

A Study Session of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Thursday, March 25, 2010; opening at 6:07 p.m. Mayor Lorenz presided.

Present: Meskin, Wiegand, Zubrzycki, Lorenz

Absent: Maurina

Also Present: City Manager Martin, Clerk Clippert and Chief Silver

### Approval of Agenda

Mayor Lorenz requested to move “In Car cameras for patrol cars” to the top of the agenda.

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

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

### Discussion of In Car Cameras for Patrol Cars

**P1-002-010**

Chief Silver explained last Monday they had a demonstration of the in-car cameras. He applied for the grant and it was approved to cover one-third of the cost of cameras, up to \$1,500 each. The grant is good for six months. At the demonstration they found out they can lease three cameras for about \$6,000 each year for a three-year term. At the end of the lease the city would own them. He is not sure if all the grant money is given up front if they lease them.

Meskin was at the demonstration and questioned the reference of going through Troy to get a better price. Martin replied, the person making the presentation said we could. However, the price quoted didn't include the wireless download. Martin explained how the cameras work. There will be two cameras in each vehicle, one facing out the front window and another to record the passengers in the rear seat.

Lorenz asked what makes the cameras worth spending the money. Chief Silver stated they will help with he said/she said, prosecutions, and prevent being sued. Meskin added the insurance company wants the city to have them. Lorenz asked for examples where they would have been useful. Silver replied, every time when he gets a complaint about his officers, also the Minor and Cheslin cases.

Meskin inquired if the radar will work with the cameras in recording the speeder. Martin stated they would have to purchase a module to plug in; it cost around \$40.

Lorenz asked if used cameras have been looked at. Zubrzycki suggested looking at

demonstration cameras also. Silver will look into each of these. He doesn't know if the grant will work with it, but if the numbers are substantially lower then they wouldn't need the grant. Meskin is concerned the used equipment wouldn't have same capabilities and cost more to upgrade.

Council felt they should hold off on making any decision until they get the report from Plante & Moran.

Silver stated he has been discussing the patrol vehicles with Martin and discussed safety, mileage, past practice of how they used to purchase vehicles, and how often a new one is needed. He feels they can work with what they have for this year. They are rotating all the cars. Wiegand asked how old the cars are. Silver stated the two Impalas are 2005 and the Charger is a 2007. Lorenz was pleased to hear this. He felt they maybe could use the funds from the car and have them better spent on cameras. Silver would much rather see upgraded equipment than getting a new vehicle. Silver invited council to come look at the vehicles and the equipment they have in them. He added that he is always happy to discuss any issue with council.

Martin reported they should have a report from Plante & Moran by May or June. Lorenz and Zubrzycki both agreed they need to see the results of this report before moving forward. Meskin feels the cameras are a worthwhile investment. He would like a policy so the officers wouldn't be able to turn-off the camera. Martin reported, if the cameras are purchased a policy would be adopted. Lorenz feels the cameras are important to have. He is in favor of having cameras everywhere, the park restroom, Community Center, City Hall and on the trail.

#### Discussion of OPEB

**R1-002-10**

Council was happy to see the answers Clippert received from MERS regarding the retirees' health funding vehicle. Paying .45 basis points annually is reasonable.

Martin shared, the next actuarial should be lower because they have fewer employees, less retirees and the benefits have been lowered, new hires won't be added to the liability either.

Zubrzycki would like to revisit the DC plans for new hires. He would also like to look at incorporating this with the union contract. Lorenz asked when they could get this information. Martin stated he is working on the budget, but he will ask for this information.

#### Discussion of Community Center Rental Options for July 4th **CC-007-10**

Five communications regarding the Community Center options for July 4<sup>th</sup> were received. There were some in favor of bidding it out to the highest bidder, another wanted access to the grounds and to their boat. Two wanted it used for a city event/celebration. Martin shared what Oxford Twp is doing, for one of their park events. They are asking for sponsors; the top sponsor pays

\$2,500, which will give them access to the fun day events, reserved seating to the fireworks, and their company name on a banner and T-shirts.

Wiegand suggested holding a fundraiser for the tennis courts. Lorenz agreed it is a good time to open the center to the residents. If they did bid the center out then he feels half the funds should be donated to the Oakland County Boat Club for the fireworks. Zubrzycki suggested contacting the two who were interested in a city celebration, to let them know council is open to the idea and ask them to assemble this event. Martin will contact them.

Wiegand asked when the ice rink will be removed from the tennis courts. Council discussed the ice rink and how little it was used this winter. They asked to have this put on the agenda to discuss possibly selling it. The Parks & Recreation Committee will be contacted to let them know council thoughts.

Wiegand would like to know how many open docks and RV spaces there are.

#### Discussion of Garbage Cans/Planters

**PR-002-10**

Wiegand would like to get three or four trash containers for the Community Center grounds, one could be for the bocce ball courts. The city's logo can be embossed on them. He likes the cement ones. They will last longer. He would also like new containers for Ferndale Park. Martin stated there are funds in the Garbage and Rubbish Fund. He did recommend having tops on them to prevent water and bees from getting in.

Zubrzycki feels they need to have a good rationale for purchasing these. Martin stated they are needed at the Community Center because they currently don't have anything. Lorenz feels pride speaks a lot. The city needs to maintain a solid image. He feels they are needed in the parks, on the trail and at the Community Center.

Wiegand will work with Martin to get them ordered.

#### Discussion of Proposed 2010/2011 Budget

**B-002-10**

Martin provided copies of the proposed general fund expenditures. He explained taxes without the millage would have come in \$75,000 less than this year. The millage will bring in \$188,000. Currently he has revenues exceeding expenditures for 2010/11 by \$2,000. In 2009/10 he is

estimating expenditures will exceed revenues by \$38,000. That is \$80,000 better than what was budgeted.

Lorenz reviewed taking the \$188,000 they will collect from the new millage minus the deficit estimated for this year and the prior year, this will give them \$70,000 in discretionary funds to use.

Martin pointed out some departments, explaining the changes to them. He explained he included funds for capital projects which they discussed when proposing the millage. The cost for insurance benefits is going down due to reduction in benefits. The Fire Department will increase 5 percent due to the contract. The proposed Police budget will go down because there is one less officer. The Community Center budget will increase this year because they were still learning how much it would cost to run the center, but it will go down next year because we got the tax assessment removed on the property.

Wiegand asked if there are funds for road repairs. Martin explained the roads were done seven years ago and this was expected. Lorenz quoted the engineers, "the roads are only as good as the foundation that is underneath," and if we wanted really good roads we would have had to start from scratch. Martin added, the cost would have tripled. Wiegand stated Ferndale has a two-inch crack all the way across the road.

Zubrzycki asked about special assessing. Martin replied, the city can special assess, but there are legalities attached. He provided examples of what can and cannot be assessed.

Martin will get the general fund revenue pages to City Council along with the other funds.

#### **PR-003-10**

Martin discussed repairing the seawall. He has been asked why boulders haven't or can't be used. The only reason he didn't do this in the past is because they are uneven. They are a third of the cost and now are used a lot. Wiegand heard muskrats get under the rocks and live on the other side. Wiegand would like to use boulders also. Lorenz thought there is liner behind the boulders. Martin agreed, it has to be installed right. Martin asked to investigate this option. Council agreed he should.

#### **WA-002-10**

Martin relayed, he again met with Detroit Water today. He is investigating getting the water tower back online. Martin got the rates lowered for the next 16 months. Council will need to pass an ordinance for watering on odd/even days and automatic sprinkling only at specific times. He would like to get this on the agenda for April. Sometime in the summer or fall Martin will review the water/sewer rates to make some adjustments.

Zubrzycki would like to see what the savings is for restricting watering.

City Manager Review

Nothing has been prepared at this time.

Adjournment

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

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

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Dennise Clippert, City Clerk