

A study session of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Tuesday, April 1, 2014; opening at 6:03 p.m. Mayor Zubrzycki presiding.

Present: Lorenz (6:09 p.m.), Meskin, Zubrzycki, Cassar, Dzenko
Absent: None
Also Present: City Manager Martin and Clerk Dryden

Approval of Agenda

Meskin requested to add item 10. Tri-City Fire Board.

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

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment

There were no comments.

2014-15 Goals and Objectives/budget

Martin stated he updated the list and was pleased to see how much was done last year and some items in progress. He noted he added Update Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the list since Council received it. He explained this is necessary to obtain any grant funding for the trail. He is estimating \$13,000 for this.

Lorenz came into the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Council discussed the items budgeted and in progress. Cassar wasn't aware of the plans for upstairs of City Hall being part of the plan to do now. He thought it just was the opening to the basement and adding some offices down there, but that is where it stopped and upstairs would be another time down the road. Martin stated he won't do the opening to the basement if they don't want the whole plan done. The goal for City Hall is safety and efficiency. Council agreed they were on board with the plan. Cassar will stop at City Hall to see the first floor plan. Lorenz noted he went to see other communities to see how they are setup and found our city is the only city that is still operating like Mayberry. Cassar suggested getting bids for upstairs because people are going to start asking questions and wanting to know more. Martin stated he has estimates already. Cassar suggested a general contractor for the project. Zubrzycki shared that if council is asked what is going on that they should have them talk to John. That way miss-information isn't being circulated.

The berm next to the trail and City Hall was discussed and Martin explained it will go from the

DPW garage down where the power line tower is. He would like to put some trees in there also. Cassar suggested just hydro seeding the berm for now. Martin stated he will get it graded and see where they want to go from there.

Council discussed mailbox racks. Martin explained the DPW replaces at least six a year; more if they can or if they're damaged. One of the biggest problems is people hitting them and that will happen no matter what material they are. Cassar would like to see the style the post office provides similar to condos or apartments. They have colonial looking ones now. In the past the city only had to provide the concrete pad and the post office would provide the pedestal box. Zubrzycki feels that will bring the challenge of where they would go because there would be complaints that they don't want in front of their property. Meskin feels they have enough on their plates already before getting into a project like this. Dzenko likes them how they are. Lorenz suggested asking the post office what the ground work is and getting an estimate. Cassar noted the racks are deteriorating quickly. The materials and labor is an on-going cycle and feels the DPW would be more productive doing other things.

Budget

Martin noted this is only the general fund. He will bring projections to the next meeting. He kept millage rates where they were and explained if we had \$100,000 less in additions the millage reduction fraction would have made our millage rate rollback. So as he's stated in the past, just because values are going up doesn't mean we collect very much more. The debt mills are based on the principle and interest payments due. He is expecting to take in .24% less in revenues next year. Meskin would like to see the prior year column put in revenues, like it is with expenditures. Martin explained on the Community Center expenditures he expects the estimate to be \$30,000 more because of the repairs. We should be reimbursed from the insurance company for around \$22,000. A budget amendment will need to be made. With the Police Department he is promoting Officer Zuehlc and Mondeau to Sergeants. Zuehlc will be Administrative and Mondeau, Detective and Patrol. Lorenz questioned benefits and retirees benefits. Martin explained the retirees benefits increased with Silver retiring. There are now two retirees under the age of 65 getting full benefits instead of the stipend. Zubrzycki asked how much was budgeted for OPEB. Martin believes it is \$70,000 spread between all funds. He estimated \$30,000 will come out of the different departments in the general fund. Martin pointed out Capital Outlay. He budgeted \$250,000 for seawall. This is the maximum if they did the whole area with Rosetta stone. This is only budgeted it doesn't mean they are doing this. He added if they look back at the revenue summary page under contingencies for the last two years money was put away (\$211,000) and for 2014/15 he is estimated \$145,000 to come out. So they are still within what the projections were.

Dzenko asked if they are going to increase wages. Wages have been frozen for the past 5-6 years. Martin explained Council can only set the City Manager salary, he sets all the other employees, but he would need to know what amount he has to work with. He doesn't do a straight percentage, but based on work performance. Dzenko asked Martin to send them a proposal. Martin noted wages don't just come out of the general fund, but also the two road funds, garbage and rubbish, community promotions and the water/sewer funds. Lorenz asked

Martin to include himself in the proposal.

Meskin asked if they will have to allocate money from the general fund to do road repairs. Martin stated we will not have enough money in the road funds as it sits now. The State increased some funding for this year and is looking at future, larger long-term increases, but he doesn't feel it will happen this year. The city will have to come up with some other way to fund the repairs. He further explained once the weather clears up he will have a street sweeper come in and then he will assess what they need to do. There will be some hot patches and cold patching.

Martin would like to have another meeting before adopting the budget in May. Council agreed and asked him to set a date.

Noise

Council discussed decibel levels used in other communities. Zubrzycki suggested using Novi's. Meskin proposed changing the times to 7 a.m.-10 p.m. at 60 decibels and 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. at 55 decibels. Lorenz asked what the commercial would be at. Zubrzycki stated 70 at night and 75 during the day. Zubrzycki questioned if they needed language for fireworks like Novi has for No. 6. He believes the city has language in the discharging of fireworks ordinance. Cassar noted the changes he suggested are in section (e) Exemptions (5); (i) Prohibited Acts (2) i and ii; and the number is off on page 5. What should be 17-109 Penalties (b). There was discussion of changes.

Community Center Rentals

Lorenz suggested making a one month differential so residents can rent 12 months in advance and non-residents can only reserve 11 months in advance. Martin stated a non-resident can still get a resident to rent for them anyway.

Meskin stated this document doesn't make sense. The budget shows \$26,000 and here there is \$42,000. Dryden will look into it and email council an answer.

Change Election for City Council to the Even Years

Martin explained the State law has changed to allow changing from every-year to even-year only elections. This change was done in order for Communities to save money and have more uniform elections. You can't shorten the term of an elected position so the current terms are extended by one year. Our Charter states Council terms are three years so we believe a Charter amendment would need to be voted on also. Martin is waiting to hear from Attorney Schultz on this. Council liked this idea and asked him to continue with it.

Driveways-Type of Material Used

Martin reviewed this was brought up at the City Council meeting. Dzenko doesn't know how it would work because all up and down Sherwood there are many different types of driveways that are half concrete and half blacktop. Martin agreed it would be impossible to police. Council agreed to drop this.

Tri-City Fire Board

Meskin stated the Fire Board has a meeting next week and they are proposing to change the agreement to having the Cities make the check out to West Bloomfield Township instead of Tri-City Fire because they have to pay for an audit and secretary/accountant and it is not worth it. He wanted to know if Council is in favor of this and dividing up the funds and having them go back to the three communities. Council agreed they are in agreement with this. Meskin asked if the letter went out and who it went to. He didn't receive a copy. Martin stated it did go out and it went to the Fire Board. If they disband the Tri-City Fire Board they would have to do a new contract with West Bloomfield Twp. Meskin would like to see in the next contract that if someone wants to make a change (pulling out or negotiate a change) that a letter can go out between June 1 ó June 30 a letter would go to all concerned and then there is two years to work it out. Martin stated if the contract is with each city individually then having a 2-3 year contract is pretty standard. Meskin stated he thinks the fire board wants it to be an inter-agency contract and they meet twice a year to hear from the Chief. Lorenz stated there would be no fire board and City Council would be in control. Martin added when the Chief is making his presentation to the West Bloomfield Board a council member could attend the meeting if they wanted to.

Martin stated after thinking about it he believes the letter didn't go out because Tom is reviewing it. So he will get with Tom and then forward a copy to Council and the Tri-City Fire Board.

Adjournment

Moved by Cassar, seconded Dzenko, to adjourn the study session.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Dennise Dryden, City Clerk