

A Regular Meeting of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2009; opening at 7:35 p.m. Mayor Lorenz presided over the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Wiegand, Zubrzycki, Lorenz, Maurina
Absent: Shepp (excused)
Also Present: City Manager Martin and Clerk Clippert

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Wiegand, seconded Maurina, to approve the City Council Agenda for July 8, 2009, as presented.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Maurina, seconded Wiegand, to approve the following minutes as presented:

June 4, 2009, Study Session
June 10, 2009, Regular Meeting
June 25, 2009, Study Session

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

Moved by Zubrzycki, seconded Maurina, to approve the voucher report for July totaling \$176,068.27.

June Payroll	\$ 44,894.99	Check #'s 10869-EFT251
Accts Pay-June-July	\$131,173.28	Check #'s 43984-E000000075

Totaling \$176,068.27

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

Mayor Lorenz received the City Attorney's Report for the month of June 2009, and the Police Department report for May 2009, and asked that they be placed on file.

Wiegand noted there were no tickets issued for ordinance violations. He doesn't recall ever seen tickets issued and would like it added to the report. Martin stated he will have it added.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Helen McAllister announced August 20th will be the annual Ice Cream Social hosted by the Sylvan Lake Garden Club. It is from 6-8 p.m. Helen Jane Peters will exhibit her historical display. One member from the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society will be bringing pre-war memorabilia. Help is needed with baking cakes and pies, dipping ice cream and serving.

Justin Hatch reported for the Home & Garden Tour. Their profit is looking to be around \$13,000. They had 600 attendees. Everyone was really pleased with the tour.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

F-008-09

John Scott, County Commissioner, brought County directories and stated they are a good source for contacts. He reported the County is working on the proposed budget. There are less revenues with property values decreasing. They are working on balancing the budget. There will be no tax increase passed on to the taxpayers. Next Wednesday Brookes Patterson will present the budget. The public is welcome to attend. Lorenz asked what will be happening with taxable values over the next 3-5 years. Scott replied, the projection is not good. He explained Proposal A and said your taxable value can only drop 10% or increase at the rate of inflation percentage. He estimated it will be 2020 before any municipality is collecting the same dollars they were in 2009.

Scott shared County employees are taking a 2 ½ % pay cut for this and next year. They looked at furlough days, but decided this is only a temporary fix.

Lorenz announced members of Keego Harbor's City Council are in attendance, Eric Gubka, Rob Kalman, Mayor Pro Tem Joel Yolder and Mayor Sid Rubin.

MaryAnn Smith stated she is following up regarding the fiscal stress the city is in. She shared she went to a meeting in Lansing for the public sector regarding how to handle the GASB post retirement benefits and provided copies of the presentation to the City Manager..

Judy Schwanitz stated their has been dumping on the property across from City Hall and at Whitfield. She asked if signs could be put up for fines for dumping. Also the end of the point on Pontiac Drive is not be taken care of. Martin stated he will look into these items.

P1-009-09

Jeff Zumbach urged council to approve the fence ordinance regarding shared driveways. He feels if minor corrections are made with the police department he would like to keep the department. He feels it is too costly to change and then find out it wasn't what you wanted. He asked council to not do anything rash. He is not in favor of sharing with Keego Harbor.

Stuart Bandalene expressed it is imperative to keep our own police department. Visibility is important to keep and he feels response times will be worse if the city goes with the Sheriff's Department. He feels the Sylvan Lake officers do a wonderful job. If it is a money issue he would rather eliminate other services before cutting or changing departments. Bandalene would like City Council to make a motion to end this discussion.

Tom Genn thanked the police department and stated his kids have gotten to know the police. They are part of the community. He would also like to end this discussion or have it put on the ballot for the residents to vote on.

Ray Dahlgren has been a resident for 75 years. He worked as a police reserve officer and knows the assists to Keego Harbor are 3 to 1. He wants to keep our own department. He stated Pontiac has cut their number of officers in half and feels that crime will come over here if things change with the police department. He expressed Sylvan Lake has a good department.

Sam Warwick conveyed he is here to relay 8-10 business owners thoughts on the police department. The police are doing a fabulous job and their patrol at night is very important. He feels the businesses are safe at night because they are here; their security is needed.

Brad Conkey expressed his opposing views. He feels the Sheriff's Department will provide the same coverage. They are a top notch department. Conkey shared some of his experiences with Sylvan Lake's police response time. He complained they are eating outside the city limits and he sees them over in Keego standing around. He feels it was because of the Sheriff's Department that the massage parlor went away. Conkey stated a \$100,000 savings is too big to just throw out and cuts have to be made somewhere. He noted all the Sylvan Lake officers would likely be hired with the Sheriff's Department and they would become better officers with more training. He feels council should talk to other communities who have changed and they will find they are happy with the Sheriff's Department.

Scot Storrie is willing to pay more taxes in order to keep the city's own department. He feels it is pure speculation on the coverage and treatment the city will receive from the Sheriff's Department. He feels with the Sheriff's Department having only one officer for both communities, more time will be spent in Keego than Sylvan Lake. Storrie provided there was an attempted abduction of a girl on Lakeland and Sylvan Lake's police handled it well. He sees the

police go by his house six times a day and likes it. He would like council to do whatever it takes to keep the Sylvan Lake police. He is concerned with the County making cuts that they may not be able to hire our police officers.

Bill Wright has had to use the police services and stated it was nice to have a friendly face there. They have helped him on other occasions too. He is 100% for keeping the Sylvan Lake Police Department. He likes seeing the guys all the time.

Russ Meskin clarified what the Sheriff is proposing is to use 6 men between Keego and Sylvan Lake. This is a drop of service of 160 man hours per week. He noted even if two more men were added it would be with limited savings. He feels the city needs full man power on duty. He would like the department left as status quo.

Stuart Bandalene challenged the comment on response time with the Sylvan Lake police. He stated there may have been exceptions, tired-up on a call. He has never heard a complaint regarding their response time. He has never seen the Sheriff's response times.

Sam Warwick wishes people would stop nit-picking and going behind the officers backs. He feels if you have a problem with what the officer is doing then they should tell them right away.

Brad Conkey reiterated his concern was that the officer was out of the city and response time would be less.

John Scott stated the contract with the Sheriff's Department is approved by the Board of Commissioner's. He clarified they would not cut officers because of budget constraints. If the contract provides for 6 officers they would provide this.

There were no other comments.

Mayor Lorenz closed this portion opened to the public.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Thank You's

Martin thanked the police for being here and thanked the OCBC for the fireworks. He received a lot of good comments and one complaint from an Orchard Lake resident. They didn't like all the noise so late on the evening before having to get up for work the next day. Martin thanked those who assisted in putting up signs on Sunday. \$500 was collected for parking at the Community Center. Martin feels it will be better next year.

Vision's Optical

Martin received a little bit of a drawing on what they are proposing. He did try to contact the architect to get them going on a site plan, but there hasn't been a whole lot of response.

Signs on Orchard Lake Road

Business owners have expressed their thanks to City Council for approving the allowance of temporary signs. They are all having more business because of this.

Loading Dock

An Italian restaurant will be going in. They are planning to open in August.

Tim Horton's

Construction plans were brought in today. They plan to open in November.

Newsletter

A-009-09

The paper newsletter is going to quarterly issues. He will explain this in the next issue. He is hoping more people will sign up for the electronic newsletter.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Wiegand would like Planning Commission to change the sign ordinance. He doesn't like the beer/wine sign that is at Sylvan Market and the gas station.

Wiegand stated the Home & Garden Tour Committee is getting people together to fix the building off the entrance of Community Center. They are looking at getting a sign for the Community Center and possibly some furniture.

Wiegand is concerned with the Oakland County Boat Club's new patio and he wondered how the noise ordinance would address this.

Wiegand would like something done with storage of cars. He feels this ordinance needs to be more strict.

Wiegand expressed he liked seeing the police walking around on the night of the fireworks. The only negative comment he received on the fireworks were that they were to far away.

Zubrzycki thanked the Oakland County Boat Club for the fantastic fireworks and thanked everyone who helped with the signs.

Zubrzycki asked if any applications were received for the Park & Recreation Commission. Martin has a few, but is looking for more.

Zubrzycki asked Martin about the new recycling program. Martin stated it will hopefully be kicked-off in August. He is working on getting bins, sizes, and costs. It will be in the August newsletter.

Lastly Zubrzycki stated the noise ordinance was presented to Planning Commission last night. He felt they had a lot of good questions. Anyone who has interest in this ordinance should attend next month's Planning Commission meeting.

Maurina thanked the Home & Garden Club Committee and all those who volunteered to help. She stated all the money is going to this building and thanked everyone for being a part of it. They are looking for helpers for next year.

Lorenz expressed his thanks to the Home & Garden Tour and the Oakland County Boat Club. He is pleased with the number of people showing up tonight to express their thoughts in support of the police department. He stated there will be fiscal challenges through the next decade. He asked everyone to rally around each other and support the city. He asked for volunteers to go door-to-door and help promote the millage increase. He acknowledged in order to have a wonderful city everyone has to pay for it and council needs help in explaining this and getting the word out.

ACTION ITEMS

P1-010-09

- a. Discussion of Meetings with Keego Harbor and Oakland County Sheriff's Dept.

Lorenz shared his thoughts. He wants Sylvan Lake to keep their own department, but as a voted representative they must do their fiduciary duty and investigate all options. He feels the OCSD did a wonderful job with their presentation. He shared he did ask the Under-Sheriff how overtime is handled with fireworks and such. He was told they would handle it, it is part of the contract. He explained the \$365,000 savings is between both Keego and Sylvan. Even if the savings is split 50/50 a \$182,000 is huge and it will be up to the resident to decide to replace that revenue. He agreed the savings is because there will be less officers on duty. Lorenz likes being spoiled with having own department. He respects the request from the prior Mayor to put this to rest, but feels they can't throw it out; cuts are needed. He is looking at where the city can save money, but it is not run like a business and the city is already running with minimum staff. There is still the same amount of roads to maintain and patrol, grass to cut and more forms required by regulations. He is sure the Sheriff's Department would do a good job.

Maurina agreed with Lorenz. She feels residents need to find out what the issues are and get educated. Tax revenues are decreasing and State revenue sharing will probably be going away. The money has to come from some place. She would like to continue to work with Keego Harbor to look at other options. She also is not ready to give up looking at the Sheriff's proposal. She noted she spoke with two other communities who have changed and they had no complaints with response time. Maurina has experienced the change in police department services before and knows the level is not the same.

Wiegand is totally in favor in keeping the police department. He stated the city has a \$65,000 deficit this year and they need to find money from somewhere else. He would like to table this

until after the election in hopes that everyone will vote for the millage. He would like to hear what Keego Harbor's view are. Lorenz proposed holding a joint meeting.

Zubrzycki feels the OCSD did a wonderful job on clarifying questions put to them. He wants to keep our own force, but he too is not willing to throw this out yet. He asked John Scott if he knew what the new rates would be for cost per deputy. Scott stated they are in arbitration right now. They have been without a contract since 2000. They will get back pay and significant raises. He stated the County Commissioner's are in negotiations right now with most units. They will have a better feel for the numbers by the time they approve the budget in September.

Zubrzycki feels the Sheriff made a profound statement in saying what does it matter if our officers are in a blue uniform or brown. He realizes it is a public relation issue and we are a small city. He asked employees to table their frustrations and to answer questions that are being asked ten times over. The city has to figure out how to save money.

P1-011-09

b Discussion and Direction Regarding the Police Department

Martin stated he and Dale Stuart would like direction from City Council as to where they want to go. He feels a joint meeting with both City Council's would be great to get direction. Neither City wants to waste time if both cities aren't interested.

Lorenz stated he has been speaking with Martin, Stuart, and Yolder about having one police department between the two cities, a split shift or a shared shift with Keego Harbor. He feels a joint meeting is needed. He acknowledged at a study session City Council officially asked Martin to discuss with Stuart ways to save money between the two cities, which went beyond the police department. Also at the last study session council asked Martin to move forward with discussion with Stuart for a split shift. Martin explained whatever is decided there would be involvement with the union legal counsel and the Chief.

Zubrzycki believes in structure and feels it is important for the guys to know they all have a job tomorrow and it is very important for them to understand it is his goal to try to make sure that happens.

Lorenz suggested forming a work group to meet with Martin and the Chief to educate them on who our employees are and what their tasks are.

P1-012-09

Moved by Zubrzycki, seconded Wiegand, to form a work group consisting of City Manager Martin, the Police Chief and two City Council members. The Council member will be rotated.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

P1-013-09

Moved by Maurina, seconded Wiegand, to continue discussions with Keego Harbor and hold a joint City Council meeting.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Maurina asked the Chief if dispatch history calls were easy to get. She would like an understanding of how many call are for Sylvan and how many with Keego. She will contact Martin and the Chief tomorrow regarding this.

E-005-09 R2-002-09 P1-014-09

c. Approval of Millage Question to be Placed on the November Ballot

Martin read the proposed ballot language which if approved would levy 2 mills for 10 years and reminded everyone the fire bond millage will come off this year making the overall increase only 1.5 mills. Martin feels it needs to be explained with taxable values dropping tax payers are paying less taxes.

Wiegand would like it explained that the 2 mills is not enough money to make capital improvements. The first \$65,000 is for a deficit they already have and then unfunded benefits/mandates. Martin added, if the millage is approved in November it will not affect this budget year. The millage won't be levied until July 2010, which is another year with an already straining budget.

Lorenz reminded everyone when the fire department was changed, five years ago to West Bloomfield, the increase was not passed onto the residents. He explained the council did discuss making the ballot question a public safety millage, but they didn't want it as a referendum to the Police Department. They felt this would give a false impression that it would guarantee the police department. They wanted the millage to support all city aspects not one segment of the city. He explained 2 mills would not be enough for the police departments budget of \$550,000.

Judy Schwanitz urged council to spell out why the millage is needed. Lorenz asked her to come to the study session to help out or he could come to her house to discuss it. Schwanitz also suggested having Alex James make a video again.

Annette Meskin also feels it needs to be spelled out why the millage is necessary and that council is asking for a lesser amount because of the economy. She feels if they need to come back in two more years and ask for more, so be it.

Russ Meskin questioned if council had the option to levy up to 2 mills or they have to levy the 2 mills. Martin clarified, the ballot language states not to exceed 2 mills. City Council would set the millage rates when they are approving the budget.

Lorenz stated the average increase per household will be around \$180 year.

Tom Genn feels a referendum for the police department would pass and he would like guaranteed funding for the police. Wiegand explained how they decided to go with a general operating millage. Council wanted to be honest because the millage is needed for more than just the police department. Genn believes there is a better chance of succeeding if they explain 2 mills is needed for the police department, ½ mill for tennis court and so on.

Steve Miller asked if two mills is enough. Maurina stated it is hard to project. Zubrzycki conveyed they did discuss proposing 2.5 and 3 mills. A lot of discussion went on about what would pass and the economy.

Wiegand restated they are going to have to work hard to get the word out and to explain this. They are working on putting a packet together. Lorenz asked anyone who is willing to volunteer to help handout the packets to contact City Hall or sign-up tonight before they leave.

Moved by Wiegand, seconded Maurina, to approve the resolution to place the proposed Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2009 ballot as presented.

Yes: Zubrzycki, Lorenz, Maurina, Wiegand
No: None
Absent: Shepp

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

A2-005-09

d. Appointment to the Planning Commission for Remainder of Mr. Knudsen's Term

Mayor Lorenz stated they received applications of interest from Paul Hungerman, Justin Hatch, Steve Miller and Joseph Salemi. Mayor Lorenz would like to appoint Paul Hungerman for the remainder of Rodney Knudsen's term.

Moved by Wiegand, seconded Maurina, to approve Mayor Lorenz' appointment of Paul Hungerman to the Planning Commission for remainder of Rodney Knudsen's term.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

A2-006-09

e. Appointment to the Tri-City Fire Board for a Two-Year Term

Mayor Lorenz stated he would like to reappoint Richard Eriksen to the Tri-City Fire Board for a two-year term. He is working on negotiations with West Bloomfield Township. He explained with City Council discussing going to the Sheriff's Department this would affect West Bloomfield Township because \$50,000 is for dispatching.

Moved by Zubrzycki, seconded Wiegand, to approve Mayor Lorenz' appointment of Richard Eriksen to the Tri-City Fire Board for a two-year term.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

f. Appointment to the GWBCAB for a Three-Year Term

Maurina would like to advertise this opening since the only applicant Ed Robak is gone to Florida for more than half the meetings. Martin stated Robak would remain on the board until someone else is appointed. Council agreed they could wait.

O-003-09

g. Approval of Ordinance 298 - Fence Ordinance

Martin stated this is the approved and recommended fence ordinance from Planning Commission. Martin high-lighted the changes. This allows fences to be installed to the front of the house. If someone wants a fence on a shared driveway they must provide a signed letter by both property owners approving the installation of a fence. Zubrzycki would like a definition of minimum clearance around the main structure and Lorenz would like some verbiage for driveways that are next to each other, so they don't get locked in between his driveway and house.

Martin asked council if they want the changes to go back to Planning Commission. Council felt the overall intent was the same and Martin can just make the changes and bring it back to council next month.

Lorenz reviewed why the fence ordinance was revisited and asked City Council and the audience if they would be in favor of allowing fences in the front yard to extend to the street. No one was in favor of this.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

a. Community Center Policy - Fees for use types

Patty Harrop stated the committee met last week and will provide their recommends once they are typed up.

- b. Appointment of Parks and Recreation Committee members
- c. Security for Ferndale Park, Restroom and Boat Launch
- d. Community Center Parking Lighting
- e. City Entrance/Identification Signs

There was nothing new to report on these agenda items.

- f. Noise Ordinance

Mayor Lorenz thanked Zubrzycki for his work on the noise ordinance.

NEWSLETTER AND CABLE INPUT

Ice Cream Social Aug 20th with the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society bringing old-time games for kids to play.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Maurina, seconded Wiegand, to adjourn the regular City Council Meeting.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Dennise Clippert, City Clerk