

A study session of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Tuesday, August 25, 2015; opening at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Dzenko presiding. Mayor Dzenko presided over the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Cassar, Dzenko, Lorenz, Meskin

Absent: Zubrzycki

Also Present: City Manager Martin, Clerk Dryden and Attorney Schultz

Approval of Agenda

Meskin requested item 6 be removed from the agenda because he didn't get it until last night and didn't have enough time to review it. Lorenz would still like to hear Martin's thought on it.

Moved by Meskin, seconded Lorenz, to approve the agenda as presented, with having item 6 being only City Manager to comment on.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment

Phillip Thomas, Sylvan Otter Lake Association thanked the city and council for their help and support they have given. He stated they have made some great strides and are doing everything to minimize costs and to generate more revenue. He asked if it is a percentage charged to the boat slips and tags that the city is donating. He asked for a breakdown of who pays. He would like to track this so they can target those who haven't donated or donated enough. Martin asked Thomas to call or email him or Dryden and the information could be provided. He also asked for a copy of their financial report; this is what was requested by City Council in the past and they haven't received it. Thomas was surprised the city wasn't getting the newsletter. He will send an electronic copy and stated the last five years are on their website. They send out 1500 newsletter a year. Martin questioned what they ask for in donations. Thomas stated for lakefront, canal front or boat owners a minimum of \$75. For those who have beach privileges or resident a minimum of \$25.

Mayor Dzenko asked when they campaign for funds. Thomas stated it is dependent on weather and his time; it is usually May or June. Dzenko suggested he attend the May or June City Council meetings to make a pitch to the resident. Thomas thanked him for the offer.

Pontiac Schools

Mayor Dzenko asked why they want to get out of the Pontiac School District? He feels there are enough residents who would rather just stay and not have to pay Pontiac and whatever district they go to.

MaryAnn Smith shared she would love to have her kids live in Sylvan Lake, but know they can't afford the private schools and school of choice is disappearing. She feels they need to take an opportunity of this now.

Lorenz explained part of the process is going through the process. He feels there are X number of residents who want them to explore this. Dzenko stated he is just asking. He is not against sending the letter or getting out of district.

Jim Smith expressed Pontiac Schools has a record of being a failing district for 30 years. People don't want to be associated with them.

Cassar shared his house is in the West Bloomfield District, but all his family is in the Pontiac District. None of his family has kids, so he doesn't believe they would want to change the district and pay more. He feels if the residents were asked to vote on it, this would speak for them.

Meskin feels this is an exercise in writing the letter and they probably won't let them out of the district. If they let Sylvan Lake out then all the other communities would be asking too. Pontiac can't afford this.

Jim Endres shared if Sylvan Lake was accepted by Bloomfield Schools their millage is 9.6, West Bloomfield 12.2545, Pontiac 2.87 if the proposal passes in November and next they are going to ask for 3.87 mills for operating. He stated they should write the letter; it won't hurt anything. He just knows they won't let us go. He also shared Oakland County Board of Canvassers are going to meet next Tuesday to discuss if the proposal is legal to put on the ballot a third time. It may be taken off the ballot.

Lorenz discussed the letter to Pontiac and stated he prefers rewrite 2, the one page letter. Dzenko is ok with that. Cassar is also ok but is not expecting anything from them. Everyone agreed rewrite 2 was ok to send.

Jim Endres just reminded Council that Pontiac Schools has no voting power in this matter.

Ordinance Regulating Construction Sites

Martin stated there is very little added, a lot deleted. He still feels it is a bit much. Martin has a concern with if they are going to impose a fee related to time ó how fair is this? You have to take in consideration the time of year and a lot of other things come into play. He asked Council to take a look at it and email him their thoughts and then they can discuss again next month.

Meskin asked if there is a timeframe they must start by if they tear the house down. Martin explained if they are demolishing the whole house then it is required they fill in the hole, but if they are going to use the existing foundation and basement then the hole would not be filled in.

Lorenz questioned how long the house on Ferndale took to complete. Martin stated it took five

years. This proposed ordinance only regulates getting the shell up. Lorenz feels custom homes take longer. Martin agreed stating the house on Island Court took three years. Lorenz asked if it was because they were dragging their feet. Martin stated it just took that long; it was not the fault of the builder or owner.

Dzenko reminded everyone to email their comments to Martin.

Allowing Lakefront Owners Access to Ramp **BD-001-15**

Martin reviewed their prior conversation. He feels they can come up with a good set of rules. He didn't realize there are 600-700 houses on the lake. He asked Council if they really want all those coming through the city and down Ferndale. Meskin suggested only allowing them to use the ramp before Memorial Day and after Labor Day, not when the gates are up.

Cassar asked what the charge would be. Martin suggested a \$100 or whatever council wants it to be. Cassar is not sure they pay \$100 or that it is the best thing for the city. He feels residents would not be happy with it.

Lorenz agreed it would be more of a problem than benefit. The police already have enough to do.

Dzenko agreed it was a nice thought, but let it go and take it off the agenda.

Parking in the ROW

Martin is not sure Council will want to touch this, but he has been receiving a lot of calls regarding people leaving a vehicle in ROW and never moving it. He stated currently they can park in the ROW along the whole length of the property.

Lorenz asked what their options are. Martin stated what if they said they are only allowed to park in the ROW in an approved space, it has to brick pavers, limit the size. The current regulation is no width requirement and 8 feet deep. Lorenz asked if they could limit the time they are allowed to park in the ROW, say no parking from 3 am-6 am. Martin stated they could. Cassar added part of the problem is a lot of household only have one lane driveways.

Dzenko is not sure they want to get into this again. He asked council to think about it and to put this on the non-action items on the agenda.

No Smoking in Parks

Martin stated this was requested at the last meeting. Dryden contacted some other communities. None of the surrounding communities have an ordinance regulating this. Huntington Woods does, it basically says no smoking in the parks. The one that was provided is from Ann Arbor.

Dzenko doesn't know how it is going to be policed. Meskin agreed and added the Park Ranger is only there for three months. Cassar wouldn't want to take someone's right to an open area. Lorenz agreed there is no way to police it. He gave the example of the fireworks and stated the Police can't enforce everything. Council agreed to remove this from the agenda.

Water Resource Commission

Martin was hoping for a contract for council to review, but they are still discussing and making verbiage changes. He expects a reduction in the sewage cost.

Martin also mentioned in July City Council was supposed to discuss water/sewer rates. The City is still collecting on the August bill so hopefully they can do this next month.

City Hall Update

Martin reported the Engineering took longer than expected and cost more too. Some of the exterior stuff is being a little more costly than expected. He invited everyone to stop by and take a look, it is very nice. Estimation of completion is a couple more months. Martin plan is move everyone downstairs to allow the upstairs to get completed. This will also allow the residents the opportunity to see what has been done and they will appreciate it more.

Jim Endres hopes the city would have an opening ceremony to show it off. He acknowledged cable will be putting something on cable when it is complete. He stated Dennise has been taking pictures of the process along the way.

Adjournment

Moved by Meskin, seconded Meskin to adjourn the study session.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Dennise Dryden, City Clerk