

City officials investigate water system financing

By LYNN ORR

City of Farmington officials will be looking at ways to finance slightly more than \$1 million worth of renovations to the city's water system at their June 5 meeting.

General obligation bonds or revenue bonds, to be paid off with future water rate increases, are the probable choices of paying for extensive work on the city's antiquated water mains.

But Farmington residents who turned out for a public hearing on the proposed new system want assurances that the improvements will provide adequate water pressure and fulfill firefighting needs. Residents also expressed concerns about cost and financing at the public hearing last week.

Ken Oscarson, of Orchard, Papke, Hiltz and McClement, Inc., an engineering consulting firm, presented a water system study commissioned by the city last fall. The study revealed that some areas of the city, particularly the downtown area, are grossly inadequate in providing water pressure for fire fighting.

The study projected improvements including construction of water mains on Shiawassee and Grand River; an automatic valve for linkage with the Oakland County water system; emergency remote control operation of the booster pumps during high utilization periods; and construction of reinforcement mains.

A WATER rate study conducted by Plante & Moran, an auditing firm,

indicates that a \$3 increase (16 cents per thousand gallon hike) on an average quarterly bill would offset the improvement costs.

Water pressure was the concern of Pat Sullivan, a Wesley resident.

"I had no water on the day of a fire," he told council members, adding that his home's water pressure during the summer is between 9-15 pounds.

"It's supposed to be about 30," he said. Pressure on the western end of Farmington would be boosted by the improvements, particularly during high usage times such as firefighting, according to Oscarson.

Another resident questioned the cost of the improvements.

"We're looking at a bond payment of about \$65,000 a year, depending on the bond rate and length of the bonds,"

said City Mgr. Robert Deadman.

THE SYSTEMS major deficiencies are in the central business district, according to Oscarson. A computer model testing study indicated between six and 84 per cent deficiencies in hydrants in the area, he said. A hydrant located on Shiawassee in front of Farmington High School provided 810 gallons of water per minute in a 1976 test. The hydrant should provide 5,000 gallons per minute, according to Insurance Services Offices (ISO) of Michigan standards.

While the improvements would bring the system up to ISO standards, they also would improve water supply and pressure to residents, Deadman said.

The existing system was divided into three sub-systems for the study's purpose: the area west of Longacre (including Chatham Hills subdivision) referred to as the Westside system; the area south of Nine Mile and east of Farmington Road, referred to as the Southside sub-system; and the rest of the city, referred to as the Main City sub-system.

The Westside system receives its water from the Oakland County water system, while the Southside system is dependent on the Detroit water system for its supply and pressure. The South-

side system will be improved this summer with improvements in the Detroit system, Deadman added.

The Main sub-system is supplied the Detroit system as well. A booster pump station at Nine Mile west of Farmington Road increases pressure to serve the area.

Improvements would include abandonment of the old mains in Grand River, which are between four and six

inches in width. Recommended transmission mains would be 12 inches. Construction of a 12-inch main along Shiawassee from Farmington Road to Power and eight-inch water mains along Shiawassee from Prospect to Lakeway and from Orchard Lake Road to Lakeway would be included. An eight-inch transmission main is recommended for construction along Grand River from Warner to Mooney.

CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS (Summary)

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was called to order by Mayor Richard L. Tupper at 8:00 P.M. May 15, 1978 in the Council Chambers, 2300 Liberty Street, Farmington.

PRESENT: Councilmen Bennett, Buckler, Hartsock, Tupper, Yoder. CITY OFFICIAL PRESENT: City Mgr. Deadman, Director Byrnes, Director Jones, Attorney Kelly and Clerk Vance.

Minutes of the previous meetings were approved. Minutes of other boards were received and/or filed.

A Public Hearing was held regarding the proposed Water System Improvements. A Presentation was made by Engineers Frank Papke and Kenneth Oscarson.

Mr. Steven West addressed Council on behalf of the Federal Department Store regarding warehousing and storage use in the Central Business District.

The following sign variances were approved:

-to AA Armstrong Lock & Safe Co., 32619 Grand River

-Benners Standard Service - temporary for 3 months

-Farmington Racquet Club - temporary May 20-August 15, 1978

A Proclamation was issued designating May 20-22, 1978 as SENIOR CITIZENS WEEK.

Council supported Senate Bill 1065.

City Manager Deadman advised that Oakland County had raised the city's sewer rate for the Evergreen-Farmington District.

Permission was granted to close Moore Street on June 17 for a Block Party.

Ordinance No. C-43578 amending the city's water and sewer rates was introduced.

The following Resolutions were adopted:

-Authorizing City Treasurer to place delinquent special assessment payments and unpaid service invoices on the 1978 city tax roll.

-Authorizing the City Manager to file a Grant Amendment to Step 1 Facilities Planning Grant in the amount of \$25,000.00.

-Authorizing the City Manager to file a proposed contract with Environmental Research Group, Inc. to provide a metering service for an infiltration and inflow survey of our combined sewer system in an estimated amount of \$15,000.00.

-Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Environmental Research Group, Inc. to provide storm event water quality monitoring in an amount of \$5,000.00.

Council authorized removal of Taxi Bond Plates for Yellow & Red Cabs and Suburban Checker Cab Company.

Council approved a 3-year contract with McCredy Trucking Company for garbage and rubbish removal.

City Manager advised that David L. Jones, Director of Public Services, will retire on July 1, 1978.

Council accepted the low bid of Sidal Aluminum Company for Sign Sheeting Material in the amount of \$1,908.36.

Council authorized a transfer of the city's group life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance plan to the Prudential Insurance Company.

Resident on Lakeway submitted a petition objecting to the proposed parking restrictions on Lakeway.

The following reports were received and filed:

-Financial Report General Fund 10 months ended April 30, 1978

-Financial Report 4th District Court 10 months ended April 30, 1978.

-Quarterly Report Farmington Youth Assistance

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 P.M.

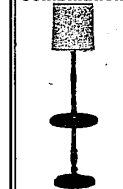
RICHARD L. TUPPER, Mayor
NEDRA VAINE, City Clerk

Book talk continues

Informal book discussion continue on Thursdays at the Farmington branch library, 2550 Liberty.

At 10 a.m., June 1, the Cracker Factory, by Joyce Rebele-Burditt will be discussed. At 10 a.m., June 15, A Book of Common Prayer, by Joan Didion will be the topic.

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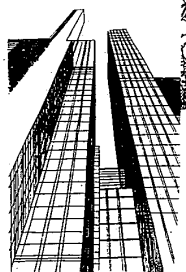
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