

A Study Session of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Thursday, February 26, 2009; opening at 5:03 p.m. Mayor Lorenz presided.

Present: Lorenz, Maurina, Shepp, Wiegand, Zubrzycki
Absent: None
Also Present: City Manager Martin and Clerk Clippert

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Lorenz requested to add item 3.J. Community Center Policy.

Moved by Wiegand, seconded Maurina, to approve the agenda as amended.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

City Manager Comments

C1-002-09

Martin shared his thoughts with City Council on how things should work between Council and City Hall. He assured them he wants this to be a positive experience and he had written these thoughts about five years ago, but hadn't had the correct opportunity to share them. He discussed City Council working together and being civil to each other. Discussed how meetings should be run, not blind siding each other or staff and being unified. He discussed study sessions and what should be on the agenda and how often. That agenda items should be discussed and acted on, even if there is not total agreement. Don't micro manage. City Council makes the legislative decisions, City Manager runs the city. City Council should not feel they need to know everything that is going on in the city. Martin assured them he doesn't either. He also addressed making special requests of himself or other employees. It totally changes their direction, focus and priorities. He said interruptions and easy access to employees at City Hall, residents expectations that they can demand employees time and that their issue will be taken care of immediately are very big problems. He reminded them of the projects which have been worked on over the last five years and were very taxing on the employees time. Lastly he stated City Hall is very inefficient and is not a safe work environment. City Hall should be at the Community Center.

Review Patrol Car Information **P1-003-09**

Lorenz asked Chief Silver the price of a Crown Victoria. Chief Silver stated it is very close to the Charger. He thought it was about \$22,000. He asked what the difference in price is for the Charger without the hemi. Silver replied, around \$1,400 less, but the resale is a lot lower without the hemi.

Wiegand asked if the police package is more than what the public would normally get. Silver stated the police package has a stronger transmission and brakes and severe duty items which all police cars should have. Silver uses the County bid and gets the discount which they receive.

Silver added, a computer in a car cost \$5,000 because of supply and demand. The computers which are in the cars currently are becoming obsolete and will need to be replaced. One was just recently replaced.

Martin reviewed, a Charger will cost \$23,000, with \$6,000 to outfit with equipment, a Crown Victoria would cost \$22,000 with \$6,000 to outfit and the Impala would cost \$18,000 with \$3,000 to outfit. However, the resale for the Charger outweighs its initial cost.

Lorenz asked if the City could get a used Charger from another community. Silver stated, usually not. It would be high mileage and he couldn't be sure how it was maintained.

Zubrzycki asked about a lease. Silver conveyed other communities have leased. Martin recalled when a lease was investigated last time it was found that the price of the car is divided over the time of the lease plus interest and it didn't save you any money. The reason municipalities were leasing is so they could pay for it over time. It's easier to budget but costs more.

Lorenz expressed residents are having trouble with us having a hemi versus the 6-cylinder Impala. With the financial troubles now it is even harder to understand. He would like to see the resale value of a Charger with 70,000 miles on it. Lorenz did express he feels the hemi is the better deal, but doesn't feel the city can buy it now with the budget problems. Lorenz noted Oakland County runs their vehicles to 80,000 miles before selling them. Martin added Auburn Hills does also. Maurina stated Utica runs theirs to 100,000. Silver stated the one they would like to get rid of is at 77,000 right now.

Wiegand stressed strong public relations will need to be done if they purchase another Charger.

Maurina stated a new vehicle cannot be purchased until they look at all of their options including sharing services.

Zubrzycki would like to see resale value of all three vehicles at 70,000 miles. Lorenz stated he will get that information, but he is not going to bother with the Impala because of its history of problems. Zubrzycki would also like to see a lease price for the Charger. He likes the charger because it is a more reliable vehicle.

The requested information will be gathered and presented at the next meeting.

Use of Community Center During Fireworks

CC-004-09

Lorenz would like to have an open house with a kids party with a dunk tank, bouncer, food, games, etc. He noted he spoke to Patty Harrop regarding having a late summer beach ball. Council felt this might not be best for this year. Council all agreed with Lorenz' idea for a kids party. They asked that something go into the newsletter and on cable asking for a volunteer to head this up. Oakland County Parks & Recreation has items which can be used for this event, but they need to be contacted right away.

Parking for the fireworks was discussed. Council agreed to keep parking the same as it has been for the past years except parking will be allowed at the Community Center. Council discussed having parking passes or park tags for parking at the Community Center, that way residents would benefit from it.

Martin stated the police will have their command center at the Community Center, the night of the fireworks. They will use the small meeting room.

Internet and Alarm for Community Center

CC-005-09

Martin stated a camera for the foyer will cost \$600 if there is internet service at the building. There is a \$20 monthly fee for the alarm system and \$60-\$90 monthly charge for internet. This would be an ongoing cost. If there is no internet, a camera system could be set up to record on a hard drive in the building. This cost would be approximately \$900. He doesn't feel they need the alarm if they are going to have a camera. Lorenz inquired as to what AT&T would charge. Martin didn't know.

Maurina would like two cameras, one for the foyer and another by the fireplace outside. Zubrzycki stated he would try to get some information and Martin said he would get more too.

Trash Collection Options

CA-001-09

Martin conveyed Richfield wants to extend the current contract with the costs provided in their contract. The extension allows for a 3 percent increase each year. Zubrzycki asked about the fuel charge. Martin replied, they are rebating the fuel charge because prices have come down. Council all agreed Richfield is going a good job.

Martin investigated the cost for yard waste and recycling every other week, if it would be worth it. The cost savings was only \$.28 per household per month for each. He did not ask about the every other week trash collection because he doesn't want to consider that. He discussed the new recycling program which will keep track of who and how much is recycled. There will be coupons for incentives for those who recycle. Martin would like to setup a recycling center in

the park. Martin will email all the information to City Council.

Shepp asked about a reduced cost for garbage and rubbish and what could be done with it. Martin stated, we could reduce the millage rate for garbage slightly. He clarified, but it won't help the general fund. Zubrzycki felt it might help in selling the millage.

Maurina would like to see a comparison cost of per household verses the cost if they contracted themselves.

Park Ranger and Park Patrol

PR-002-09

Martin brought up the issue of eliminating the police bike patrol and have the park ranger only work Friday through Sunday. Lorenz asked if the police could stop by the park and get out of their car for 20 minutes. Martin stated they had already discussed it and they would.

Martin discussed having whoever is down there during the day sell a day pass for residents to be in the park and for the boat ramp.

Zubrzycki suggested having a police vehicle at the park to deter outsiders. Maurina agreed this works. Maurina feels more parties are happening at the park than in prior years and these people are cognizant that it is a residential area and the noise they are creating.

Wiegand is concerned with canceling the ranger during the week and the garbage not getting taken care of. He suggested having volunteers with city arm bands in the parks. Shepp agreed they should push for volunteers. Martin stated it will be trial and error and they can adjust as they go. Council agreed that it is a difficult thing to do, but it can be changed if necessary.

Overall Current and Future Budget

B-003-09

Martin stated he is working on the budget and setting up the 2009-10 budget. Lorenz asked Martin what the projection is for the current year. Martin explained it is really hard to say because a lot of things are seasonal; he estimated we may be \$25,000 short as opposed to the \$100,000 short that was budgeted. This includes the cuts the city has been making and no capital improvements. Martin is more concerned with next year. The State Shared Revenue is supposed to be maintained, but the taxable value is going down, meaning tax revenue will go down and expenses keep going up.

Lorenz would like to rent out storage in the DPW building by the trail. Martin stated there could be room for two spaces. Zubrzycki asked about the RVA wait list and not being a current list. A fee could be charged for being on the list and it would clean it up too. Lorenz is in favor of raising the RVA rental fee. He is willing to call around to other places to see how much they charge.

Zubrzycki asked if the Lakeland Athletic Club could volunteer to do some work in the city in exchange for using the building by the Community Center. Maurina would like to see these buildings cleaned up and painted.

Parking Lot Lighting for Community Center **CC-006-09**

Martin is still working with DTE for the lighting and costs. He did speak with an electrician to put the lights that are currently on timers to be on a switch and install a few lights that are motion activated. He warned council the expense will be seen soon.

Payment to Sylvan Otter for Weed Control **L1-002-09**

Lorenz would like to put a question on the ballot asking residents if they want to do this. Martin provided his thoughts from their discussion with Phil Thomas. He noted Sylvan Lake is paying 25% of the donations they are collected. He stated taking the 1300 houses that Thomas estimated are on the lake, and Sylvan Lake saying we have 200 boats on the lake, the City should be donating a maximum of 13%.

Lorenz is not in favor of raising the fee. Wiegand would like to ask Thomas if the 1300 properties are correct and if it is correct why Sylvan Lake is footing the bill.

Zubrzycki suggested keeping the allocation where it is at because of the budget constraints.

Community Center Policy/Community Organizations **CC-007-09**

Shepp expressed his thoughts in that it is a Community Center and should be used for community events. He is ok with community organizations using it for free. He just doesn't know where you would draw the line.

Lorenz agreed with Mitch Black's comment at the last meeting and getting people down here to use and see what it is like. He suggested charging a security deposit only.

Wiegand asked how many community events there are. Lorenz warned him they will pop up from everywhere. Lorenz suggested a committee to plan, organize and facilitate scheduling events. He would like the volunteers to submit a letter of qualifications.

Martin asked where they draw the line. He stated it cost money just to open the building to have air, heat and electricity on. True community events are great if they're open to everybody.

Zubrzycki would like to see one day a month set aside for a community event. He would like it to be a weekend. Maurina said with summer coming soon it would need to be a Sunday night or week night.

Lorenz proposed putting on their application a suggested donation, to cover the heat, air and electricity.

Martin will put this on the agenda.

ZP-001-09

Lorenz brought up there is going to be an appointment for Planning Commission at the next meeting. He feels Rodney Knudsen has done a good job and he would like to keep him on. Dave MacGillis is on Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Lorenz feels this is a conflict of interest to be on both. He also feels MacGillis is very good in understanding the concept for ZBA. Lorenz is thinking about asking MacGillis to step down from Planning Commission and may make another recommendation

Martin stated there were six residents that submitted letters; Knudsen, MacGillis, Hungerman, Steve Miller, Khalida Jarbou and Justin Hatch. Maurina added there is training involved for being on the Planning Commission; Knudsen, MacGillis and Hungerman all have had training.

Zubrzycki would like to see all the resumes. Martin will provide all of them to council.

Adjournment

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

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Dennise Clippert, City Clerk