

Farmington Observer

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Twenty-Five Cents

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Council to make costs public

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills City Council members now will have to account publicly for their on-the-job expenses.

In a 5-2 vote Monday, council adopted a policy designed to control council expenses. Mayor Charles Williams and Councilman Robert Anzlover opposed the policy.

The policy requires council members to fill out a "pre-expenditures approval form" prior to spending public money for conference seminars, luncheons or other functions.

Public discussion of the proposed expenses is also required before council approval is given.

"I think this would be a protection . . .," said Councilwoman Joan Dudley.

Requiring council members to get council approval before they spend city money will discourage anyone "from ever saying they inappropriately spent city money," Dudley said.

Councilman Jon Alkateeb, who suggested using the form, said he refuses to attend conferences and seminars because he does not want anyone years later to question his spending habits.

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Farmington Hills' Thomas Sgrue: "There won't be any soup kitchens at Cambridge, but I expect to be active in religious and political organizations."

England next for student

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

There's quite a difference between Farmington Hills and New York City. There's even more of a difference between New York and Cambridge in England.

Just ask Thomas Sgrue. The 24 year-old Farmington Hills native recently graduated from Columbia University in New York City. Soon he'll be on his way to England to study history at prestigious Cambridge University.

"I visited England five years ago and I really liked it and that sort of kept my interest up in going back," Sgrue said.

Sgrue's interest in history goes back to when he was a junior at Brother Rice High School in Birmingham.

"I always read voraciously as a child, but I had an excellent high school history teacher who challenged me to read about history and view it as relevant to today," Sgrue explained.

After high school, Sgrue continued his studies at Columbia University in New York where he majored in history with a specialty in American history. His interests are in 19th century social, urban and labor history.

At Cambridge, which is located in the borough of Manhattan, Sgrue was involved in campus Christian organizations.

THROUGH ONE program, he helps organize and run a weekly soup kitchen serving the poor of Manhattan's upper West Side.

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Hills voters to decide city charter addition

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills voters will be asked to give the city authority to levy up to an additional 1.5 mills for 20 years for capital improvements.

If approved, the city's total taxing authority would be increased from the current 10-mill charter limit to 11.5.

Council voted, 5-2, Monday to put this variation of an earlier charter amendment proposal on the general election ballot in November. Council-

men Don Wolf and Robert Anzlover opposed the proposal.

Wolf favored earmarking 1.5 mills for capital improvements out of the city's 10 mill limit. Anzlover favored a charter amendment proposal but disagreed with establishing a time limit on the proposed 1.5 mill levy for improvements.

In July, council committed itself to a charter amendment proposal asking for an additional 1.5 mills for 20 years, earmarked specifically for capital improvements.

But council later feared that the proposal would be confusing to voters.

To straighten out the confusion, Mayor Charles Williams in early August suggested leaving the charter's 10-mill limit provision intact while adding a separate section pertaining to the additional 1.5 mills for capital improvements.

WILLIAM'S VARIATION of the original proposal accomplishes the same thing but would separate operating millage from capital improve-

ments millage.

The proposal also would protect the city's 10 mills for operating purposes while still having an additional 1.5 mills for necessary improvements.

Without a charter amendment, the current 8-mill levy plus the additional 1.5 mills for improvements would bring the total tax levy to 9.5 mills.

That would leave future councils one-half mill for operating expenses.

"The difference is really that the first (proposal) was an attempt to amend the taxation section (of the

charter)," said City Manager William Costick. "They are similar in that each (of the two proposals) would raise total city taxing authority to 11.5 mills."

Although council this week was presented with four options for funding the city's six-year capital improvement plan, little time was lost in deciding to ask voters to add a new taxing section to the charter.

"If you want to bind future councils you will have to amend the charter,"

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"We would ask that the Farmington Hills voters continue giving us 10 mills for operation. It's a sounder route in the long run."

— Charles Williams, Farmington Hills mayor



Retiring foreman

Joseph DeVriendt (left) and Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman examine a watch given DeVriendt by his co-workers in Farmington's Public Works Department. DeVriendt, foreman of

the department, retired recently after 21 years with the city. His position of foreman also was retired. A story on DeVriendt may be found on page 2 of this edition.

RANDY DONZEL/Staff photographer

Oral quarrel

Should U.S. arm IRA?

As violence in Northern Ireland continued last Monday, a spokesman for a pro-Irish Republican Army (IRA) group said that the United States has a "moral duty" to provide arms for the outlawed IRA.

According to a newspaper account, Richard Lawlor, a spokesman for the Northern Ireland Aid Committee, said that it was "a moral duty of every average American to ensure" that the organization "gets American guns to ensure democracy."

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

Should the United States provide weapons to the Irish Republican Army? Support your answer.

To answer this question, call us at 477-8398 anytime before 1 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 17. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

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