

CITY OF SYLVAN LAKE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2006, Sylvan Lake Lutheran Church, 2399 Figa, West Bloomfield Twp., opening at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Lorenz presided over the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Hunger, Hungerman, Lorenz, Conkey, Eriksen

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Martin, Clerk Clippert and City Attorney Bibeau

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Martin requested item 10G, TCFD Resolution of Recognition be added to the agenda.

Moved by Hunger, seconded Conkey, to approve the City Council Agenda for January 11, 2006, as amended.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Eriksen, seconded Hunger, to approve the following minutes for December, 2005, as presented:

December 14, 2005 Organizational Meeting

December 14, 2005 ZBA for 2451 Orchard Lake Road

December 14, 2005 Regular Meeting

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

Moved by Hunger, seconded Conkey, to approve the voucher report for January totaling \$221,468.83.

Dec Payroll	80,414.04	Check #'s 9698-9765
Accts Pay-Jan	138,094.00	Check #'s 38021-38088
ACH-Dec	<u>2,960.79</u>	
	\$ 221,468.83	

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

Hunger thanked Chief Silver for doing a good job and he is pleased to see tickets being issued for speeding in the city.

Conkey thanked the Chief for a more detailed report.

Chief Silver thanked the residents for their support and informed them his door is always open for suggestions. He stated he is enjoying his job and wants to make this a better place for everyone.

Mayor Lorenz received the Public Works Department and the City Attorney's reports for the month of December 2005, and the Police report for November 2005 and asked that they be placed on file.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Lorenz opened the meeting to the public.

Mary Ann Smith, expressed she felt the fine of \$500 for banning glass in the parks is unreasonable.

Tom Christman, asked if the dog ordinance could be improved. He complained of dogs running loose and owners not picking up waste.

Pete Peters, recalled a story of a resident yelling at him when he was speeding. He felt that is better than getting a ticket or hurting someone. He believes issuing tickets to residents is the answer.

FD-001-06

Bill Wright, Fire Commissioner for Sylvan Lake, gave an update from their meeting. The fire department is now providing transport service. There is no AMR anymore. He conveyed the Tri-City Fire Hall donated a lot of fire bunker gear to a station in the upper

peninsula and they are now going to donate the jaws-of-life. They have purchased a new ambulance to improve the ambulance service and the air pack cylinders have been updated. He stated the Fire Marshall is watching for open fires. They are looking to have a unified ordinance for outdoor burning, for all the communities. He reported Sylvan Lake has the lowest runs.

Mary Ann Smith added residents should be made aware that firepits are against the ordinance.

Patrick Riney, also added the fire code and the city's ordinance don't allow open burning. The only outdoor fires allowed are barbeque grills. All others are illegal. Neighbor's can call and complain. Tickets can be issued. Martin felt this would be good to put in the newsletter.

Cynthia Forcier, asked that something be put in the newsletter regarding walkers and joggers wearing dark clothing. She suggested they use flashing lights so drivers can see them better.

Karen Toth, stated the street light at Oakwood and Garland is out again. She asked if anything could be done to fix it better. Martin stated it has been reported to Edison and that is all the city can do.

Brett Chudler, asked if the timing of the street on Orchard Lake could be changed. Martin stated he has discussed this with the Road Commission.

Dave MacGillis, explained businesses on Orchard Lake Road are piling up their snow out by the road, making it hard to see when pulling out. He asked if they could be made to push it to the back of their businesses. Martin will see what he can do.

There were no other public comments. Mayor Lorenz closed this portion opened to the public.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Martin congratulated Mayor Lorenz on his position and running his first meeting.

Water Meters

There are still around 50 residential meters left to be installed.

Storm Water Management

The group is still working on ordinances such as fertilizer. They are also working on education.

NoHaz

M-001-06

At the next study session they will be discussing possibly not belonging to this. Martin asked how many residents have used it. There were around seven hands shown.

Trail

Benches are being installed. This spring there will be normal maintenance and grading to even it out more.

Storm Water Lift Station

The work inside is almost finished. Then they will be cleaning up the outside and getting the piping out of there.

Community Center

Martin reported City Council is still discussing this and what direction they should go. This will be discussed at a study session.

Orchard Lake Corridor

They are working on a lot of ideas with the corridor. They have broken up into smaller groups to come up with some firmer ideas of what they want to do. He is working with West Bloomfield and Bloomfield Twp.

Fees

City Council and City Hall have been working on cost cutting. Currently there is a company evaluating our bills to see if any cost reduction is possible.

Separation of Zoning Board of Appeals

The City Attorney is working on an ordinance for this change. Seven residents have expressed an interest in sitting on the board.

Electronic Newsletter

This will premier in February. It will be a very powerful tool. Martin asked everyone to sign up for it.

Manager's Evaluation

Martin is working on getting information together. City Council will be evaluating him at a study session.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Eriksen thanked everyone for participating in their City government. He focused on the city's budgetary problem. He stated State funding is going to zero. He expressed the fee increases are to help user concept verses a millage. City Council is working hard on this problem. They are looking at forming a 20 resident committee to work with them to understand the finances and comes up with ideas.

Hunger thanked Lorenz for accepting the Mayor position. He believes he is a great communicator and leader. He is an asset to City Council.

He feels when neighbors have complaints with each other they should talk to each other.

He is hoping to see this kind of a turnout for the Master Plan visioning session. He thanked those who took their time to fill out the survey. About 400 were return and they are reviewing them. He would like everyone to get involved, to understand the picture and give their input and suggestions.

Conkey agreed with Hungers comments and added Sylvan Lake has one of the lowest millage rates in Oakland County.

He reviewed Aero Tree was approved to removed the dead ash trees in the city. They are providing a great rate which includes stump removal. He asked residents to call Aero Tree or himself.

He noted on the chat room there has been discussion on speeding. He explained City Council did request to ticket all speeders. It isn't something they are doing to raise money. The courts get most of the money. He added that while they are watching for speeders, they're stopping people for running stop signs and other things too.

Conkey thanked Lorenz for being Mayor and feels he will do a great job.

Hungerman also touched on the visionary session and that Council, Planning Commission and the Planners are looking at the surveys. He stated work on the 2006/2007 budget will begin soon.

He explained Council has to make hard decisions and a lot of thought does go into them.

Lorenz thanked all the residents who voted for him. He thanked City Council for electing him to lead the city. He congratulated everyone on their holiday lights and thanked everyone for coming to express their interest, noting boat docks is only one piece of the puzzle.

Lorenz stated he and Martin met with an expert on city management. He is going to put together a plan to keep us as a solvent city that provides the services that the residents expect and maybe bring back the services that have been cut because of funding. He wants to chart a course for the future, for 5-15 years.

COMMUNICATIONS

a. Appointment to Board of Review **A2-001-06**

Moved by Hunger, seconded Conkey, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Scot Storrie to the Board of Review for the term to expire January 31, 2007.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

BD-001-06

b. Consideration to Increase Boat Dock and Park Fees

Martin provided a handout on dock fee information showing the park and recreation department budget and the current fee structure for the dock and park fees.

Mayor Lorenz opened the meeting to the public.

Pete Harrop, explained he is not opposed to an increase of fees. His biggest fear is fees are the easiest way to attach a dollar to citizens in the community, to cover short comings in the city. He would like it looked at equally so all residents share in an increase. He suggested a special assessment for police and fire services. This effects the whole city. He reviewed in past history dock fee increases were suppose to go to the seawall repair and it never happened. He would like to see this dock increase specifically go for the seawall.

He thought the city was in a deficit but understand it didn't end up that way at the year end. He asked council to take the time to review everything so all 850 households share in the cost.

Mary Sax, asked where the money goes. Martin explained the money goes into the general fund, which the park and recreation department is part of. Sax suggested changing the name of this fee, it is not an inspection fee. She discussed the consent judgement agreement which the Lakeview residents have and believes they shouldn't be paying a fee.

Duane Bigsby, stated this is the first time he has heard of a cash flow shortage. He doesn't believe in applying bandaids. He would like to see something put together on paper and a plan on fixing the whole problem.

Ray Dahlgren, agreed the city needs more money and needs more dock spaces. He suggested allowing three or four boats per space and installing two long docks at the Community Center which would allow for 20 boats at each dock. He would like to see the launch ramp made available to anybody who donates to the Sylvan Otter Group and lastly asked council to consider the seniors involved.

Rob Conkey, hears complaints of the long wait list and dock holders sharing their spaces for \$2000. He expressed, you can't find another dock space in Oakland County for \$60. He feels it is a great value.

Bill Wright stated there is a lot of wasted space. He would like to see more dock holders sharing their docks with their neighboring dock holder. He feels this would allow for more spaces then.

Joan Eberhardt,, noted there are some dock spaces that aren't being used and she thought they were supposed to lose them. The city needs to be vigilant on that. She feels a millage is needed, where it is shared across the board.

John Shepp, conveyed the financial issues are nothing new. City Council has been discussing them for the last year and half that he is aware of. He noted most residents don't attend meetings unless it is a hot issue involving them. He feels everyone should attend regularly.

Luke Cassar, explained residents don't have to have a dock. It is a privilege. He doesn't feel it is fair to levy a millage when lake front owners would pay a higher rate than those off the water.

Doreen Doane, didn't understand the dock fee to rent the space when they are a part of the consent agreement. Martin explained in the consent agreement it states they will abide by all the rules and fees.

Bob Monument, stated the city can't rent them their own property. Martin asked him to talk to him after the meeting.

Pete Peters agreed with Harrop and Sax. He feels if they are not taking the boat dock holders money and putting it to use for park land, then it becomes a tax not a fee.

Al Payson, agrees with Harrop. The fees should go into the parks.

Fran Hines,questioned if the storage lot fee was going to be raised also. She feels \$200 is cheap.

Art Asplund, agreed with the band-aid comments and stated they need a better plan to fund the city.

Russell Meskin, feels all fees should be increased and questioned if the money is needed now or if this is in preparation for down the road.

Ron McDonald, agrees fees need to go up, but feels there should be a cap on increasing so they don't have to revisit it again in a few years.

Jennifer Hill, would like to know where the dock money is going currently and would like to see it go toward seawall and the parks.

JoAnn Eberhardt expressed she is aware of the shortfall and stated council did add a half mill this year. She understands if a millage increase is needed. She agrees the fee increase should be used for the seawall and all fees should be raised across the board.

Jerry Rozycki, agreed with Dahlgren that everyone wants a dock and “T” docks at the Community Center.

John Evans, conveyed there are three dock rentals on the lake, Cunningham Park \$55, Oakland County Boat Club and the City of Sylvan Lake. This increase in the fee will put Sylvan Lake more than the Boat Club.

Tom Christman asked council to consider parking if they increase the number of spaces. Parking is already hard to find.

Margo Foster, stated she can’t attend all the meetings and be involved as she should be. She stated Sylvan Lake is not a marina and the cost should be shared because everyone benefits from the lake and there isn’t a cost to the city for renting the dock spaces.

Dave MacGillis agreed residents are making money on sharing spaces. He asked council to straighten out the registration and handing out of spaces. He added he is in favor of the increase.

Rick Vanker, agrees with raising taxes and spreading them to everyone. He asked Council to consider the Lakeview owners separately.

Bill Schmidt, agrees with Vanker. They are a different issue.

Bill Waldman, moved into the city for the lake access. He shared, he has been lucky because someone has allowed him to share their space. He believes the power of communication is working together. He is for community spirit and pride.

Mike Polmear, doesn’t agree with increasing the fee to dock holders only and questioned where the fees are being used.

Mitch Black, reviewed with the last increase the idea was to create revenue stream and fix the seawall. The mistake they made then was not putting it in the motion. He is in favor of an increase and feels it is still a great deal for \$260. He asked council to earmark the money to fix the parks and to make the increase last 5-10 years.

Gloria Luther, proclaimed the lake is not being taken care of. The seaweed is terrible and the gasoline and oil are damaging the lake. She would like to see them work on the lake.

Karen Toth is not for the increase. She likes sharing dock spaces and feels the fees should go towards the seawall.

Pat Riney agrees with Peters. He stated the comparison with private marinas is not fair. He feels it is better to look at P.L. Beach Association, Walnut Lake and Upper Lakes. To look at the park system as a whole and raise it across the board.

Jim Cowper, agrees the millage needs to go up. Many communities have Association fees. He feels every resident should have to pay fee.

Brett Chudler, follows city government and has a strong interest even though he doesn't attend the meetings regularly. Just because people don't attend regularly doesn't mean they don't have a strong interest in their community.

There were no other comments. Mayor Lorenz closed the meeting to the public and opened the discussion to City Council.

Conkey explained he has spoken with many residents regarding this. He stated the fee hasn't been increased for many years and feels a \$200 increase is reasonable. He likes the idea of earmarking the money for the parks and not putting it in the general fund.

Eriksen explained the parks department budget is \$72,000 and the increase will help with this budget and it is not fair to earmark it when the budget is short already.

Hunger feels they need to commit to status quo. He stated council is looking at increasing all fees. He noted the survey results show an overwhelming "NO" to increase the millage. He explained the city can't have Association fees; it is not legal.

He would like to table the consideration. He would like to see all the tools required and consider all other fees at a later date.

Conkey expressed he is in favor of a 10% annual increase and would like City Council to consider it. Expenses increases each year and so should the fees.

Moved by Eriksen, seconded Conkey, to increase the boat dock fee by \$200 for boat dock holders and sharers, effective immediately.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Hunger, seconded Eriksen, to amend the motion tying the additional fee restriction on use for park and recreation maintenance improvements.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Lorenz asked council if they wanted to consider any other park fee increases.

PR-001-06

Hunger views the docks as a privilege; an additional asset. The beach is also an asset. They need to give the residents the opportunity to get involved and get more information.

Moved by Eriksen, seconded Hunger, to set the Park Registration fee at \$30 effective immediately.

Yes: Hungerman, Lorenz, Conkey, Eriksen,
No: Hunger

MOTION CARRIED

PR-002-06

c. Consideration to Increase Recreational Vehicle Area Storage Fee

Moved by Eriksen, seconded Hungerman, to set the Recreational Vehicle Storage space rental fee at \$250, effective the next billing cycle.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

d. Discussion of Other Fees

Martin explained they will be looking at building and all permit fees. They will be discussing a millage increase, and/or special assessment. He explained they can't do a flat park fee to all households. It is not legal. Council will be discussing all the revenues at a study session.

He also explained the Sylvan-Otter fees and how it is spread to all park users; \$35 for boat dock holder, \$10 of the ramp key fee and \$5 from the park tag fee goes for weed control.

He explained seawall installation has been done in the past. Fifteen years ago it all needed to be replaced and they did \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year until costs went up and they couldn't afford the improvement.

He clarified the "no" shortfall in the budget. Explaining it is because of the fundraising revenues which were taken in but not expended in that year.

e. Master Plan Update

Planning Commission is working on updating the Master Plan. It is a major overhaul. They want to get a good direction for the next 20-25 years. McKenna, our Planners, are holding a visioning session next Wednesday, here at 7:00. He encouraged everyone to come and give their input on what they want to see happen with Sylvan Lake.

f. Discussion of DTE Generator **M-002-06**

Martin communicated he had a meeting with representatives from DTE. They provided a power point presentation of a large bi-fuel generator that they are going to place on the Edison property as a booster to run during very hot days which causes brownouts or blackouts. They are temporary only until new lines are installed into the facility. Noise was discussed. The closest the generator would be is 150 feet to any home.

Lorenz asked if they had any control over them. Martin replied, they weren't asking for permission, just letting us know they were doing this. It will be an asset to the City.

R2-001-06

g. Consideration to Approve TCFD Resolution of Recognition

Moved by Eriksen, seconded Hunger, to adopt this resolution of recognition.

Yes: All

No: None

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Pat Riney added a street was named after Chief Poppelreiter on the service center site.

FD-002-06

Eriksen explained with them providing the patient transport they plan to generated over \$700,000 in revenue cost recovery. He also informed Council the fireworks permit is now going to cost \$1015.

NEWSLETTER/CABLE TV INPUT

Fees, results of visioning session if any, electronic newsletter.

Hunger would like to put something in the newsletter to invite questions on the budget. Lorenz felt this would be better for the website.

Eriksen wants to start asking for volunteers for this 20 person committee. Lorenz would like to discuss it first at a study session.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Hunger, seconded Hungerman, to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Dennise Clippert, City Clerk