

Residents object to council raising taxes

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taxes in 1983-84 will be \$303.

Despite that evidence, as well as statistics showing that even with the proposed tax increase the city still has one of the lowest tax rates in Oakland County, and that fewer dollars would be available for capital improvements, some council members echoed residents' complaints that now is not the time for a tax hike.

"Most of the people don't realize the city council has rolled back the taxes a couple of times," said Councilman Jack Burwell, who said he "agonized" over the recommended tax increase.

"I know you folks are steaming about these taxes," Burwell said. "I have to do what I believe the people want done."

ALTHOUGH SORONEN pointed out that Councilman William Lange did not attend the city's budget sessions in the past few weeks, Lange said he felt the city would not fall apart in a year if the tax increase was rejected.

"It took Rome 500 years to fall. I don't think Farmington Hills will fall in one year," he said.

Soronon tried pointing out to the angry residents that "what a mill raises varies from year to year. By increasing

the millage we can keep dollar taxes the same."

She also failed in her attempts to show residents that the proposed one-mill levy for capital improvements would be necessary to pay for major drain problems such as in the Kendallwood subdivision.

"We simply must put some money in that (Kendallwood)," Soronon said. "That is really a health hazard."

But residents shouted back that they preferred living with drainage problems instead of dipping deeper into their pocketbooks. The residents pointed to the city's surplus as a means for

paying for the scheduled drainage improvements.

"The feeling there (Kendallwood) is that we don't want to do away with sewage improvements, use the surplus funds," said resident Richard Moran.

Moran told council members that the "proper utilization" of the city's surplus "can smooth this thing out."

"It'll be the first one to get out with the petitions (for a tax increase) if we go down the drain," Moran assured council members.

Aldo Vagnoni, who a week earlier had asked council to reconsider specific expenses in the 1983-84 budget, echoed other residents' sentiments that

"we can use a part of the surplus to pay for the things in the budget that are going to be knocked down. He also told council that the surplus was their biggest credibility problem."

IN CRITICIZING the council for considering raising local taxes, F.J. Hildebrandt of Echo Valley said that four councilmen (Wolf, Williams, Lange and Burwell) realized it's an election year.

"You've done a helluva lot of electioneering tonight," Hildebrandt said. While most residents at the special meeting boomed any debate on the merit

of a tax increase in 1983-84, a minority stood in favor of the proposed hike.

Richard Glass of Colwell supported the proposed increase, the city's delivery of services and plans for the yet-to-be purchased Spicer property on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile.

"I applaud how you're using my tax dollars," Glass said. "I don't know where you are going to move to get a lower tax rate (than in Farmington Hills)."

"I know it is not popular," Glass said, about his support of the tax increase. "But I want my snow plowed. I want my garbage picked up."



Singing out

This group of enthusiastic young adults will be only a part of the entertainment at tomorrow night's Family Funfeast, Farmington

Founders' Festival kick-off bash which will be from 5-9 p.m. at 14 Mile and Middlebelt at the new Designer Depot.

Cyclist wins title

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And it's thanks to the people in her life, Hughes said, that she's living an adventure through her sport.

Hughes was a housewife and part-time medical secretary raising two sons in Ohio when she and her husband bought their first motorcycle from a neighbor. At first, riding seemed unnatural to Hughes, but after a few spills, she got the idea.

"Once it's moving, they (motorcycles) are no problem," Hughes said.

Hughes is quick to point out that men and women ride motorcycles differently. When a man hops on a bike, he can balance the machine with his weight and his leg muscles. But what a woman physically lacks in those attributes, Hughes said, "she relies on a marvelous sense of balance."

AFTER HER divorce in the early '70s, Hughes and her two sons moved to Farmington Hills. But she didn't leave her fascination with motorcycles behind.

"When we moved to Detroit I had to look for another job," Hughes said. "And a medical secretary was not one of the happiest jobs."

So she applied for a secretarial job at the Honda Center, was turned down and instead was hired as a motorcycle saleswoman. Now she freely admits there is little she can't tell you about motorcycles and the people who ride them.

"It's something that once you get started on you never quit ever, ever," Hughes said. "Motorcycling is a feeling of freedom you can't believe. Unless you've experienced it yourself, it is hard to explain how it feels."

But there's more to motorcycling than riding, Hughes said. A big part of the thrill is traveling to different places on her two-wheeled machine and meeting new people.

Driving through California's Redwood Forest, for example, with the mist hitting her skin, is an experience that cannot be derived from driving a car through the woods. In fact, Hughes freely admits her car sits dormant most of the year.

In summing up motorcycling, especially to encourage women to enter the sport, Hughes calls it "pure fun." But for women motorcycling, she said, also is a sport they can safely share with their families.

Building renovated

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new "entity," or company, to run the project.

He said the new company may be called Abbey Homes.

Architectural work has been done by Nick Chates & Associates of Farmington Hills. Katzman is the builder on the project. More than \$3 million has been committed to the renovation, the builders have said.

Named for Isaac Bond, a Farmington Township Supervisor in the 1920s, the original school building was erected

in 1926 and added to in 1950 and 1955, according to historical accounts.

Bond has been vacant since June 1973, school officials said.

"It was the first school we closed because of declining enrollment," Prisk said. "We tried to sell it for a long time. Finally, we put it up for bid. We had three bidders, Ron Hughes being the successful one."

Until the recent work started, Bond School was a community eyesore with overgrown brush and broken windows.

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