playground structure at Mill Pond Park. The Board is seeking input on the playground as well as funding. The current play structure is old and in need of repairs.

Sean Sage, Parks and Recreation Board member, reviewed the renderings of the proposed playground equipment included in the meeting packet. The current structure is located at the top of the hill and what is proposed is to install new equipment directly north of the swing sets. A representative of Sinclair Recreation surveyed the area for the new equipment and made recommendations to the Board. Sage stated what is presented tonight is not a final design, but is to be used to move forward with the budgeting process. The proposed new equipment would replace the wooden structure and where that structure is currently located would be used for other items such as picnic tables or benches.

Sage stated this was brought to Council for input and approval to move the project forward and identify grant opportunities. He thinks what is proposed is a good balance that caters to different age groups.

McDermott commented the Parks Board did a good job researching different options and coming up with an option that wasn't cheap, but not so expensive that the project couldn't be completed. He thinks what is presented is a good option for the cost involved.

Markland thanked the Parks Board for their work. He thinks the downtown parks are important to address due to all the development taking place in the downtown area. He likes what was presented, but thinks a master plan should be done for Mill Pond Park. With the trail system in the downtown area, installing exercise stations along the river trail should be considered. The downtown is becoming a much more walkable area and thinks exercise stations along the trail would be beneficial and get a lot of use. He stated the DDA has discussed canoe launches, and one of the sites mentioned was Mill Pond Park. He thinks a larger scale project than what is presented should be looked at. It would be more expensive, but thinks there would be more grant opportunities for larger projects. The DDA may have funds available to use towards the park and

a grant could be submitted to the DNR Land and Water Trust Fund to help fund a canoe launch and improvements along the river trail.

Sage stated the thought process at the Parks Board was to compartmentalize projects and address playground items now and exercise/fitness items separately. He will convey the suggestions made tonight to the Parks Board.

McDermott stated the Parks Board discussed the additional items the City Manager mentioned and another plan was put together that includes those items.

Lockwood thinks the area around the Mill Pond needs attention with the addition of The Pump House and Fire Hall restaurant. She thinks the park is utilized a lot more than it was in the past and there is equipment at every City park in need of repair or removal. Sage responded the Parks Board is in the process of identifying items at each park that need attention.

Lockwood stated Brighton has a playscape in the downtown area and the structure is heavily utilized. She suggested contacting Brighton to see what types of grants were obtained to purchase and install the playscape.

Grossmeyer stated at a previous work session, a presentation was made to Council about Harper's Playground, which is an all-inclusive ADA compliant playground and asked what the status is of that. Sage responded that was also presented to the Parks Board and the idea is still being looked at but in his own opinion, the space available at Mill Pond Park isn't the best space for that type of project. He thinks this type of project would be a huge asset to the City, but there are other locations in the City better suited for it.

McDermott commented when the Parks Board talked about Harper's Playground, the space available at Mill Pond Park was discussed extensively and it was thought that a structure like Harper's Playground, to accommodate both size and accessibility issues, would better suited in a larger park or behind the Community Center where there is more room and parking.

Bland stated Mill Pond Park was discussed numerous times during the park master plan process and the small size and topography of the park really limit what can be done with the space.

Sage asked that any other suggestions be forwarded to the Parks Board and they will be taken under consideration.

King stated she offered \$23,000 for Franklin D. Adams Park to install a larger basketball court and commented the item was never really talked about or approved by the Parks Board. She will be pursuing the issue next year and hopefully will find donors to help with the cost of the basketball court. She also stated her family will be planting a tree at the park.

The Parks Board will continue working on plans for a new playground and other improvements to Mill Pond Park and see what grants are available and work towards moving the project forward.

Council thanked the Parks Board for their work.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Osborn stated the Compensation Committee met this evening and passed a motion to recommend increasing the meeting stipend limit from forty to forty-five meetings and to increase the pay per meeting from \$69 to \$75.

Markland stated the amount of meetings was increased to cover special meetings that may be held throughout the year. The Council has 35 regularly scheduled meetings and also has the budget workshop, sessions with Lew Bender and occasional joint meetings with other boards and commissions.

Osborn stated the way this has been addressed in the past is that there is no motion to accept the recommendation of the Compensation Committee. The recommendation is automatically approved if no one disagrees. Osborn asked if anyone on Council disagrees with the recommendation. No Council members disagreed so the recommendation is approved to change the stipend limit to forty-five meetings and pay per meeting to \$75.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

King asked if there is an adequate amount of yard waste stickers available at City Hall for residents. Markland responded yes and the City can get more from Republic Services if needed.

King thanked everyone for the honor of serving on City Council for twenty four years and thanked Council and Administration for their work.

Osborn stated she has contacted Judge McCabe and he will attend next Monday's meeting to swear in the newly elected Council members. She commented she will get a meeting scheduled with the Committee that is reviewing the City Manager's contract.

Lockwood stated a lot of residents are blowing leaves into the street and reminded all not to do that as it can back up into the drains. She gave an update on Beautification Commission activities. She commented a lot of the sidewalks in the older neighborhoods are in very poor shape and is an issue Council may want to look at.

Council thanked Councilwoman King for her service and wished all candidates good luck at tomorrow's election.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE – None.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

Mayor Sue Osborn

City Clerk, Renee Wilson

Date approved: November 23, 2015