

**CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
WORK SESSION
Monday, June 5, 2006
City Hall Conference Room
301 South Leroy Street**

Mayor Pro Tem Carl Hammond called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Present: Angeluski, Hammond, King, Moffitt, North, Rauch.
Absent: Osborn (Excused).
Others Present: Michael Senyko, City Manager; Christopher Wren, Assistant City Manager.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None.

GENESEE COUNTY WIRELESS

Jim King explained the concept of a Genesee County initiative to provide wireless internet service to the entire County. Jim King stated that the Genesee County Board of Commissioners has partnered with the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce to make this concept a reality. The County requested and received a \$125,000 grant from the Mott Foundation to get started. King stated that in this process they discovered that most of the residents south of I-69 would be able to pay for the service while most residents north of I-69 would not be able to afford it, and in light of this information, the County wanted to make the service available to everyone. Eventually, Genesee County will be asking the local communities for permission to use their infrastructure to install transmittal towers to provide wireless service. King stated that, through a statewide bid process, they would be able to provide the bottom band of service at no charge to everyone, however, those wishing to upgrade would have the ability to pay for higher bands of service, further, as the technology increases, the bottom band would be raised as well. King stated that the County is asking local municipalities to pass a resolution of support for the initiative. King explained that the County is not asking for any funding for this project at this point, they are just measuring the interest right now.

Hammond questioned what the grant money is paying for and King explained that it is paying salaries, a public relations firm, as well as technological consultants to get the project going. King also explained that there is no cost to the community unless they want the service. King explained further that the idea here is to have the vendors partner with local companies to help them build their businesses providing wireless service, and furthermore, Tri-County Wireless has submitted an intent to bid on the project.

Angeluski questioned what the advantage of having wireless service would be and King explained that the price is considerable cheaper than high speed internet and the competition in the area will force existing services to compete with each other price-wise. Angeluski questioned what people would need in their home to receive service and King stated that they would just need to purchase a wireless router, which can be bought at most electronics stores. North took a moment to explain how the wireless service works in her home. King stated that the County would eventually like to see wireless laptops that can be checked out at the libraries so the entire public could have access.

Councilwoman King was concerned about internet pornography and Jim King explained

that the County has also partnered with the Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD). The GISD is subject to laws pertaining to these types of problems and have measures in place to combat them. Jim King stated that the GISD is excited about the prospect of this project, but they will have to address laptops in school in the same manner they address cell phones and palm pilots.

North questioned what infrastructure the County wanted to use in the City. King explained that the antennae would be placed on towers, building, and things of this nature. North questioned if they could be placed in the City's rights-of-way like other utility companies and King stated that it was a possibility, however the utility companies will charge a rental fee for the antennae to be placed there. Hammond questioned if the vendors were planning on franchising specific areas around the County and King responded that they would be competitive because they are privately owned companies.

Councilwoman King commented that the City ordinances needed to be reviewed to see if the antennae could be installed without being in violation and Senyko agreed that the Planning Commission would have the ability to regulate this aspect if the City agreed to participate in this project.

SHIAWASSEE RIVER CLEAN-UP

North announced that Debbie McCarty will be taking over Sandy Albright's role as Co-Chair of the Shiawassee River Clean-up. North also expressed her concern for the continuance of this project because she feels it is such a valuable undertaking. Hammond suggested approaching one of the various organizations in the City to see if they would be interested in taking it over. McCarty stated that this has always been a Fenton Beautification Commission project and North agreed that this should be a City project. Hammond suggested setting this project up between the Beautification Commission and the Park Board so that it is completed every year. Rauch stated that this item should be taken back to the respective Boards and then have them appoint members to serve on a Shiawassee River Clean-up Committee. King stated that McCarty has been a part of this project for many years and she should be able to remain involved with it, even though she lives outside of the City. Hammond stated that you can have non-Board members on a committee as well, so this would not be a problem. Angeluski stated that he would like to see more City employees be involved in these types of projects.

CITY HALL IMPROVEMENTS

Wren stated that renovations to City Hall will begin at 7:00 AM on June 6, 2006, consisting of new carpet and paint. Wren displayed the new carpet and paint samples and added that there will be new chairs ordered for the Council as well as the audience in the Council Chambers. Wren informed the Council that the second phase of renovation, consisting of the front office overhaul, will begin on July 1, 2006. Wren stated that the employees were very involved with the new design, and added that the new office and council desks will all be ADA compliant. North had some questions about the design plan concerning increased storage space and an area that appeared to be wasted space and Wren explained that the storage would be well increased and the so-called wasted space was designed to be an impromptu work space for residents desiring more privacy discussing certain City business.

Hammond questioned if any of the work could be completed at night and Wren explained that the Front Office would probably be completed on the weekends to ease customer usability. Senyko further explained that City Hall offices will remain open through the entire duration of the project to further benefit the residents.

North inquired about the cost of the project and Wren stated that the cost is significantly lower than first projected due to the State bidding process. To the best of his ability, Wren approximated that the cost has been cut nearly 50%. Wren also added that the ceiling tiles will be replaced in phase three of the project. North inquired about making the needed structural repairs and Wren reported that this is a separate project, but he is in the planning stages of the bid process right now.

CULTURAL CENTER

Senyko reported that they are continuing to fundraise for the project and despite the condition of the State's economy, it is still going well. North expressed her concern about the future maintenance of the new Cultural Center and Senyko explained that future maintenance is reflected in the business plan for the Center and is included in the amount of funding that needs to be raised. Senyko stated that in the third year of its development, the Cultural Center should be generating enough revenue to be self-sufficient.

North questioned if the Rackham Foundation was going to take over the maintenance of the Cultural Center when it is complete and Senyko explained that the current arrangement that the Community Center has with the Foundation will remain the same, however, they are asking for an increase in their current financial donation. Hammond inquired if there was going to be an endowment set up for the Cultural Center and Senyko answered him affirmatively and further stated that the endowment was not included as revenue in the Cultural Center's business plan. Senyko stated that it is better for the Cultural Center to exist as its own entity rather than relying on City assistance, unless it is needed on a case by case basis. Moffitt suggested that Senyko contact the head of the General Motors Foundation and Senyko welcomed the suggestion.

OTHER

King inquired if the truck traffic on Adelaide Street had increased. Senyko responded that the Police Department, with the assistance of e-mails from Curtis Gould, has seen the violation of the Truck Ordinance dramatically decrease. Rauch stated that he did see a truck in violation on Saturday afternoon that appeared to be following an odd route.

King stated that the grass at St. Mary's Orthodox Church is very tall and needs to be addressed, as well as some other lawns in the area. Moffitt suggested having the Code Enforcement Officer drive over in that area.

King inquired if there were signs posted where Torrey Road will be under construction at the bridge. King also requested that some type of sign be posted near Appletree Lane because there are a lot of kids that cross South Long Lake Road to get to the beach and there will be increased traffic in that area due to the construction detour for Torrey Road. Angeluski requested that a letter be sent to the County regarding Bent Oak Street because the intersection is hidden and it is a very blind turn.

North commended Tony Brown, of 318 Caroline Street, for cleaning up the sidewalks in the park. Angeluski also thanked Brown for all of the work he accomplished in the Cemetery before Memorial Day. King stated that the Cemetery looked very nice for the holiday. Angeluski commented that the flag distribution goes much faster now because of the flagholders. Angeluski also praised the kids that came up to help clean up the Cemetery from the Freedom Center.

Senyko announced that there will be a public meeting on June 6th at 6:00PM, at City Hall, pertaining to the Torrey Road Bridge Project. Senyko further stated that the City sent an invitational letter to all of the residents and business owners within the vicinity of the project.

Senyko reminded the Council that the July Work Session is scheduled for July 3rd, and due to the holiday, the Council may want to consider moving it to July 5th instead. Hammond polled the Council and the general consensus was that the July Work Session will be changed to July 5th.

Senyko also stated that the City's website is up and running and further thanked Wren for all of the work he has done on this project. There are still a few details left to handle, however they will be remedied soon.

CALL TO AUDIENCE

Anthony Brown, of 318 Caroline Street, expressed that the wireless companies should be offering the residents something better than the bottom band of service for free. Senyko explained that the County is only looking for support right now and that the City can regulate what they want to do later.

Brown also expressed that he is tired of waiting for any progress on his complaints about some of the residents on Caroline Street and he wants to see something done about it immediately. North asked Senyko to speak to Brad Hissong about the matter and keep Brown updated on the progress. King stated that the City needs to take an aggressive position on this matter. Hammond stated that legal procedures take a considerable amount of time to complete and these delays frustrate the Council as well. Brown asked that the City take a look at 324 Caroline, in particular. Rauch instructed Senyko to address this issue and report back to the Council if there was any progress.

Brown asked the Council to thank the kids from the Fenton Freedom Center in a signed letter of appreciation, for all of the work they did at Oakwood Cemetery before Memorial Day.

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

YEAS: Angeluski, Hammond, King, Moffitt, North, Rauch.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Osborn. Motion carried

Council entered into closed session at 8:52 PM

Council reconvened into open session at 9:31 PM

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Mayor Pro Tem, Carl Hammond

Deputy City Clerk, Jennifer Wills