

A Special Meeting of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Thursday, April 23, 2009; opening at 5:06 p.m. Mayor Lorenz presided.

Present: Lorenz, Maurina, Shepp, Wiegand, Zubrzycki (5:08 pm)

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Martin and Clerk Clippert

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

### Approval of Agenda

Mayor Lorenz suggested adding public comment to the agenda.

Moved by Shepp, seconded Maurina, to add public comment and approve the agenda as amended.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

### Public Comment

Marlene Toby questioned why the State is giving \$2 million for a bridge crossing across Telegraph Road for the trail when Pontiac's trail is private property now. She asked if there is anything the city can do. Maurina thought it is federal money used for these kinds of projects. She is not sure if it is too late to do anything. Martin confirmed, it is too late now to do anything. Pontiac put in for a grant. The Friends of the Clinton River Trail were very active in getting additional funding. The City of Pontiac may have to come up with money also.

Helen McAllister is interested in hearing the discussion for Community Center use types. She is concerned because the Pontiac Garden Club currently is using it and is hoping they can still use it for a reasonable price. She is also hoping they can use the kitchen without an additional fee.

#### **CC-011-09**

Dan Albani is a resident and a certified personal trainer. He is certified in CPR/AED and has insurance. He has been asked by a few residents to hold fitness class for seniors, kids and adults at the Community Center. He is proposing a percentage of revenue cost; 15% of the revenues will go to the Community Center. There is a possibility for \$1300 a month in revenue and promotion for the Community Center. The \$1300 comes from holding three classes, five days a week with ten participants. He would schedule the classes when they are not conflicting with other meetings or rentals.

JoAnne Eberhardt questioned if the seawall on Pontiac Drive is going to get fixed. Lorenz replied, there are plans for it, but the city doesn't have the money currently.

Midge Davison stated the drainage ditches are very clogged, a lot of leaves and weeds in them; they need cleaning. She asked who is responsible for them. Martin explained it is road right-of-way, but it is the property owners' responsibility to maintain the ditches and culverts.

#### Community Center Policy - Fee for Use Types

**CC-012-09**

Lorenz reviewed, they received a recommendation from the rental committee and they need to discuss and decide what they are going to do. Council discussed who a bonafide committee should be. They agreed it should be one approved by City Council. Wiegand would like to get a list of possible users/groups.

Martin feels there are going to be a lot of residents wanting to use the center for a lot of different things and he would like someone to organize it. Maurina suggesting having a volunteer and a backup person. Shepp asked if this person decides who uses it and for what fee or does it go back to the City Manager. Maurina feels that would still be up to the City Manager.

Maurina feels West Bloomfield's list is helpful and a good guide which could be incorporated with the rental committees recommendations. Maurina volunteered to organize the events. Martin stated they can discuss how to handle this. Zubrzycki likes West Bloomfield's priority schedule and how they define each. He feels this adds clarity. Martin stated he can work on combining the two and work with Nicole Menuck since she worked with the committee.

Shepp asked if they are given a reduced rate or if there will be a set fee for groups in category III Martin stated a reduced rate is better, then if fees are changed it is easier.

Council discussed the Park & Recreation Committee and making them a formal Ad Hoc Committee. Lorenz stated he has spoken with Mitch Black regarding this and Black doesn't have a problem with it. Martin stated it has been in the newsletter, nobody has responded.

Council continued their discussion on who should be charged a fee, a reduced fee or allowed to use for free. Council all agreed the Garden Club should not be charged for the Ice Cream Social. Marlene Toby shared what the rental committee discussed was the cost to run the building. There has to be a happy medium, some cost with using the building. Martin stated a minimum needs to be set. Maurina suggested charging a percentage of cleaning and utilities for opening the building. Council discussed Albani fitness class. Shepp feels if it is a business venture and they are going to make money, they should have to pay the full fee. Lorenz felt from the discussion he had with Albani, it was for residents only. Council would like to work with Albani. Wiegand would like Albani's record books to be open to the city to see who is coming. Wiegand asked how the cleanup is going to be handled. He referred to the ice rink still sitting out. Martin stated if it is a recognized use then someone will be responsible for keys and cleanup.

Jan Hays feel Albani's intent is for residents.

Midge Davidson feels there is a lot of talent in the community and suggested getting volunteers who have skills to hold “how to” classes. They would donate their time and the revenue can go to the city.

JoAnne Eberhardt questioned what the responsibilities of the volunteer attendant would be. Martin explained the idea was for when there are no events to have the center open so people can play cards or whatever. Eberhardt asked what hours this would be for. Martin stated that would depend on the volunteer. They are not expected to do anything, just be here to make sure nothing is vandalized. Eberhardt volunteered to do a test run for a month, on Monday’s from 10 am-2 pm.

Marlene Toby suggested having the Park & Recreation Committee represent a broad range of committees, such as one from each committee/groups. Martin reviewed if anyone is interested they should submit their name with a letter of qualifications to City Hall.

Council continued their discussion on who should be charged and not. Midge Davidson feels if someone is donating their time then they should not be charged. If it is a business where they are making any money, then charge them. Nicole Menuck questioned if there are legalities in running a business out the Community Center. Jan Hays suggested they provide proof of liability insurance. Martin agreed they would have to provide this. Lorenz suggested sending this topic back to the rental committee. Zubrzycki suggested inviting Albani to a committee meeting.

#### Discuss City Fees

#### **A-006-09**

Lorenz feels the replacement of keys should be more than \$5. He suggested \$10. Wiegand recommended increasing the boat dock fee by \$100-\$150. Zubrzycki questioned if they are just laying out what they feel should be changed or are actually changing. Lorenz clarified they are not voting on anything now. Shepp reviewed the need to increase revenues will not be well received but feels the city has very few revenue generators.

Jan Hays agreed the dock fee is a nominal fee, but noted there are a lot of older people who have lived here and use their docks. She feels they can’t afford the higher fee, but have a right to be able to use it. She feels someone needs to police the docks more. Lorenz replied, the committee is working on that.

Zubrzycki doesn’t want to see an increase, but understands the city needs revenue.

Shepp shared, he pays \$45 a month to store his recreational vehicle. He suggested increasing the RV lot fee to \$500. It may help in cleaning up the distressed items.

Midge Davidson asked how much enforcement is being done on permits. Lorenz replied, the police are trying to enforce this, but if residents see something they should call and report it. Davidson feels the permit fees are very reasonable.

Delores Goldman suggested having a higher fee to new dock holders than those who have had it for a number of years.

Russ Meskin proposed a gradual increase of \$50 a year over a number of years. He feels the city may lose dock holders and have open spaces if they raise it to high.

Wiegand stated the garage sale permit should be \$10. Lorenz feels handicap parking tickets should be \$100.

Martin will work on a recommendation, a list of increased fees.

Arlene Aidem stated she owns property in the city, but does not live here. She stated she is not able to vote and her dock space was revoked. She asked what rights a landlord has. She further stated she received no response from City Hall when she wrote letters asking this. Lorenz stated business owners are treating differently. Martin asked Aidem who at City Hall she sent the letter to and when, because neither he nor the Clerk recall receiving a letter. Aidem stated it would have been 2-3 years ago. He asked if she could provide a copy of the letter. Aidem stated she would.

Helen McAllister stated she went to City Hall to get a cat tag and was told they didn't know about it. Clippert asked McAllister to always let her know when the front desk is unable to help. She stated the cat tag is \$3.50.

#### 2009/10 Budget

#### **B-005-09**

Martin reviewed the general fund budget for 2009-10. He stated very few changes were made since last time council discussed it. He did add two columns to the general fund: amended budget if millage passed and difference in budgets, which shows which line items he would recommend increasing if the millage passed. Clippert interjected, if the millage passes in November it will not be collected on the taxes until 2010, which would be the 2010/11 budget. Martin continued, expenditures now show the Community Center, Police and P&R costs for benefits. These departments have increased while the Insurance/Benefits have decreased because of this spread. Martin will get council the amount the city saved with changes in medical insurance this year. Utilities for the Community Center are still a question because Consumers is just now fixing the estimate bills.

Maurina commented on the police millage budget showing \$16,000 for code enforcement. She would not be willing to spend that amount of money on this.

Wiegand asked if the Fire budget will increase. Martin stated the contract is through June 2010. They will be working on negotiations soon. Maurina would like the Fire Board to know what the city really wants, to lower cost. Martin stated all three communities are on the same page with this. Zubrzycki asked when their meetings are. Martin will get that to City Council; he believes they meet quarterly.

Martin also reviewed all the other funds of the city. In the Garage & Rubbish fund Martin budgeted for purchasing some large recycling bins. Maurina feels the residents should pay something just so we know they are serious about recycling and not using the bin for storage. She suggested charging \$10. Wiegand feels it is important to get more people recycling.

Maurina would like to lower the millage rate. Lorenz stated the millage rate was not lowered when they changed and saved with Richfield. He would like to lower it. He is not sure the fund balance needs to that high.

Martin suggested taking \$15,000 from fund balance to purchase the large 95 gallon bins for regular trash and possibly lowering the millage rate.

Shepp agreed with Lorenz and feels this could go along way with public relations.

Wiegand would like to do the recycling bins and lower the rate.

Lorenz asked if the money could be used to get some nice can in the parks. Martin will work on getting costs for cans and lowering the millage rate.

Maurina would rather purchase the big can for regular trash and offer recycling for the homeowner to purchase. She feels a lot of households don't need the larger recycling bin.

Lorenz asked if the cost is reduced in getting the big can for everyone. Martin stated the basic fee is lowered; there would be an extra charge for large bulk items. Martin will get a cost for the bulk items.

Lorenz would like to promote going green. He suggested offering the recycling bins with the city paying a portion.

Zubrzycki feels the big cans could be a dilemma for storage with small garages.

Martin stated a large water main needs to be replaced on Orchard Lake between Inverness and KFC. He will be bringing this cost to City Council.

Martin informed council the city is still battling with the City of Pontiac regarding the sewer bills. They are still estimating our bills and are showing a balance of \$218,000 due. Letters have been written to them numerous times regarding both of these items. The balance is due to Pontiac's poor bookkeeping.

Martin acknowledged two new funds, Home & Garden Tour Fund and Post Employment Benefit Funding.

Zubrzycki asked about a pension for new hires. Martin explained the Michigan Employees Retirement System (MERS) is the city's retirement carrier. If someone is hired here, they have to belong. Lorenz asked how many years an employee has to be here before they draw a pension. Martin replied, 20 years and 55 years old. They are vested at 10 years. Lorenz questioned if it is contractual. Martin stated it can change. Lorenz feels this needs to change.

General Discussion

**PR-006-09**

Shepp asked what is happening with the ice rink. Martin stated he spoke with Black regarding this. It is very large and hard to store. He offered, possibly rolling it up, covering it and leaving on the court since it will not be in use. Council is not sure of this. Martin assured council it is being worked on.

Maurina noticed stuff outside behind City Hall that needs to put away. Martin stated it is what was the in the storage building at the Community Center. The DPW is in the process of rearranging the storage garage. They are throwing out a lot of stuff.

Zubrzycki suggested setting up a time requirement for removal of the ice rink and such. Wiegand would like to see this done before they set it up again.

Adjournment

Moved by Zubrzycki, seconded Wiegand, to adjourn the study session.

Yes: All

No: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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Dennise Clippert, City Clerk