

CITY OF SYLVAN LAKE
STUDY SESSION
JUNE 27, 2006

A Study Session of City Council was held on Wednesday, June 27, 2006, at Sylvan Lutheran Church, 2399 Figa, West Bloomfield, at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Lorenz presiding.

Present: Hungerman, Lorenz, Conkey (7:23 p.m.), Eriksen

Absent: Hunger

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

Approve Meeting Limit of 2 hours with one-hour extension by vote

Moved Eriksen, seconded Hungerman, approve the meeting limit of 2 hours with a one hour extension by vote.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting Open to the Public for Brief Comment

There were no public comments. Mayor Lorenz closed this portion of the meeting.

Keycard System for Parks and Recreation

Eriksen reported Harrop found out there is no maintenance cost for the software for Lenatol. They are also looking at other systems too.

They will have something before the next meeting.

Lorenz asked what other cities use this. Eriksen state there are three cities using it and they haven t had problems. Martin added they have checked on repairs and failure and they have been really happy with them.

Fireworks - Parking, Signs

M-005-06

Hungerman asked if the location by the street for the porta-john s was ok. Martin stated it would be. They are still collecting donations. He wasn t sure of the current amount. A reminder will be put in the newsletter. Hungerman discussed the clean up. They will start with the shoot area and then the Boat Club. Volunteers are needed to help in park. Hungerman has a truck which the garbage can go into and then he will take it up to City Hall.

Martin stated volunteers usually help in putting up signs and cleanup. Hunger has been pretty instrumental in getting volunteers in the past. Lorenz will work with Hunger on getting volunteers.

Hungerman will put up the snow fence on Monday and the DPW will help.

Lorenz discussed the future of no parking for the fireworks. He feels it is a real inconvenience for residents having people coming over. He is not in favor of it. Eriksen stated he likes it, and believes it works out well. Walkers and residents don t have to worry about the car traffic.

Lorenz suggested adding, donations are still needed in the newsletter. Eriksen asked what percentage of residents are getting the electronic newsletter. Martin replied, around 25 percent. Eriksen would like to know how many PC s are in the city.

Garbage and Rubbish Contract

CA-005-06

Martin reviewed what the three cities have done and why they rebid. They were quoted jointly and separately, that way if one City opted out then they would have individual bids. Richfield is a lot less expensive. Going with them would save the City \$25,000. They are willing to pick up leaves also. Orchard Lake opted to go with Allied and Keego Harbor went with Richfield. Orchard Lake did some investigating on Richfield and found they had problems with their landfill, which they say has been taken care of. The hangup with Richfield is their landfill because if a something happens with this landfill they can go after the people who have been dumping there. That happen to the City with the Waterford landfill. The city did have to pay to help clean that up. He spoke with Dave Berger, Orchard Lake Mayor, and they stayed with Allied because they are a known carrier. Martin has spoken with other communities who are using Richfield and they have no complaints. Martin is working on getting more information.

Lorenz asked if the DEQ has ok'd the landfill. He stated there will always be liability with any landfill.

Bibeau questioned the capacity of Richfield's landfill. Martin replied, capacity is given on an as needed basis. They have room for 10 years of capacity. Their current permit is only for one year.

Hungerman would like to hear from the DEQ before deciding. Eriksen feels Richfield should provide the proof/documents of DEQ approval.

Lorenz asked what would happen with the City's equipment. Martin stated he offered to sell it to Richfield and they said ok.

Martin stated Richfield and Allied will both be at the next meeting.

Proposed Dock Spaces - Update

Phil Thomas, President of the Sylvan-Otter Association, thanked City Council for allowing him to speak at this meeting. He questioned what City Council's goal is, their original intent, for adding these spaces. Lorenz stated it hopefully satisfies the desire residents have to walk to their dock space instead of having to put their boat in and out of the water each time they use it. It also will generate revenue for the City. It was put on the agenda to explore and see what the possibilities are. Eriksen stated it was a proposal brought to them. He felt it was decent and a good opportunity for the city. Hungerman understands the demand is always greater than the supply and they are never going to be able to give everyone a space. He has thought about the location and size. He is in favor of the Community Center parking lot side. He hasn't made up his mind yet. He noted the Boat Club has 58 spaces and with the exception of holidays, there is never more than 10 boats out at a time.

Conkey came into the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Conkey stated he is always getting comments on the wait time. He feels most just want a place to put their boat. They may only use it once a week. He reminded Thomas these are residents who are already putting their boat in the water each time they want to use them.

Thomas questioned what the number of spaces is on the permit. Martin replied, 50 spaces. This permit is not for existing spaces. He spoke with the DEQ and they told him to wait to spring to apply for existing spaces. Thomas shared his conversation with the DEQ and they stated no additional spaces can be added until the existing have a permit.

Thomas made alternative suggestions to putting in this dock system, which included taking three existing boat wells by the City beach and renting those spaces for a week. Have a sign up sheet for different weeks. Also Lakeland/Woodland boat slip holders shouldn't be able to have a city space. Lorenz stated this has been discussed previously and they could potentially face litigation for denying them a city space. Thomas informed Council there are non-residents sharing dock spaces with residents. Martin stated their boats are registered to city residents. Thomas doesn't believe this is true. Council asked Thomas to provide which spaces these are.

Lorenz acknowledged the rules need to be looked at and changed. They should lose their space if they violate the rules. Martin stated currently they have seven days to correct the violation.

Eriksen feels forced sharing shouldn't be that much of an inconvenience. Hungerman feels there should be some financial incentive for sharing with someone and it shouldn't have to be with the next person on the wait list. Conkey added, people don't want to share with someone who may be the partying type.

Thomas also suggested raising current dock fees to weed out those who are not really using their space. He is concerned with the public safety and home values.

Thomas questioned the number of boats allowed at each space. Martin stated it is two water crafts. Thomas expressed that may not fly with the DEQ. Their intent is to have one boat on each side of the dock.

Council thanked Thomas for his suggestions.

Conkey would like to put in the docks in this year for a trial run, to iron out any problems.

Martin asked to discuss those on the seawall who may be displaced and how many. Conkey feels they can make the current spaces smaller and no one would have to be displaced. He has only seen one space at the Community Center that has two boats at it.

Lorenz would like to see if the 50 people who signed up are still interested if they have to move their boat for the fireworks. He also feels maintenance needs to be addressed. Is the City going to be responsible for cleaning the dock. Eriksen feels the city shouldn't be responsible. Lorenz stated this will need to be in the boat agreement. Eriksen added a waiver of liability will have to be added also.

Lorenz shared his concerns with sparks on the docks from the fireworks. Conkey suggested putting panels down on the docks. Hungerman will ask the company who are setting off the fireworks, if they have any suggestions.

Community Center - Architect, builder, demo

CC-009-06

Lorenz conveyed the survey was positive to the initial response. He would like to have the City Manager send out RFP s to architects and try and get something going. Eriksen shared there are several firms out there that will build and design to the dollar amount Council specifies. They have to know that number. Lorenz feels they will lose control with design and build. Eriksen stated the city would have control. They need to get it all in the signed contract. They need a committee to get ideas of what they want. Conkey feels it will be harder to get people to donate if they take this approach. Lorenz believes they should start with the concept drawings. They were well received at the public hearing. Eriksen doesn't believe the presentation was designed to sell the concept. Conkey believes the concept was presented well. Eriksen asked if there is seed money for an architect. Martin stated there is some in the budget. Eriksen proposed getting as many people involved as they can and having all documents stating if you have any ideas please share them. Lorenz reviewed they are taking all the ideas from the last four years and this is a compilation of everyone ideas. He agrees with Hunger they need to take a leadership role as City Council. It is City Council's job to present what adds value for the city. They have listened and now they need to lead. Conkey added they are not going to be able to make everyone happy. He would like to get something done and send out bids for an architect.

Eriksen would like to get the building down first. He is not trying to stop anything, just trying to help. He shared an experience he had with proprietary ownership and stated when they contract with the architect be careful that the city owns the product and not the Architect. Otherwise we may have to pay royalties to the architect because the plan would be theirs.

Conkey doesn't like that it is becoming an eye sore and they have all agreed they are not going to renovate, but he feels they should wait. Hungerman doesn't believe it is a good idea to tear it down before the vote. It doesn't hurt to leave it up for another few months. Eriksen asked him what the advantage is for keeping it up. Hungerman feels it may help to pass the millage. Lorenz agreed with Hungerman. Martin shared how he feels. He understands Hungerman's fear. He is concerned with the blight and stated residents can always vote no.

Bibeau interjected public relation work needs to be done. Eriksen suggested putting in the newsletter Council will be discussing demolishing the building at the next meeting.

Council discussed making the presentation again next month and sending out a small rendition ahead of time. Martin will put something together to send out to the residents.

Capital Needs/Projects Report

F-006-06

Martin inquired about the tennis court and the timing for fixing them. Council would like to wait until fall.

Lorenz stated in the presentation was trees, diseased and replacement. Darryl Toby has agreed to make a presentation. He is a horticulturist. Council didn't feel this needed to be done at the next meeting. Martin stated Orchard Lake already has this program and he will talk with them also. Lorenz asked if he could get costs that they have spent on replenishing the trees.

Council also discussed what should be included in the presentation next month.

Moved by Eriksen, seconded Conkey, to continue the meeting until 9:30 p.m.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Lakeview Seawall and Consent Judgment

BD-008-06

Bibeau urged Council to continue doing what they have been doing. He stated maintenance doesn't mean capital improvements. They just need to maintain what is there, to stick to the interpretation they have. Conkey asked if they could at least fill in the holes. Martin discussed backfilling the seawall and what they have done the past.

Police Department Initiatives - Motorcycles, Boat Patrol

P1-005-06

Martin conveyed the Chief is asking to purchase a motorcycle in place of a vehicle this year. The motorcycle would cost \$14,000. In previous years Harley Davison would lease the motorcycles to the communities for a \$1. Then it went up to \$500. Now they just aren't doing it anymore. The police department has three officers who are certified to ride.

Conkey noted two officers would have to be on duty if they used a motorcycle. Martin agreed they would only be used when two officers are on duty, such as during the day shift when the Chief and another officer is on duty. Bibeau asked what the advantage is. Martin stated the presence, especially in the parks and traffic detail. Conkey expressed the bike patrol doesn't get off their bikes and walk through the

park. He would like to see them walking in the park and handing out stickers and dog bones. He can't see funding a motorcycle.

Lorenz feels it is a luxury item and not really needed. Hungerman doesn't feel it is a good time to purchase a motorcycle. Eriksen agreed it isn't needed at this time.

Eriksen likes the watercraft if it is free. He understands insurance would be required. Martin explained Keego Harbor has a watercraft and is making a lot of money with tickets. Officer Sherrod is certified to ride and knows the laws.

Lorenz doesn't believe it is needed with few boats on the lake. He feels there are better revenue driven options than issuing tickets. If there is a potential need in the future then they can look at it then.

Conkey shared an incident which happened over the weekend with this officer and a boater. He noted when he spoke with the Sheriff's department they stated they wouldn't issue a ticket for that violation. He doesn't see how they have time for water patrol and they didn't have time for ordinance enforcement, or opening and closing gates. He doesn't agree with this. He stated the Oakland County Sheriff is out there almost everyday.

Martin stated the Chief is just thinking outside the box. Eriksen would like the Chief to come in and rationalize their concerns. He stated this city is a lake community and it would fit here. Hungerman agreed it couldn't hurt. He likes the cost.

Bridge Repair

Martin is working on getting prices for concrete and limestone.

Street and Drainage Project

S-010-06

Martin shared he told the engineers he wants a letter from them explaining all the items that have been addressed, or stated as concerns and their explanation of where they are and how they are. He received a draft letter from them today. Martin wants to go over it and will pass along the final copy when he gets it.

Lorenz tried to recall minutes from a meeting with the engineers. Where they indicated they used a newer method to get this done at a price that was going to be acceptable to the city and they thought it was going to turn out better than it did. He stated they are the City's engineers who are supposed to get the job done right. He asked where's our engineers liability if it is flawed engineering. Bibeau stated they would have to hire another engineer

to give you an option as to what the fault is and then you weigh the damages. Eriksen recalls the engineers are the ones who recommended the use of this process. Lorenz would like to review the minutes from the study session discussing their recommendation.

Eriksen still has a problem with the flat spot issue. There is nothing in the contract regarding flat spots. The engineers keep saying there isn't a shoulder problem, but a flat spot problem.

Citgo Update

Nothing new.

Rental Ordinance

Still working on.

ROW Policy

Still working on.

Adjournment

Moved by Eriksen, support Hungerman, to adjourn the Study Session Meeting.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The study session adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Dennise Clippert, City Clerk