

CITY OF SYLVAN LAKE
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 19, 2008

A Special Meeting of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2008; opening at 6:03 p.m. Mayor Hungerman presided.

Present: Wiegand, Hungerman, Lorenz, Shepp

Absent: Maurina

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

Moved Lorenz, seconded Shepp, to excuse Maurina's absence due to travel.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Agenda

Martin asked to change the agenda to discuss boat docks first.

Moved by Shepp, seconded Lorenz, to approve the agenda as amended.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion of Boat Docks

Bibeau stated he would like to discuss the revised proposal for Lakeview and asked to go into executive session.

L2-003-08

Moved by Lorenz, seconded Wiegand, to adjourned into executive session to discuss Lakeview Litigation.

At 6:04 City Council adjourned into Executive Session.

At 6:22 City Council reconvened the regular City Council meeting.

Moved by Lorenz, seconded Wiegand, to authorize the City Attorney to submit the proposed amendment to the Consent Judgment to Gaylen Curtis and discuss them with her.

Yes: Hungerman, Lorenz, Shepp, Wiegand

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Lorenz discussed using Kaveh Kashef, the attorney specializing in riparian rights, if this ends up going to trial. Bibeau stated council should consider cost of using this attorney and he is not sure if they are arguing riparian rights. Shepp agreed the issues before them are not in regards to riparian rights.

BD-004-08

Mayor Hungerman asked to discuss the dock holders who were delinquent in paying by the March 1st due date. Martin stated he spoke with Joni regarding Mark Preston. Joni called all 35 dock holders who hadn't paid the Friday before the due date and reminded them March 1st was the due date. She did not tell Mark Preston that he had delinquent taxes due at that time. When he came in a week and half later he was told he had to pay his taxes first. After paying his taxes at the County he came to renew his dock space and then he was told he was past the deadline. So Preston's comment that he was told in February that he had delinquent taxes to pay was incorrect and he didn't tell Joni then that he would be paying late. Also Martin pointed out that he still hasn't paid all his delinquent taxes. His personal property is still outstanding for the last two years. Martin explained another delinquent dock holder came in the day after our last council meeting and wanted to renew his dock space and Martin told him he was too late. He stated that Joni told him to come in a pay. Martin relayed that Joni left that message for him on the day when she called all the other people who she reminded that March 1st was the deadline. Martin stated council needs to decide if these late dock holders will be losing their space, assess a fine for being late, or something else.

Lorenz stated he received a call from Brad Conkey and he stated the committee feels a one time pass should be allowed for being late with a \$500 penalty. Martin stated it would be a nightmare to keep track of, over the years, of who was late in paying. Lorenz stated he agrees if they are going to allow late payment then there should be a penalty.

Shepp feels it is not fair. He doesn't want to extent the date. The date was changed for a reason and they should abide by it. The rules have been in effect for along time. City Hall makes calls to remind them and they shouldn't have to do that.

Hungerman would like the dock committee to discuss it and make a recommendation.

Lorenz suggested sending a certified letter and allowing them 10 days to respond or they lose it. Martin stated then they are going back to pushing the date back again.

Council agreed to have the dock committee discuss this and make a recommendation to City Council before the April 9th City Council meeting.

Bibeau left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

2008/2009 Budget

F-003-08

Martin first presented his letter of explanation for the 2006/2007 audit report. He explained his letter explains what each highlighted area is on the financial statement summary. He addressed the \$79,000 that went into the fundbalance because expenditures were less than revenues. He

stated City Hall was \$20,000 under budget and Parks was \$32,000 under budget because the delay of work on the tennis courts, seawall installation and budgeting for capital improvements for City Hall. Revenues exceeded the expected amount by \$30,819 because this amount includes money raised by the Home and Garden Tour and the Sylvan Shuffle. He asked council to look at his letter and call if they had any questions.

B-001-08

Martin presented his rough draft for the 2008/2009 budget. He explained how the allowable millage rate is levied and the headlee millage reduction fraction. He stated our millage rates are not expected, at this time, to reduce because additions exceeded the losses. He added the debt millage rates are based on the bond and interest payments due. Expected revenues are projected to drop by 1.62% from this fiscal year. He addressed the appropriation from prior year fundbalance stating this could change depending on what capital improvements City Council wants to do. If they don't make any improvements the appropriation would be \$4,000. Estimated expenditures are projected to be \$22,897 under budget and the proposed 2008/2009 budget is at \$1.4 million. The bigger items are the Police and Fire Department, and the capital improvements. The capital improvements are the items which council needs to think about and decide if they want to do. Proposed is landscaping for the Community Center, car for the Police Department, tennis courts and seawall repair, and improvements to City Hall.

Martin discussed each department budget and suggested adding revenues to the Community Center budget to show residents that expenditures exceed the revenues. Police Department he has shown the budget how it is normally done and then added benefits to show what the true budget is. Planning Commission, contractual services, shows an increase for the Corridor plan and amending ordinances to coincide with the plan.

Wiegand questioned the trail expense in Park and Recreation budget. He thought it wasn't going to cost anything. Martin replied, the council who approved the trail stated their goal was not to have any cost. Martin didn't understand how they thought there wasn't going to be maintenance cost. Martin also noted there will probably be a battle for the trail crossing on Orchard Lake Road because the Friends of the Clinton River Trail feel the island in the road was what was approved and that is what they want to go with. Even though Martin has explained the cost for a pedestrian activated light would be \$50,000 plus maintenance as opposed to \$125,000 for the island. The other option is to have the crossing at Middlebelt Road, but they didn't like that either. They will fight what they want the city to do, at our expense.

Wiegand asked what percentage the employees are receiving for their salaries. Martin stated 2.8% for non-union employees. Martin will provide a listing of employees with salaries when the budget is set.

Council discussed benefits and the rising cost. Martin explained that benefit plans had been reduced each year to help in the cost. Over the last seven years administration has diligently monitored the benefits and save the City over \$100,000. Shepp stated benefits has been and will be an issue with every employer. Martin added the union contract is up June 30, 2008, and they have not proposed anything as of yet. A copy of the current union contract was provided for City Council.

Martin asked Council to look over the budget and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting April 9th at 6:00 p.m. Clerk Clippert also reminded them they need to discuss the actuarial report and decide if they are going to budget for this.

Meeting Open to the Public for Brief Comment

Patty Harrop, member of the boat dock committee, came into the meeting after the dock discussion and asked what council had decided. City Council informed her it is being sent to the dock committee to discuss and to provide a recommendation to City Council before the April 9th meeting. Harrop stated that the committee has been meeting weekly, but only three people have been present at a meeting. She stated Dick Pfeffer only attended one meeting and stated he wasn't interested any longer. He will help inspect dock spaces, but doesn't want to be on the committee for discussing rules. Harrop stated everyone else has been attending just not all at every meeting.

Lorenz explained council's views on the deadline date and a possible penalty for paying late. Council stressed that no excuse is a good excuse after the deadline. Harrop will relay this information to the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Lorenz seconded Wiegand, to adjourn the regular City Council Meeting.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Dennise Clippert, City Clerk