Voters will decide on future of city improvements

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is "no need to go to the people."

But asking voters to participate in the decision to finance capital improvements with local taxation is the crux of the matter, Costick said Tuesday.

"The city council has been saying, 'We're reluctant to levy 1.5 mills without going to the voters,'" Costick said Tuesday.

"We feel that the advantage to this approach is that this would indeed allow the electorate to voice their opinion on the issue of local taxation and at the same time will generate a new, dedicated source of revenue that the city unquestionably needs, especially when one views the recommended program of capital improvements for the years 1984 through 1989," Costick said in a report to council.

And if a Voters Choice Amendment is also put on the November ballot and passes statewide, the city's tax rate would be rolled back to the 1981 level of 8.5 mills. Anything needed above that limit would require a vote of the people.

"If Voters Choice passes and our issue fails, we could do nothing," Costick said. "If Voters Choice passes, we will need our own millage (for capital improvements)."

By taking the request for additional millage and charter amendment to the voters in November, "we've done exactly what the Voters Choice (amendment) says," Costick said.

Although the 1.5 mills would generate about $1.5 million (based on the city's total state equalized valuation of approximately $1 billion) the current six-year plan of recommended improvements could not be totally implemented, Costick said.

Total implementation would take about 1.75 mills, he added.

"It is believed, however, that the levy of 1.5 mills for the exclusive purpose of capital improvements will be adequate," Costick indicated in his report. For example, he said, if the city bonds for a proposed police building and for the Caddell Drain, (at about $300,000 each annually), that leaves about $900,000 for other projects.

Drain improvements, sidewalks, the Spicer park development, and fire and public works building expansions are some of the recommended projects listed in the city's six-year capital improvement plan.

Rather than putting all the money generated from the 1.5-mill levy into debt retirement (on bonds issued for projects such as the police building), Costick said he hopes many of the drains, for example, can be built on a "pay-as-you-go basis."

Other than Alkateeb's concern about asking for a charter amendment, opposition among council members was not apparent throughout the short discussion.

Meanwhile, council haggled for a short time over the suggested language to be included on the proposed ballot.

Of concern to Alkateeb was that while including some specific improvements on the ballot, most of the council and administrators want a catch-all phrase such as . . . "other similar improvements."

Dudley argued in favor of that kind of wording saying council needs an "escape hatch" in case other projects become more immediate than those listed on the ballot.

"I'm objecting to an escape clause," Alkateeb responded.

While Councilman Bob Anzlovar said he understood Alkateeb's point about having an "escape clause," he agreed with Dudley that priorities in the next 20 years could change.

As council members continued to haggle over the proposed ballot's language, Mayor Charles Williams brought the discussion back to the taxation issue.

"We've got to solve the principle," he said, urging that council decide between a proposed 15-year or 20-year limit on the proposed additional millage.

With that, Dudley made the motion to proceed with placing a charter amendment for additional millage on the November ballot.

cable connection

By Lark Samoucilian
special writer

Fred Lichtman, former Farmington Hills mayor and charter commissioner, is back in town. Two intern producers, John Virley and Michele Brancik, are delighted to announce Fred Lichtman as the host of a new talk show which will feature controversial subjects.

The first show to be taped will be mercy killings (euthanasia). How do you feel on this subject? We would like to have you on this panel. Call the SWOCC office at 474-5500.

Then again, if you would enjoy participating as a contestant in a Rock & Roll game show and have fun as you challenge your memory, call about "Rock Hot Shots" at 474-5500.

This week's feature show is "On The Road Again" with host Carol Urquhart of Casual Corners. Carol is preparing us for a travel wardrobe with packing tips. Gather your note pad and open your closet *as you watch on Thursday,* July 19 at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

July 16

- 6 p.m. — Duel of Knowledge #10, North Farmington vs. Harrison.
- 6:30 p.m. — Livonia Civic Choir.
- 7:30 p.m. — Pet Care Fair — producer Norm Calfin.

July 17

- 6-8 p.m. — Livonia Spree Rodeo, 1984.

July 18

- 6-7 p.m. — Farmington Hills City Council Candidates Night.
- 7 p.m. — Welcome to My Father's House "A New Friend" Kathy Bauer.
- 7:30 p.m. — OCC Parks & Rec. Waterford Oaks Game Complex.

July 19

- 6-6:30 p.m. — On the Road Again, Travel Scenario - host, Carol Urquhart.
- 6:30 p.m. — Cranbrook Hospice "Let's Talk Pain Control."
- 7 p.m. — Happy Birthday — Role Play in Family Situations.
- 7:30 p.m. — Health Talks — physician assistants, shock therapy, cystic fibrosis.

July 20

- 4:30-7:30 p.m. — Viewer's Choice. Please call 553-7303 before 2 p.m. on Friday.

Fred Lichtman

Candidates night sponsored by Dems

The Farmington Democratic Club invites the public to participate in the organization's candidate's night for the Farmington Hills City Council.

The meeting will be at 8 p.m. Thursday (tonight) in Boisford Inn, Grand River at Eight Mile Road.

The format is as follows:

Each candidate will be given from three to five minutes to make an opening presentation which can cover background, qualifications, program or anything else you deem appropriate.

Questions will then be taken from the audience in an open fashion. The questions may be directed at one, some or all of the candidates.

All candidates will be given an opportunity to respond to each question, if they so choose. The first question will be asked of each candidate by the moderator.

At some point during the meeting each candidate will be given an opportunity to ask a question of the other two candidates, if they so choose.

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