

Barricade battle brings out residents

By Julie Brown Staff writer

Farmington Hills officials will attempt to work out a compromise before a May 20 public hearing between residents who disagree over whether a barricade which divides their streets should remain in place.

That was the vow from city manager William Costick at Monday's council session where residents from Metroview Road and Green Hill squared off to debate this issue.

Developer John Uznis led off the debate. Uznis, the developer of the adjacent Green Hill apartments, cited safety and traffic congestion factors.

"We ask that you take the barricade down," he said. "It never should have been put off."

Residents of the apartments also told

the council they wanted the barricade removed.

"I feel that the Metroview barricade should be removed," said Thomas Chapman, 21337 Parklane. "There's a lot of traffic in that area right now."

Bruce Dublin, 21095 Metroview Road, spoke on the other side of the issue. He and other Metroview Road residents have opposed the street's paving and its connection to Green Hill Road.

The situation doesn't offer any easy solutions, Dublin said. He suggested a meeting with the developer, the city manager and residents.

Dublin also questioned Metroview's ability to accommodate the potential traffic.

"It can't support it now," City council members debated the issue before voting to have the city manager bring back a resolution to the council.

"It's not on the agenda tonight, so we cannot act on it," Mayor Jan Dolan told those at the meeting.

"All I'm bringing back to them is a resolution to set the date for the hearing," City Manager William Costick said Tuesday, May 20 is a likely date for the hearing, he said.

The city will "see if we can't work out a mutually agreeable plan of solving the problem of the barricade and the paving," Costick said. "One of the most serious issues is the barricading of streets."

COUNCILMEMBERS ALSO were split on a solution.

"The citizens on Metroview have one viewpoint, and certainly the residents of Green Hill have another viewpoint," said council member Charles Williams. The problem for Metroview residents "is the question of who is going to pay for this."

"All of the sudden, this throws a new obligation on the city, as well as on the residents of Metroview."

"I'm glad we've got both sides represented tonight," said Joe Alkateeb, mayor pro tem. He expressed concern about the potential traffic on Metroview.

"We're asking them to take some

700, 800 cars a day. Morally, I don't think that is right."

"On the other hand, the people of Green Hill have a problem, too. They need an exit."

Alkateeb spoke against immediate removal of the barricade.

"The barricade should not come down because it's hazardous," the mayor pro tem said. "No way can that barrier be removed under the present circumstances."

"I cannot change the fact that there are many people who live in Green Hill

who need another exit."

Council member Ben Marks approved of the paving.

"I hear about a moral obligation to the people of Metroview," The city also has an obligation to the developer and to the Green Hill residents, he said.

"He, in all good faith and conscience, did all the city of Farmington Hills required him to do," Marks said of Uznis.

"Mr. Uznis has adhered to every ordinance this city has laid down."

"I really, in all honesty, don't see any major compromises coming."

Mayor Dolan expressed concern about safety problems, such as blocked access for emergency vehicles.

"As long as it's a public road, the public has a right to that," she said. Metroview is not a private drive, the mayor told those at the Monday meeting.

"You have a very parochial view of it, and I don't blame you."

"I happen to be one who's in favor of paving," Dolan said. "We're ready for action of some type."

City legislators voted 3-to-2 March 11 to reject a proposal to establish a special assessment district for Metroview's paving. A special assessment al-

lows the city to tax residents living along the roadway for the paving.

At their Feb. 10 meeting, council members rejected the paving of the road from Eight Mile Road to Green Hill Road. A tie vote had defeated that proposal.

Following the Feb. 19 council meeting, Uznis had contacted the city. The developer offered to increase his expenditure on the paving to \$60,000, nearly three times the original amount he had been willing to pay.

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