

A Study Session of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Thursday, June 4, 2009; opening at 5:15 p.m. Mayor Lorenz presided.

Present: Wiegand, Zubrzycki, Lorenz, Maurina
Absent: Shepp
Also Present: City Manager Martin and Clerk Clippert

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Agenda

Maurina suggested moving discussion of Millage and Ballot Question to the end of the agenda so Shepp can discuss it too.

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

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion of Parking and Fees at Community Center During Fireworks **CC-014-09**

Lorenz threw out a couple ideas; one would be to allow OCBC to regulate the parking at the Community Center and keep the revenue; or the city could hold a Dutch auction. Wiegand feels it would help fund the fireworks. Maurina would like the city to run it and split the proceeds with OCBC.

Council discussed how to regulate it. Martin stated it will be tough because there are dock holders wanting to get to their boats. Council talked about putting a sign up which states all vehicles must be removed by 3:00 p.m. without a permit. Lorenz suggested charging a \$100 fine plus the tow fees.

Maurina would rather charge \$5 because it is supposed to be a family event. She feels it will create dissension in the city. It will cost money and time. Wiegand feels it is not worth doing if only charging \$5 or \$10.

Martin asked why they don't include Ferndale if we're trying to make money. Lorenz stated this is the first year the Community Center property is available. Ferndale has always been free.

Council agreed to charge \$20 for permit parking only. All vehicles must be out of the lot by 3:00 p.m. without a permit. One of the park rangers will take the permits.

Discussion of Relationship with OCBC

C4-004-09

Martin explained there was an incident Memorial Day at the park. Mitch Black was handling the park ranger's duties and handled it well. One of the OCBC members was under the impression they could use the parks. Martin wants to remind the OCBC what the policy is. Parks are for residents only. They can be a guest of a resident. It was about five years ago the Boat Club was allowed three tags, but there were problems and the tags were discontinued. Martin will talk with the Commodore to gently them.

Discussion of Policies and Procedures

A-007-09

Martin explained this is the latest requirement. He asked council to look over the administrative policies and to email their suggestion if they have any. The cell phone policy was discussed. Council would like to see a personal cell phone policy adopted. They feel the police are still abusing this.

Discussion of Meeting with Keego Harbor

P1-005-09

Lorenz explained he had a meeting with Keego Harbor's Mayor, Sid Rubin, on how to run the meetings regarding the Sheriff's Department proposal and the mind set of the meeting. They discussed the setup of the room; residents' questions are to be written down and turned into the respective City Manager. There will be no public comments since the meeting is a proposal. Public comments will be accepted at the June 23rd meeting. John Martin and Dale Stewart will each give a summary of police services for their city. The Sheriff's Dept. will make their presentation. City Council will ask their questions. Residents will be reminded to attend the June 23rd meeting to discuss with both councils.

Zubrzycki asked if the Sheriff's Department has an FAQ list so redundant questions aren't going to be asked. Martin will find out. Zubrzycki inquired as to how this is affecting our police. Martin stated moral is very bad. He has been having regular conversations with the Chief to let them know where he and City Council stands. He has told the police the council won't make the decision. It will go to a vote of residents.

Lorenz stated he discussed with Rubin each of the city's view on the issue. Keego Harbor has no Chief and no plans to hire one. They want costs down, to have only three cars and five officers as Sylvan Lake does. Keego Harbor feels Sylvan Lake is using this as leverage to get the millage passed. Lorenz doesn't feel any of Keego Harbor's City Council would vote for the Sheriff's Dept. The savings is only if both departments go with OCS.

Martin again pointed out it will be less coverage for each city, than what they currently have with only one officer on duty for each shift for both cities, not each city as we have now. That would be 4 days per week on each shift Martin feels that is not acceptable.

Lorenz stated whether the millage passes or not he wants to continue the discussion of a joint force. Lorenz provided a handout on cost per capita and cost per square mile. Martin added there is minimum cost to run a full-time department. You have to have a minimum of 4.75 people and equipment to have 24 hour coverage no matter what the per capita is.

Some of Council wanted to contact other communities who are using the Sheriff's Department.

Discuss Millage Plan and Ballot Question

E-002-09

F-006-09

Lorenz asked council how they want to propose the ballot question. Wiegand feels they need to show where the city has made cuts and where the city has saved money. Lorenz feels they should list all the capital projects that have been cut because there is no money.

MaryAnn Smith suggested showing fixed cost, Administration, payroll, police, and benefits. Then show discretionary, all the things the city couldn't do because there were no funds. She stated people don't see the city saving money because projects are not being done. She advised them to keep it simple and to prove the city doesn't have money. Maurina stated this should be shown for a period of five years.

Maurina feels they should be able to tell the residents what the employees do.

Wiegand prefers to keep it honest and to propose a general operating millage.

Lorenz stated there are pluses and minus' to having a public safety millage. Some of council didn't feel a public safety millage would pass. Lorenz stated if a public safety millage did pass some would expect the police to remain as it is and then there could not be a joint force with Keego Harbor if they wanted to do this further down the line. Lorenz pointed out how the City went with West Bloomfield Fire Department there was a \$50,000 increase and the city was never compensated for that and that expense increases 5% each year. It is a cost that needs to be recovered.

Wiegand feels whatever they do, they really need to sell it and have street captains.

Zubrzycki is of the option that millage rates are set for specific projects. He would like to see funding for roads, parks, and general administration, but realizes it is not a perfect world. He recognizes the need for a public safety millage. He feels they will need to reference the Police and Fire.

Russ Meskin feels the end figure is more important. The police and fire are part of the general fund and the whole fund needs money. He would like to see a general operating millage.

Maurina agreed and stated the residents want to know specifically what the money is going for. She doesn't believe a general fund millage will ever pass. She is not sure people will get a public safety millage. Lorenz suggested they pick ten capital projects they want to do over the next ten years. Some of council are concerned with the perception of the police. Zubrzycki feels there are enough people who want a public safety millage on the ballot. He suggested a parks millage for the tennis courts, maintaining the Community Center and seawalls.

Lorenz reviewed, they can pick a millage based on general operating, park and recreation, public safety or capital projects. He feels general operating may be the better way to go. All council agreed. Zubrzycki stated it really needs to state where the money is going, for what in particular.

Council discussed what amount the millage should be. November 2008, 2.5 mills were turned down. Lorenz suggested 1-1.5 mills. Martin doesn't have a problem with a smaller millage but that may be too little. They can prove they are doing what they say was going to be done with the money and if more is needed then they can ask again.

MaryAnn Smith doesn't feel this is enough. There are shortfalls they need to recover and unfunded benefits, so that leaves very little to do any capital project. Martin stated with the last millage proposal of 2.5 mills, they did budget for \$100,000 for unfunded benefits. She doesn't feel the last millage was sold right. She feels 2.5 is needed and they need to show where it is going to go. Lorenz agreed with Smith some day the unfunded benefit's needs to be paid. He doesn't believe it is required to fund it now, but only show it on the finance balance sheet as a liability. Martin stated by law funding is not required. Smith disagreed; she referenced GASB stating if you under fund it you put it down in a footnote and what your process is to pay it. Lorenz agreed with Smith philosophically. He doesn't agree they have to absolutely have to fund it whether they want to or not. Martin reviewed they budgeted \$25,000. The actuarial recommended \$110,000 a year, which would be .85 mills. Smith stated she doesn't have a problem with the city not completely funding it now.

Zubrzycki asked what other communities are doing to fund it. Martin stated as soon as Oakland County found out about this they funded it. They moved the money they had in the bank. Keego Harbor is ignoring it for now and Orchard Lake started funding it 3-4 years ago.

Council further discussed how many mills should be proposed. Maurina feels 1.5 isn't enough, but she wants it to pass. She would like to see a little more. Smith suggested 2 mills and letting the residents know the fire bond comes off when this millage starts, which would make it 1.5 mills you would be increasing their taxes. Martin stated in those terms it is one mill less than what they asked last time. Wiegand doesn't feel it will pass at two. Martin will work on a couple

different ones.

Zubrzycki asked if the language could include what they want to do with the money. Martin stated legal counsel will advise against it. If it is general operating you can say capital improvements or maintenance, but you don't want it too specific, because then you are held to that.

Adjournment

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

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

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

Dennise Clippert, City Clerk