

CITY OF SYLVAN LAKE  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 22, 2007

A Special Meeting of City Council was held on Tuesday, May 22, 2007, at Sylvan Lutheran Church, 2399 Figa, West Bloomfield, at 8:11 p.m. with Mayor Lorenz presiding.

Present: Hungerman, Lorenz, Maurina, Shepp, Conkey

Absent: None

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

Approve meeting time to 9:30 p.m. with one, one-hour extension by vote

Moved by Shepp, seconded Hungerman, to approve the meeting going to 9:30 p.m. with one, one-hour extension by vote.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

**T-004-07**

Placing Outstanding Street/Drainage Bills on Tax Roll and Affect on Dock Space Holders

Martin explained these bills are from ditch enclosures, yard drains and concrete drive approaches and that residents requested this work and have not yet paid. There is a second issue with some of these in how this pertains to the Boat Dock policy. The policy states that if a resident is \$100 or more delinquent to the City for more than six months, you will not receive a dock license.

Council discussed this and agreed to enforce the policy. They asked that the dock residents who are on this list be called and notified they can lose their space if it is not paid by the date the dock/boat must be in, which is June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Moved by Hungerman, seconded Maurina, to approve placing the delinquent bills for work performed that was requested by residents, during the Street and Drainage project, on the summer tax roll, as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

**CA-004-07**

West Bloomfield Twp. Water Dept's Use of Water Tower for Antenna

Martin explained he has been speaking and meeting with West Bloomfield Twp. for a couple months now regarding placing an antenna on the City's water tower for their SCADA system. This will allow them to communicate with their meter pits and lift stations. They were looking to put a new tower up across Orchard Lake Road. They spoke with Martin to see if the City would have a problem with this and Martin stated he did. So they starting discussing the possibility of putting it up on our water tower. It is one small antenna they

would have to put on the tower, and a small box on the ground. Martin has discussed cost with West Bloomfield Twp. The cost for installing the tower was going to be around \$65,000. They are not interested in paying a monthly charge because then they could pay for the tower in a number of years. Martin discussed with them sharing in the cost for painting the City's water tower, with the Cellular Phone Company and they agreed to that. West Bloomfield also offered to monitor the City's lift stations and if there is an alarm then they could respond to it. They did talk a little about public safety and the possibility of a repeater tower for West Bloomfield dispatch. Martin feels this may be a good issue to barter with them, that we are saving them \$100,000 from putting up a tower, and they can keep the fire protection fees where they are.

Lorenz asked how much the lease fee is for the cellular company. Martin estimated \$18-20,000. He clarified West Bloomfield is only going to be one small box with one antenna and they have agreed to all these things instead of paying a monthly fee. Martin feels it is a good deal.

Hungerman questioned how the lift stations are monitored currently. Martin replied, there are audio and visual alarms on the building. The city has to count on someone calling or the police see it. Lorenz asked how much it cost to paint the tower. Martin stated the last time the city did it was 20 years ago and he thinks it was around \$22,000.

Shepp feels they should keep neighborly relations and the city is gaining from it. Lorenz would like to see the water tower painted and our logo on it. Bibeau asked for how long would this agreement be. Martin stated usual agreements are 20 years. Martin plans to talk with the cellular company about painting also. Lorenz suggested adopting an ordinance stating structures can't be taller than X feet. This way the tower will be more valuable. Martin stated there is an ordinance stating structures can't be more than 20' tall. Lorenz likes the idea Sylvan Lake is saving West Bloomfield Twp from paying out \$100,000 and paying monthly rental fees and in return West Bloomfield Twp. should keep the fire protections fee at the 5% increase a year.

Martin will get with West Bloomfield and then get back to City Council for approval.

### **Advertising in Newsletters**

**A-003-07**

Martin explained the city couldn't find any other municipality that sells advertising in their newsletters. The Village of Beverly Hills sells ads for their calendar. Martin is thinking the city would get ads for such things as handyman, babysitters, for-sale ads and the residents selling real estate.

Lorenz feels advertising is private sector business and not for the city. Martin added they would have to decide what would and wouldn't be accepted. A disclaimer would have to be included. Hungerman also added, there are going to be requests for exclusive rights. Martin informed council the electronic newsletter only goes out to around 250 people. Maurina feels this is going to be a lot to deal with. The art work and setup alone with be a big deal

and time consuming. She thinks the city would be better off not pursuing this. Council all agreed. Martin will remove this item from the agenda.

Maurina offered one other option, to provide a list with services that residents want to offer. This would be published just once a year. Martin stated they could see what kind of interest for this there is. Lorenz doesn't feel it would be a lot.

### Cost of Permits and Bonds

### **B1-001-07**

Martin provided a list of fees charged for services and permits. He explained how the building permits are setup and how a performance bond works.

Maurina explained she asked for this to be discussed so she could get a better understanding. She feels the fees are high for seniors. Lorenz thought the fees were just increased a year ago and were brought into line with other communities. Martin agreed. He noted some of the fees are higher than other cities, but some are also lower. Lorenz asked if the city was covering cost yet. Martin explained the general fund still supports the building fund. Martin feels it is the low volume of permits that doesn't support the cost.

Council discussed the inspectors and poor inspections in the past. Martin explained Gerry McCallum is now the city's building inspector and building official. He acknowledged there was a problem with the prior building inspector, but he feels all the inspectors are doing a good job now. Some of council were concerned with the electrical inspector. Martin stated he will look into it.

Maurina asked if the ordinance officer is still working. Martin informed her it is police department handling it now. Maurina stated she has seen a lot of households doing work without a permit, especially on the weekends. Hungerman stated the police can't always see everything and be everywhere. Council discussed forming a neighborhood watch group, but felt it would be a burden on that group. Council suggested stressing to use the hotline the police have setup and remind residents there is value to the city, in maintaining their property correctly.

Hungerman asked if something could be put in the newsletter regarding being courteous and talking to your neighbor when doing something close to the property line. Also the Boat Club is hosting a Father's Day Breakfast, Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-noon. Donations will go toward the fireworks.

Clippert asked if or when the envelopes for donations for the fireworks would be going out. Hungerman stated they will be going out the first week in June.

Martin asked Council if it would be ok for a Brownie Troop to sell baked goods and water after the Memorial Parade. The proceeds will go toward the fireworks. Council agreed this would be ok as long as it is not city sponsored.

Public Comment

Russ Meskin stated he has neighbors who will be interested to hear about the possibility of West Bloomfield monitoring the lift stations.

There were no other comments.

**A2-005-07**

Council discussed Rick Eriksen's term being up on the Tri-City Fire Board. Clippert thought his term expired in 2008. She will check on it tomorrow and email council. Lorenz discussed putting something in the newsletter when an opening is available on a board. He has a different point of view on this. He feels City Council has been elected and if they believe they have some volunteers they know of who would be good and qualified then this is better rather than opening it up and then there is a competition for the appointment. The rest of council all stated they would like to keep advertising it in the newsletter when there is an opening. Hungerman suggested asking for a letter of qualification rather than just a letter of interest.

Adjourn to Executive Session-Discuss Pending Litigation

Moved by Hungerman, seconded Maurina, to adjourn to executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Yes: All  
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:22 p.m.

City Council came out of executive session at 10:41 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Hungerman, support Shepp, to adjourn the Special Meeting.

Yes: All  
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The special meeting adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

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Dennise Clippert, City Clerk