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Council sticks to guns on selection process

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Farmington City Council members bristled Monday night over newspaper accounts of their private deliberations on filling the council seat vacated by Richard Tupper.

Stating that his company was expanding its Florida operation which would force him to spend much time out of state, Tupper submitted his res-

ignation to the council on May 17.

Council members have 60 days from that date to select someone to replace him in the \$900-a-year post, which expires in November 1983.

As promised, Mayor Alton Bennett read the names of six persons under consideration for appointment into the record at the end of Monday night's council meeting.

Bennett asked fellow council members and members of the public to add

any additional names they'd like considered up until June 16. No new names were offered Monday night.

Persons already under consideration for appointment to fill out Tupper's term include Tupper's father, Bayard Tupper, a member of the Tax Board of Review; Roger Walker, president of Farmington Realty, Del Cornwell, manager of commercial buildings and condominiums; Reta Mossbamer, member of the Farmington Historical

Commission; and John Washburn, a former school board member who lives in The Meadows subdivision.

Bennett submitted the names of Mossbamer and Washburn. He said he put the name of Washburn in for consideration because Washburn lives in The Meadows subdivision, an area of the city currently without representation on the City Council. Bennett said a citizen contacted him asking that Cornwell be considered for the post.

COUNCILMAN RALPH YODER announced at the meeting that "contrary to what you've heard in the Farmington Observer, my phone hasn't been ringing" with calls from fellow councilmen lobbying for the appointment of various candidates for the job.

"The only call I got was from the press, and the only person I called was Bayard Tupper," Yoder said.

While Yoder admits he supports the elder Tupper for appointment to the

board, he objects to the newspaper saying he is "actively backing" the man.

Hartscock jokingly said he'd tried to call Yoder but found his line busy and surmised "you must've been talking to Tupper."

Last week Hartscock said "the process is started" when asked if council members were discussing possible appointees outside council chambers.

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Budget passed as city battles state on timing

Farmington City Council Monday night unanimously approved a 1982-83 budget calling for approximately a half-mill reduction in the millage rate.

However, due to increased assessed valuations on most homes in the city, most residents will pay about the same in city taxes as last year, city officials said.

The budget calls for total expenditures — including the general fund, water and sewer fund and highway fund — of \$4,307,655.

The budget runs from July 1 through June 1983.

Complicating local tax matters is a recent decision by the Michigan Tax Commission to increase the state equalized assessed valuation (SEV) on residential property in Oakland County by almost 6 percent over the approximate 1 percent increase the county attempted to implement.

The differences involve time periods each body uses to calculate the assessed value of homes. Assessed values by law should be 50 percent of market value.

The state determines assessments based on values of homes which have been sold in a 30-month period. Oakland County uses sales over a three-month period. The city sides with Oakland County.

Oakland County officials have indicated they will fight the state decision. In the meantime, local governments must operate under the state's interpretation of the law and roll back local millage rates to reflect the SEV increase.

Councilman William Mitchell said the city should fend financial aid to Oakland County in its lawsuit against the state.

"This whole thing smacks of stinko," Mitchell said about the state's interpretation that property values have increased 12 percent in 30 months in Oakland County.

"THIS MATTER is further complicated by the fact that a new state statute which has been titled 'Truth in Taxation' takes effect this year," Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman informed the council and public Monday night. "Under the provisions of this statute, local tax millage rates must be rolled back to reflect any increase in the assessed valuation of the existing property."

Therefore, Deadman said, the city's tax rate for operating revenues will be reduced, or rolled back, from the current 10.58 mills to 10.105 mills. A minute increase from .67 to .68 mills will be reflected in the city's debt service millage to pay off bonds and indebtedness.

Total millage rate for Farmington shows almost a half-mill reduction of .465 mills from 11.25 mills to 10.785 mills. This works out to \$10 plus 10 1/4 cents per thousand of SEV paid to the general fund and 68 cents per thousand of SEV toward the debt service fund.

Little surprises and a minimum of debate surrounded the budget adoption because the budget changed so little over last year's appropriation. Most of the discussion came at the May 17 council meeting.

Changes in the proposed budget came as a result of Farmington Hills' decision to reduce its contribution to the Farmington Community Library system by \$17,000. Because the two city's split the cost on a proportion based on population, the cutback by the Hills means Farmington will pay \$3,000 less to the library than originally anticipated.

In addition, the city manager said the city will be receiving \$3,000 less in federal revenue sharing funds than initially expected.

Arson investigated at construction site

A Pontiac contractor employing non-union help to build an addition to Chesley Industries in Farmington lost a construction trailer and parts and tools inside in a suspected arson Thursday evening.

Scrap wood placed under the west end of the trailer was ignited, according to the Farmington Public Safety Department.

The contractor estimated the trailer's value at \$4,500 and tools and parts inside the padlocked trailer at \$3,000.

"It's quite apparent some kind of accelerant (flammable liquid) would have had to have been used," said Sgt. Norm Maddison, Farmington fire marshal.

The fire was first reported at 11:26 p.m. last Thursday by Ralph Kukizinski, night employee at the plant. According to reports, Kukizinski learned of the fire when a "slim, unidentified man with brown hair came running up to him to inform him there was a fire at the construction site adjacent to the main building."

Kukizinski told fire officials he saw a man standing next to a yellow-and-white Chevrolet Carryall truck while he and six others tried in vain to put out the fire with extinguishers.

Chesley Industries employs 110 persons — both union and non-union. The company manufactures wire products such as racks, display baskets and mail carts for supermarkets and offices. It is just north of Eight Mile, one block east of Farmington Road.

Public safety officials found blotches of poster paint splattered on the north side of the new building.

FINGERPRINTS were taken from a pickle jar, its lid and a shopping bag that contained the paint that was thrown against the sheet metal walls.

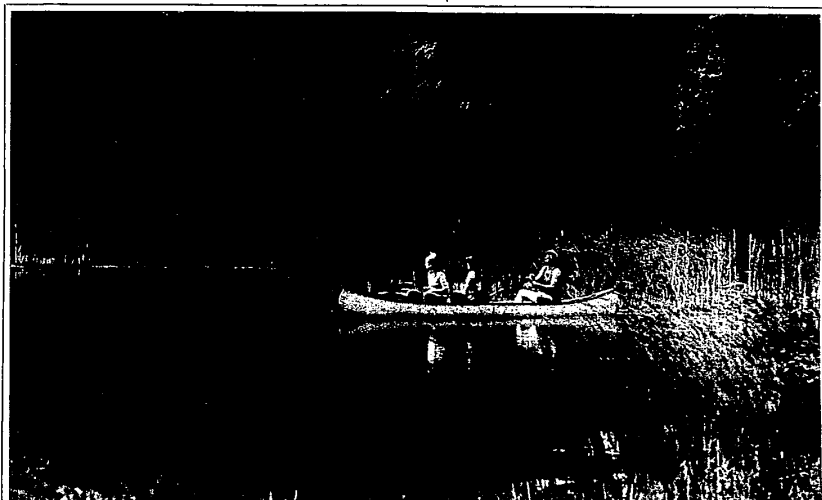
Sgt. Murray Switzer stated in his report that the fire and the paint vandalism "appear to be retaliation from union problems."

A superintendent's daily log containing license numbers of picketers at the site earlier in the day is in the hands of fire officials investigating the blaze.

Members of Iron Workers Local 25 of Detroit were picketing at the site early Thursday. Alan Whiting, owner of Gen Con, the non-union contracting firm that lost the trailer and contents, cautions against blaming members of a specific union for setting the blaze at this time.

"There are eight unions on strike in the area and to say one is responsible for it and single them out would be wrong," Whiting said. "We have no proof."

Attempts to reach Iron Workers union officials for comment on the matter were unsuccessful.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

A summer voyage

The livin' is easy, the fish are jumpin' and all that jazz on Halsted Road as Roberta LeMieux, and Lisa and Rich Childs try their luck landing a bass or bullhead.

Crossroads aid

Career computer helps you decide

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

Choosing from the 2,300 careers listed by the U.S. Department of Labor can be a mind-boggling chore for students as well as career changers. The computer has come to their rescue.

Oakland Community College, Madonna, Grand Valley State, Alma and Delta colleges are among only 150 institutions nationwide offering SIGI, (System of Interactive Guidance and Information) — a computerized program designed to match users' interests, abilities and priorities with occupations.

At OCC, students may use SIGI free of charge, while for \$30 the public can utilize the system and receive the services of a counselor.

Since the program's experimental inception seven years ago in California, it has received favorable appraisals from 90-95 percent of those who've used it.

"They say SIGI enables them to better understand their values, that it has helped them realize what they're looking for in life, how to seek information, and how to make decisions," said Neil Austin, professor and chairman of OCC's counseling department.

"That's of crucial importance, because at any stage in our lives we're developing. We make decisions now, knowing that there will be change and that we're now preparing for that change."

Austin predicts all counseling centers eventually will be equipped with

"They come to grips with what's really important to them. SIGI forces you to make some hard decisions about what's most important about life and work."

— Neil Austin
OCC professor

SIGI, based partly on the volume of inquiries he handles from other educational institutions.

THREE ONE-HOUR SESSIONS are necessary to complete the SIGI program. The user sits at a video display terminal and exchanges information with the computer by punching a keyboard.

SIGI, which greets the user by name, will spit out data on paper if requested.

Following a half-hour orientation session, a one-hour "values session" is scheduled in which the student examines and weighs 10 occupational values.

Questions include, "what satisfactions do you want in an occupation; what income level do you prefer; how important is your leisure time; what are you willing to give up; how secure a job do you want; and do you have a need to exercise leadership?"

By the session's end, users realize

that making decisions often requires making a choice between competing values.

"They come to grips with what's really important to them," Austin said. "SIGI forces you to make some hard decisions about what's most important about life and work."

The second hour, or "locate session" selects jobs that fit students' values, while the third session, called "compare" lists information about selected careers from a bank of facts on 500 occupations.

"If certain careers aren't listed, it'll give the reasons why not," Austin said.

"Maybe the career requires more intensive schooling than the student wants to undertake, or maybe the income level doesn't fit the student's preference."

"SIGI will tell students what they might be able to do, but it doesn't decide for you."

ALTHOUGH SIGI accomplishes the same thing counselors sometimes do, it's able to hold students' interest with its rapid pace and its game and problem-solving format, Austin said.

"From there, counselors can offer creative counseling. Instead of students coming in and announcing, 'I want to be an astronaut,' or 'I don't know what I want to do with my life,' they have ideas and questions."

The \$6,000 SIGI system has helped disillusioned professionals as well. A bank vice president switched to elementary education, and a salesman forsook the anti-personnel incendiary business to sell medical and pharmaceutical supplies, Austin added.

For more information, call OCC's counseling center at 476-9400.

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FABULOUS!

P. Reinke placed an Observer & Economist classified ad to sell golf clubs, cart and bag. She received over 40 calls and sold the equipment right away. She was so pleased she called again to place another ad with us!

One call does it all!



591-0900
Use your MasterCard or Visa

Bomb scares reported

Bomb scares emptied two Farmington Hills establishments during the past two weeks, according to police.

Ruth Schechter, an employee of Dr. Doodles, 3841 Grand River, told officers she received a call at about 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

A white male, possibly in his late thirties, said, "this is not a crank call, there's a bomb in your restaurant," and hung up.

Assisted by owner/manager Joe Nabra, the building was evacuated and searched. Approximately 30 customers

were readmitted to the restaurant when the hour-long search turned up nothing.

At about 9 p.m. May 27, a bomb threat was received by the Towne Square Pub, 27406 W. Eight Mile Rd.

Employee Kim Fillion, 21, told police she received two phone calls from the same male who stated, "the place would go up in approximately one hour and six minutes."

A police search revealed nothing and the evening passed without incident.