

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET STUDY SESSION
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
MAY 7, 2015 – 6:30 PM
CITY HALL – VIEW POINT ROOM

The regular meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Brickner at 6:35p.m.

Council Members Present: Brickner, Bridges, Bruce, Knol (arrived at 6:48pm), Lerner, Massey and Steckloff

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Brock, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Boyer, Assistant to the City Manager Geinzer, Directors Lasley and Randle.

BUDGET REVIEW FOR VARIOUS CITY DEPARTMENTS:

CENTRAL SERVICES:

Councilmember Bruce inquired about the decrease in software training and increase in sick/vacation and overtime. Director Lasley responded that most employees were trained at the time that the City of Farmington was brought on board with the city's computer network. He explained that he has some long-time employees that are meeting their threshold of sick and/or vacation time so they are required to cash that out. As far as overtime, his staff has been required to work overtime lately during the efforts to get Farmington onto the city's network.

Dr. Bruce inquired if the City is breaking even with regard to costs and the fees the City of Farmington is paying per the contract. Director Lasley replied that he does not feel the City will break even for the first couple of years but will eventually and that this was done in the spirit of the State EVIP Program and consolidation of services. He stated that they can renew the contract annually and Farmington would like to include more services; but at this time his staff is only trying to meet the EVIP requirements and then will look at additional services. He stated that staff is 98% complete with the transition.

Councilmember Bridges inquired if cashing out of sick and vacation time is city policy. City Manager Brock stated that this is part of the collective bargaining contracts.

Councilmember Steckloff inquired what the miscellaneous expenses would include. Mr. Lasley stated that this would include items required for special events such as earth day, rouge rescue, etc.

(Councilmember Knol arrived)

Director Lasley discussed a roof replacement issue with a home that is being rented out in Farmington Hills. He stated that the matter has gone to court and there is now a court order allowing the City to fix the roof. He wanted to let Council know of his intention to bring this issue before them at their next regular meeting.

Mr. Lasley mentioned that another property on Ontaga where the City had an ongoing issue with the construction/addition to a home has been resolved and the building taken down and property cleared. He stated that a lien has been placed on that property to recoup costs.

City Council thanked Mr. Lasley for the information. There were no further comments.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Councilmember Lerner inquired about the increased part-time costs. Director Randle explained that long-time employee Mary LaPorte had retired and then was hired back on a part-time basis to support the Department and help train a replacement. He noted that this Department had lost several long-time employees in a short period.

Councilmember Bridges noted that a goal of the Department was to ensure diversity in the work force and inquired how the City was doing with those efforts.

Director Randle stated that he does not have any statistics with him, but he has been sitting in on the oral boards for the Police Department and working with NOBLE to ensure diversity in particularly the Police and Fire Departments.

Councilmember Lerner expressed concern with the retention of Paid-On-Call (POC) Firefighters. Mr. Randle stated that he continues to discuss with the Fire Chief retention incentives and strategies.

Mr. Lerner stated that he would like to discuss options prior to next year's budget. Discussion continued on the POC system and retention rate.

WRAP-UP:

Finance Director Gajda provided an update on road funding and stated that he will be revising the budget document per Council's direction to authorize the full 2 mills toward the maintenance of local roads as approved by the voters.

Mayor Pro-Tem Massey inquired about the next management survey audit. City Manager Brock responded that would be part of the 2016/17 budget.

Mr. Brock stated that there would be a full presentation and public hearing on the budget at the City Council meeting of June 8, 2015 and the final budget would be put out on the city's website.

Mayor Brickner thanked City Manager Brock and the Department Heads for all of their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brickner adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk