

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
OCTOBER 12, 2015 – 6:00PM

The Study Session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Brickner at 6:00pm.

Council Members Present: Brickner, Bridges, Bruce, Knol, Lerner, Massey and Steckloff

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: Acting City Manager Boyer, City Clerk Smith, Assistant to the City Manager Geinzer, Director Randle and City Attorney Joppich

DISCUSSION ON NOVI'S RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DISSOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST OAKLAND CABLE COMMISSION (SWOCC)

Mayor Brickner explained that the City of Novi had passed a resolution to begin discussion with the other entities that are a part of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC) regarding the dissolution of SWOCC. He stated that the dissolution of SWOCC would require two-thirds (2/3) approval of the communities involved. He added that whatever happens with SWOCC, he feels Farmington and Farmington Hills will continue to share this type of service.

Mayor Brickner stated that Novi has indicated that they can use their schools to provide these services and they had expressed concern with the PEG fees not being directly paid to the communities and going through SWOCC.

Councilmember Lerner commented that he doesn't believe exiting SWOCC is an option for Farmington Hills but that trying to find another community to join SWOCC would be a good idea if Novi decided to withdraw.

Councilmember Bridges inquired why Novi wanted to consider the dissolution of SWOCC. Mayor Brickner stated that they no longer need use of the studio as their schools can provide that service and they had concern with the PEG funding not going directly to the communities.

Councilmember Steckloff inquired what the City's options would be if SWOCC were to dissolve.

Mayor Brickner stated that it would take 2/3 vote of the communities to dissolve SWOCC and if that does not happen SWOCC would remain. If it were to dissolve, the City would have to set up something else to provide those services and the employees of the City currently working there would still be employees of the City.

Attorney Joppich added that if Novi wishes to withdraw, that would require a notice to Farmington and Farmington Hills by January 1, 2016 and their partnership in SWOCC would end June 30, 2016.

Discussion was held on ownership and money still owed on the building and assets.

It was the consensus of City Council that they do not wish to dissolve SWOCC at this time and to advise the City of Farmington of this and begin discussion on the subject with them.

City Manager Boyer stated that he has discussed this issue with Farmington and he believes they will follow the City's lead. The two communities would want to discuss a mutual agreement to continue to provide these services if SWOCC were to dissolve.

CITY MANAGER INTERVIEW PROCESS UPDATE

Mayor Brickner explained that the meet and greet and interview dates have been set, but Council needs to determine if they want to make a decision on Sunday following the last interview or hold a special meeting on Monday for that purpose.

Councilmember Steckloff thanked Council and staff for making accommodations to broadcast the interviews live so that she could view the interviews being held on Saturday when she can't be there. She asked if she could conference in to ask questions or submit additional questions.

Attorney Joppich explained that Council members have to be present to participate in a meeting.

Director of Human Resources Randle stated that if Council members wanted to submit additional questions, they could still do so.

The consensus of City Council was to hold a special meeting Monday, October 19, 2015 at 7:30pm to make a decision. The meeting will be televised live and held in the Council Chamber.

Mr. Randle thanked City Council for their support of him to manage this process. He provided a copy of the questions that he has prepared and will provide updated questions if more are submitted by Council. He asked to receive any additional questions by the close of business on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. He reviewed the process for the meet and greet and interviews.

Mayor Brickner asked that if Council members had questions for Mr. Randle after reviewing the guideline, to contact him directly.

DISCUSSION ON ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councilmember Steckloff distributed a binder with information on creating a Community Health Committee. She thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Massey for assisting her with the project. She explained that in dealing with her own health issues, it opened her eyes to see what the City might be able to do to provide resources for people that are less fortunate and may not be able to afford proper health care. She noted that Botsford had already conducted a needs assessment in the community and there are several foundations including Botsford Foundation that have available grant funds. Ms. Steckloff stated that the goal is to provide a community-based committee to seek foundation funding to start programs in Farmington/Farmington Hills.

Mayor Pro-Tem Massey thanked Ms. Steckloff for bringing this idea forward. He addressed the needs assessment by Botsford. He feels that it would be great to bring the resources together and that forming a committee would show commitment to the health of the residents.

Councilmember Bruce felt this was a great idea and questioned why a committee and not a commission.

Mayor Brickner explained that a Commission has to be formed by Ordinance so he suggested starting out with a Committee.

Councilmember Knol inquired if it is the intent to reach out to Farmington and the schools. Ms. Steckloff confirmed that was the intent and stated that some of the statistics were provided by the schools.

Councilmember Bridges stated that he would also support this type of committee as he feels there are still a lot of people suffering from the economic downturn and that the poverty figures are striking and would like to see this as part of the committee's focus.

Councilmember Lerner commented that that he had created F2H Fit, which is waning a bit; but he feels that the Board may be able to assist and he would be happy to work with Ms. Steckloff on these efforts. He added that F2H Fit may also still have available grant funding.

Mayor Pro-Tem Massey stated that there have already been several groups formed on this topic and he sees this as an Umbrella Commission for these other groups.

Mayor Brickner suggested starting out as a committee until it is up and running and then consider an Ordinance to make it a Commission at a later date.

Councilmember Bridges stated that he would like to see a strong focus on the economic issues and feels that a public policy is needed.

Councilmember Bruce preferred keeping the committee focused on health issues.

Councilmember Steckloff stated that a lot of the statistics on poverty levels is included in the information provided and Botsford did a fantastic job with the needs assessment and she doesn't feel that they need to re-do that work.

The consensus of Council was to move forward with the creation of a committee as outlined by Councilmember Steckloff.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:16pm

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk