

A Study Session of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Tuesday, June 17, 2008; opening at 6:05 p.m. Mayor Hungerman presided.

Present: Shepp, Wiegand (6:12 p.m.), Hungerman, Maurina

Absent: Lorenz

Also Present: City Manager Martin and Clerk Clippert

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Maurina, seconded Shepp, to approve the agenda as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion of GWBCAB-Loren Maurina **C3-007-08**

Loren Maurina wanted to make the City Council aware of the Cable Board spending more money than what was budgeted. He stated they are using City's cable funds. He stated it is not a problem until the money is gone. He understands there is a list of things City Council wants to buy for the Community Center using the cable funds that are available. He also understands West Bloomfield Twp. hasn't provided a balance in the account for Sylvan Lake.

Wiegand came into the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Martin agreed the city doesn't know how much is available. They are only going to use the funds for what is cable related.

Martin reviewed how the Cable Board proposes a budget and then comes back to the city for additional money every single year. Loren Maurina said the capital expenditures are not in the budget, but they know there are funds out there. He just wants council aware there is money in the fund to broadcast meetings for a long time. He understands Council wants to spend this money to setup/wire the Community Center. He felt council should be aware of the cable board's spending and what is down the road.

Shepp replied, the City has the opportunity to upgrade the new Community Center, within reason, and he doesn't understand why they wouldn't proceed because the Cable Board will spend it if they don't. Maurina just wants Council to understand the money is going to run out.

Martin will push West Bloomfield Township on getting how much money is in the fund for Sylvan Lake.

Discussion of Water Rates

WA-003-08

Martin explained water rates haven't gone up since 1994. Sewer rates have gone down 30% in the last five years. He presented a calculation sheet and proposed a .20 increase in the usage fee (\$2.60 per 1000 gallons). The average increase will be between \$2-\$3 per bill, per quarter.

Wiegand questioned if it would be wiser to raise it a little higher. Martin explained what he would like to do is increase the fee the same percentage as Detroit increases it to the city each year. Shepp agreed with that. He wondered if this increase is substantial enough for the next two years. Martin replied, it will be ok for the next year and then start increasing it as Detroit increases.

Hungerman was concerned with increasing the water rates at the next meeting along with proposing millage increases. Shepp stated the city is continually putting off things such as increases and services. He feels residents need to know and to give them the bad news all at once.

Wiegand stated he heard the dock fees were going to be increased. Martin replied, nothing has been proposed or discussed.

Discussion of Millage Proposal

F-005-08

Martin provided three separate proposals for discussion, Park & Recreation millage, Public Safety millage and a Headlee override millage. Martin noted all the variables can be changed; it is up to City Council to decide that. The P&R millage proposal is the same as the one proposal in 2006, with adding "for a period of 10 years." Maurina is concerned with what exactly the money would be spent on. Martin replied, maintenance for the parks, Community Center maintenance, seawall, trail anything in the parks budget. Shepp added it will change each year which park will require different improvements. Wiegand feels a lot of public hearings will need to be held. Maurina would like some funds held for a future new roof for the Community Center.

Maurina asked how long before the General Fund will need money. Martin answered, now. They will be taking about \$100,000 out of fund balance this fiscal year and another \$100,000 next fiscal year. He stated in five years the city won't be able to provide the same services it does now. He is still concerned with the cost for the Community Center, just to operate and maintain it. He added the City runs on a small crew for City Hall and the DPW. The neighboring community has six full-time employees just in City Hall. Shepp feels the people need to understand where the city is at and what will happen.

Russ Meskin stated the Fire Bond millage expires in 2010 and that should help relieve some.

Maurina suggested looking at what the money needs to be spent on.

Betty Delaney challenged the last dock increase, stating it was supposed to be for seawall maintenance. Maurina correct her and stated the increase was for the parks and seawall is part of the parks.

Hungerman expressed the city can't layout where every penny is going to be spent. The proposal is pretty specific and he read the proposal language. Maurina would like an idea of what they are really looking at. She is not clear on how far the money will go. Hungerman asked Martin if he could provide some estimates, before the next meeting, on what needs to be done. Council discussed items to include.

Martin discussed holding a lot of meetings and stated City Council has to have a plan.

Russ Meskin proposed a two step plan, one mill in this year and next year a capital improvement millage.

Hungerman wasn't sure a police millage would pass right now. Martin strongly recommended putting two proposals on the ballot. He discussed presenting the millage. Shepp agreed to make the presentation.

RT-003-08

Wiegand provided pictures and discussed Aguafina and the view from the trail. Martin stated he spoke with Daryl Toby today and he is going to fix up the property right away. He wants to have a gate to come into the business from the trail. He also looked at Cadillac Brick and will be making them cleanup and move their fence and bricks off the trail property.

Maurina stated she is concerned with too much cleaning of the trail and taking away from what was natural. Betty Delaney stated she won't be doing that anymore. She explained how she removed vines. She noted residents are dumping on the trail and throwing their grass clippings on it also. Martin stated it needs to be reported who is doing it. He has asked the Code Enforcement Officer to go up and down the trail.

Martin stated he will check with the City Attorney regarding if a ballot proposal needs a public hearing held. He clarified at the July City Council meeting council will only be deciding the language and amounts, not selling the proposals. Maurina suggested providing a handout for those who are out of town.

Adjournment

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

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Dennise Clippert, City Clerk