

Hills voters to decide city charter addition

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said John Everhardus, the city's bond attorney, referring to maintaining financial support for capital improvements.

While all but Wolf leaned in favor of Williams's alternative, resident Aldo Vagozzi cautioned council.

"If you ask for an extension of the 10 mills to 11.5, it's going to be defeated. There is no question about it," Vagozzi said. "Whatever you do, you have got to stay within that 10 mill limit."

SUGGESTING COUNCIL should allocate 1.5 mills for capital improvements out of the 10 mill charter limit, Vagozzi said if council later needed more money for operations beyond the 10 mills, "then ask the voters."

Accusing Vagozzi of "questioning the (council's) decision-making process," Williams responded that taxes could have been raised, but "... we are concerned with the best way of doing it."

"There are two ways of looking at it," Williams said.

The first way, is to accomplish the capital improvements within the authorized 10 mills, he said. But next year, when labor contracts come up for renegotiations, for example, council will be financially squeezed.

"You are not doing yourself a favor," Williams continued.

The other option is amending the charter to add a new section dealing specifically with capital improvements, he said.

"This is basically the one I support," Williams said. "We would ask that Farmington Hills citizens continue giving us 10 mills for operation."

"It's a sounder route in the long run," he added. Councilwoman Jodi Soronen agreed.

"I guess I don't have a knee-jerk reaction to a charter amendment," she said.

SORONEN ADDED that the proposal would provide what the city needs for capital improvements in the "most honest" and "clearest way."

Councilwoman Joan Dudley also supported Williams's alternative. She said that it defines for voters "the idea that 1.5 mills is strictly for capital improvements" although legally it is still increasing the charter limit to 11.5 mills.

But the proposal accomplishes what the city needs while "not putting anything over on the voters," she said.

Once it became evident that council was leaning toward Williams's proposal, the only disagreement concerned establishing a time limit on the proposed additional 1.5 mills for capital improvements.

"I don't think it would be in the city's best interest to put a time limit on it," Andzior said. A time limit would force council to levy the most it could to fully pay the cost of improvements within the designated time period, Andzior said.

The city's bond attorney, John Everhardus, agreed with Andzior. For example, a 10-year time limit, he said, would create "a very serious strain to do anything."

Costs to be made public

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COUNCIL MEMBER'S spending habits were the topic of an article that ran in the Farmington Observer in June.

The previous policy allowed council members to turn in expense sheets to the city manager's office for reimbursement.

In suggesting the form, Alkatech said he wanted council members to fill it out only when they intended to spend more than \$100.

"I like this form a lot," Dudley said. But quickly qualifying her statement, Dudley added she would also like Alkatech to "go along with a recommendation that it just be plain filled-out," regardless of the amount.

"I just find it sort of a burden to know what you're going to be involved in," said Williams, referring to filling out the form prior to attending, for example, a dinner.

Instead, Williams suggested that council members turn in expense sheets after attending an event when they know exact costs.

But Dudley disagreed. Williams's method, she said, is after the fact. While a dinner may justifiably cost \$10, Dudley said, another \$10 could be spent buying drinks for other people.

"I'm sorry . . . I just don't believe that what taxes are collected for," she said. "The point is before we spend it, for God's sake, let's make it public."

Councilwoman Jodi Soronen, however, questioned the need for listing small expenses. She added that amount of paper work involved in the new policy

may be as costly as some of the actual expenses.

Lashing back at Soronen, Dudley said if the small expenses are not worth listing, then perhaps such events and trips were not worth attending.

"The whole point is it's out in the open, in the public," Alkatech said.

Completing the discussion, Williams vowed he would not spend any more of the city's money. Williams said he has spent \$70 since the beginning of the year.

Whelan graduates

Aquinas College of Grand Rapids conferred a bachelor's degree on Judy Whelan of Farmington Hills.

The bachelor's degree recipients include those who have completed their work in the regular program or the adult continuing education program of the liberal arts college.



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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 13, 1984

Mayor Williams opened the regular meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council on August 13, 1984 at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Alkatech, Andzior, Dolan, Dudley, Soronen, Williams and Wolf. Others present: City Manager Costick, City Clerk Cairns and City Attorney Elbeaux.

Minutes of July 23, 1984 were approved as amended.

Vacation No. 5, 1984 to vacate the portion of Yorkdale Road north of Lots 3 and 4 of Remington Gardens Subdivision in Section 25 was postponed to a date on or before October 8, 1984 until the proposed rezoning of the property has been completed.

Council approved Vacation No. 8, 1984 to vacate existing sanitary sewer and storm drain easements in NE ¼ of Section 16 for Manufacturers Hanover Mortgage Corporation.

Resolution No. 5 (Cost Hearing) was approved for the Chatsworth Road paving (SAD No. C-187) in Section 1 at an estimated \$2,624.25 cost per lot.

Council discussed procedure for reviewing City Attorney's services and the Council adopted the procedure as presented by Mrs. Dudley.

Discussion continued regarding the Capital Improvement Program financing and Council voted to place on the November ballot an amendment to the City Charter, which would add Section 7.09A to allow additional millage for capital improvement projects only and which would expire on June 30, 2005.

Council adopted an amendment to Paragraph E (to conform with the Zoning Ordinance) to Consent Judgment between the City of Farmington Hills and Ravine Investment Company.

The request by Carrefour Corporation for reconsideration of E.D.C. funding was denied.

Council adopted procedure that all expenses of Council are to be approved by Council prior to the expenditures of said funds.

Consideration of establishing Project District for Robert Bosch Company for property tax abatement under Act 193 was postponed until the August 27, 1984 meeting.

Council approved condemnation of property located at Halsted and M-103 for necessary construction of a retention basin as part of the Coddell Drain Improvement Project.

E.D.C. Standard Resolution No. 1, approving project area and project district area, was adopted for NTH Investment Company (Voyce, Tiao & Hinds, Ltd.) Project.

E.D.C. Standard Resolution No. 2 was adopted for the NTH Investment Company, naming Dan Reynolds and James Pelice as additional directors for the project.

Council approved Festival Permit for St. Alexander Church, 37835 Shawansee, from September 31 through 23, 1984.

A Resolution was adopted authorizing City Clerk to apply to Oakland County Road Commission for permit for North Farmington High School Homecoming Parade on October 13, 1984.

A Resolution was adopted authorizing City Clerk to apply to Oakland County Road Commission for permit for Harrison High School Homecoming Parade on October 20, 1984.

Council determined to send Councilmembers Dudley, Soronen and Williams to represent the City Council at a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 21, 1984 at 8:30 a.m. to study the proposed study of I-494 with representatives from the Cities of Southfield and Novi and the Oakland County Road Commission.

A resolution was adopted, naming William Costick as Street Administrator for the City of Farmington Hills.

Arthur J. Heidt, Jr., Robert Overland, and D. Keith Deacon (alternate) were reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals for three year terms ending 3/1/87.

Richard Corvey was appointed to the Economic Development Corporation to replace Emanuel Mihal, term to expire 8/1/84.

Robert Dejenette and Beverly Ellis were reappointed to the Farmington Area Arts Commission for three year terms ending 3/1/87.

Gordon W. Mayers was appointed to the Board of Review for a three year term expiring 12/31/87.

The attorney reported on the settlement of Universal Underwriters.

Council approved an agreement with Orchard Ridge Associates, Ltd., for joint construction of boulevard entrances to Twelve Mile Road Branch of Farmington District Library.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

CHARLES B. WILLIAMS, Mayor
FLOYD A. CAIRNS, City Clerk