

Marks selected as Hills' mayor pro tem

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Ben Marks' election as the Farmington Hills City Council's mayor pro tempore dashed the bid of Jody Soronen for the position.

Marks was elected Monday in a 4-3 vote. Soronen, Councilwoman Joan Dudley and Councilman Terry Sever opposed Marks' election. Marks, Councilman Donn Wolf, Incoming Mayor Joe Alkateeb and outgoing Mayor Jan Dolan supported Marks.

Dudley opened the mayor pro tem election by nominating Soronen. In late November, Soronen announced she wanted to become mayor pro tem. "I would like you to consider my spoken petition to you," she told council at the time.

Although making it clear she did not support former mayors and mayor pro tems who seek re-election to those positions, Dudley said Soronen was the only member who had been "honest, open and up-front" about her desire to be mayor pro tem. Recently re-elected to a four-year term, Soronen has served on council since 1978. She was mayor in 1980.

"I have witnessed a lack of honor in the recent (election) campaign," Dudley said. "Politics may be dirty. But I cannot condone or honor dirty politics."

DUDLEY ALSO referred to "double

dealing and broken promises" in regard to the mayor pro tem election.

Soronen's honesty in seeking the position "instills in me trust and credibility" in her serving as mayor pro tem, Dudley said. "We were on opposite sides for a long time... First you'll get straight answers from Ben Marks. He respects your opinion and expects to be heard (himself). He may not agree (with other opinions). But you'll be heard."

When the vote was called, sides were drawn between Soronen, Dudley and Sever for Soronen and Wolf, Marks and Alkateeb for Marks. As in last year's mayor pro tem election, Dolan's vote was to be the deciding factor.

BEFORE VOTING, Dolan took the opportunity to express her concern and disappointment over reported political bargaining for the mayor pro tem position. "I know what has gone on this weekend. And I find it disturbing. I hope people are voting for someone and not against someone."

Because of "what's going on" and because election of a mayor pro tem should be "automatic," Dolan cast her vote for Marks.

The council did not publicly discuss the reported political bargaining that

had apparently taken place, particularly last weekend.

But while explaining her opposition to Alkateeb's election as mayor, Dudley referred to members' conduct leading up to the council's scheduled reorgani-

zation elections. When asked about his conduct, Alkateeb said, "I did what I thought was in the best interest of council. In my original assessment, I thought the mayor pro tem should have gone to Dudley. But too many candidates in the election

(for mayor pro tem) made it impossible for her election."

IF COUNCIL intended to follow the rotation basis of electing a mayor and mayor pro tem — members taking turns in the positions — Marks was the

most likely candidate, Alkateeb said. Unwritten criteria in the rotation basis include electing council members who have not yet served in the positions, those who are most qualified and those with the longest service, Alkateeb said.

New mayor looks to year ahead

Continued from Page 1

to continue as mayor until after Monday night's discussion of the city's creation of a Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA) district along the 12 Mile Road office corridor (from just east of Farmington Road to Haggerty) to pay for major road and storm drainage improvements.

Alkateeb's election as mayor was expected without debate or opposition because the position has been, almost without fail, handed down to the mayor pro tem. The positions of mayor and mayor pro tem are honorary. The mayor or leads council meetings and is the city's official representative at government and community functions.

In the past, council has elected the mayor and mayor pro tem after its new members take office in January following a November election. But passage in November of a charter amendment calling for newly elected members to take office immediately following the election's certification allows council to reorganize before the year's end. The charter amendment eliminated lame-duck council members.

IN ASKING council to work together, Alkateeb said, "We must be ready to face many difficult issues and be able to take on all the exciting challenges that lie ahead."

As mayor, Alkateeb said his immediate goal is to "usher a new era of cooperation with the Farmington school board and to see that TIFA project in the 12 Mile corridor is well understood and firmly supported by all concerned."

"The Farmington school system is an integral part of that special ingredient that makes Farmington Hills what it is, and we must develop a spirit of openness for the good of the whole community," Alkateeb said.

Alkateeb called on the city council to work toward planning based on the city's six-year capital improvements plan as well as the master storm drainage plan.

"We must explore and adopt a financing plan that is adequate and fair to all residents and business alike," Alkateeb said about the six-year improvements plan. "This kind of realistic and sound planning will better enable us to maintain and preserve our character and viability."

PUBLIC HEARINGS should be scheduled, followed by formal adoption of the city's master storm drainage plan. "Our first priority should be to alleviate conditions of flooding and inadequate surface drainage, which so widely affects our citizens," he said.

On the topic of roads, Alkateeb called on the council to "work vigorously" with county, state and federal officials to secure needed improvements. The focus, he said, should be turned to the widening I-696 plus the addition of at least one interchange into Farmington Hills.

Other needed improvements include widening and possible extension of Northwestern Highway, as well as installation of turn lanes. Improvements at the M-102/Grand River Intersection are also needed, Alkateeb said.

In addition to these major improvements, the council must develop a major road improvement program, which will, in a one or two-year construction period, "help reduce congestion and alleviate some of the serious problems that not only inconvenience residents but pose real safety problems as we travel our streets," Alkateeb said.

"With the approval and consent of the council, the formulation of this program should be completed during the first quarter of 1986. Target areas should be major intersections and several mile-long sections of our major road where widening, paving or both are required," Alkateeb said.

ANOTHER PRIORITY that the council should concern itself with in 1986 is implementation of the E-9-1-1 emergency telephone system, Alkateeb said.

In continuing to improve the city's fire and police departments, the council should consider, during budget discussions, the need to sustain crime prevention and law enforcement as well as the need for new equipment, he added.

Alkateeb also spoke to the need for support of the revived civic beautification committee as well as public input to address the community's recreation needs.

"Last but not least, we need to continue to work with our neighboring communities on programs of mutual interest and attempt to solidify cooperation to solve shared problems and concerns," Alkateeb said.

STOP looking for that Special Gift!
Announcing a new way to watch your Movies, Slides and Photos.

ARE YOUR PRECIOUS MEMORIES GATHERING DUST STORED AWAY IN YOUR CLOSET?
PUT THEM TO USE!
MAKES A NICE GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

Now all your memories, 8mm, 18mm movies, slides and photos can be transferred onto video cassette for easy viewing on your TV.

Arrange them in the order you want and bring them to us. Our trained technical personnel will work with you to enhance color of weak originals, select special effects such as fades, wipes, dissolves, titles and captions. We can even add background music of your choice. You be the director, we'll do the rest.

After your transfer is completed, we return your originals along with your own video production.

4 - 50 FT. ROLLS VHS or BETA TAPE
8 mm Film **\$29.95**
100 Slides **\$25.00 INCLUDED**

INTRODUCTORY OFFER

90 MIN

YESTERDAY'S MEMORIES... TODAY'S VIDEO!
CALL TODAY TO ORDER!
12500 HILLS ROAD, FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48334
900-376-7443

Farmington Crossroads
Farmington Road and 9 mile Rd.
Where shopping is an adventure

A brand new center to take the panic out of last minute Christmas shopping. It's the nice and easy way to unusual gifting.

Visit these new and exciting shops

Bonnie's Hallmark
Card & Gift Shop
Continental
Diamonds
Crispant Cafe

C.S. Slove's
Dress Shop
Famcastle Sam's
Farmer Jack
Super Store

Kowalski Sausage Co.
Perry Auto Store
Perry Drug
The Flor for Barn
Video Biz

and more to come at Farmington Crossroads
Farmington Road and 9 mile Road.

Monahan's Seafood Market is filled to the gills for the holidays!

Fresh seafood for elegant dinner menus...

Shrimp patties, smoked fish trays, poached salmon, hot pots of oysters for holiday buffets, brunches and cocktails...

The perfect gift baskets for seafood lovers. "The Beachless Bake" and more!

MONAHAN'S SEAFOOD MARKET The standard of quality.
CARRY OUT - FRESH SEAFOOD - CATERING
3855 Grandville
Huntwood Square, Farmington Hills
476-3770
Mon-Sat 10am-7pm

SFA's Evan Picone Flannel Sale!
Now 50% Off*.



- One of the best-selling collections by Evan Picone!
- The luxurious pure wool blazer, dirndl skirt, classic trousers. Really a complete wardrobe starts right here.
- Traditional blazer, originally \$157-\$180, now \$77.90-\$89.90
 - Dirndl skirt, originally \$78-\$88, now \$38.90-\$43.90
- Classic trousers (Not shown), originally \$82-\$102, now \$40.90-\$50.90
 - These, for sizes 4 to 14; and petite sizes 2 to 12.
 - In Sportswear Collections and Petite Collections.

*Indicates reductions taken from original prices.

Saks Fifth Avenue

Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, Troy • Fairlane Town Center, Dearborn
STORE HOURS: Monday through Saturday from 10 to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 10 to 7 p.m. in Troy and 11 to 7 p.m. in Fairlane.