

A Study Session of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Thursday, September 24, 2009; opening at 6:12 p.m. Mayor Lorenz presided.

Present: Shepp, Wiegand, Zubrzycki, Lorenz, Maurina
Absent: None
Also Present: City Manager Martin

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Shepp, seconded Wiegand, to approve the agenda as submitted.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment

Discussion of Community Center Rules

Martin reviewed the committee's recommendations. In discussing Sylvan Lake Clubs, Martin explained if a club wants to use the center during the day. They can be the attendant and open the center for residents to use and hold their club meeting then. Shepp doesn't agree with a committee, which has been established by city council, being charged to have meetings. Lorenz wanted clarification on what a committee is. Russ Meskin, Community Center Rules Committee, thought it is a fund raising committee wanting to hold their meetings. Martin stated then the fundraising event falls under fundraisers and is charged for the rental. Council discussed having the committees pay the fee after the completion of the fund raiser so funds are not taken out of someone's pocket before funds are raised. Lorenz suggested they change the definition of a committee to a fund raising or ad hoc committee established by council. He doesn't believe the intent was for committees such as boat dock committee or parks and recreation committee.

Fundraisers-Shepp feels if it is a community event and there should be no fee. He would rather promote the community to use it. If it becomes a problem then the rules can be changed. Martin

stated even if it is free someone still has to be responsible. There would have to be a deposit in case it isn't cleaned or if something happens.

Lorenz reviewed West Bloomfield's eligible renters and fees. He would like to use these guidelines for Sylvan Lake. Zubrzycki suggested having civic groups only pay a set percentage of what they make.

Mary Ann Smith asked about the person that wanted to teach a yoga class, if they would fall under the Parks and Recreation. Wiegand thought that it was different because the instructor was looking to make money from teaching. Zubrzycki feels if someone was to walk in and didn't want to pay to join the yoga class they should be able to. If they are made to pay, then the instructor should rent the building. Council agreed to set fundraisers to pay 25% of net proceeds, up to \$375 or the cost of the rental.

Martin will work on making the changes and bringing it to City Council for approval.

Discussion of Millage Presentation

Martin announced a millage presentation will take place next Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.. A newsbyte did go out on it. It is information only; more like "State of the City." He would like to do a couple more. Maurina suggested to hold one during the day. Wiegand asked how they plan to change people's mind who are adamantly against the millage. Martin advised, you tell them you are not trying to change their mind, but asking them to come to the meeting and hear what is going on. A lot of residents are miss-informed from other neighbors. Martin has also asked Oakland County to do their presentation "Perfect Storm." It is a very good and informative presentation explaining we are in for the long haul. He and Dale Stewart would like to do a joint meeting for this. Lorenz suggested having cable record it also.

Council discussed the presentation and made suggestions for changes.

Martin informed council at the next meeting he will be discussing other funds such as roads and water and sewer. They need to discuss how to proceed with winter maintenance this year. Some of the water lines need repairs/replacing.

Discussion of Labor Attorney's Letter

Council discussed the Attorney's letter. The Labor Attorney is recommending waiting for the change which Blue Cross is going to be making with the supplemental coverage. Zubrzycki asked how many retirees are under a union contract. Martin replied, zero; all the retirees are non-union. The two Chiefs who have retired are non-union. Zubrzycki asked if other communities have address this. Martin stated some have; some have gone to court; some have won and some have not. The ones who have won, it wasn't a complete win. Somethings were

reduced, somethings were changed. There were still large legal fees. If it is a big community or County it may be worth it. Sylvan Lake only has six retirees. If this change doesn't happen with Blue Cross within the next year then we'll need to discuss doing something. Maurina recommended they set a time frame (6 or 12 months) to wait for Blue Cross' change. Zubrzycki would be interested in know which communities have dealt with this. Martin will look into it.

Discussion of Part-time Police

At Council's request Martin and the Chief have been discussing ways to save money and have the things that they need. One of the things they could to do is reduce the number of part-time officers down to one. This will save the city a \$1000 per officer on insurance. He reminded council the part time officer only works to fill a shift when a full time officer is unavailable. Zubrzycki asked if the city pays over time now. Martin explained, per the union contract full-time officers get first rights to fill a shift. The guys don't want it; they work enough hours already. If they have to hire another part-time officer they will, but one should work. They are looking into making a policy stating they have to work X amount of hours per month or they can only refuse X amount of times.

City Council agreed with reducing the number of part-time officers.

Adjournment

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

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Dennise Clippert, City Clerk