

# City: no position on bid for liquor license

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Farmington City Council will not take an official position on Maple Village Discount Drugs' bid for a state designated dealer (SDD) resort liquor license.

The council's decision followed lengthy discussion of the application Monday. The drugstore is at 23306 Farmington, in the Downtown Farmington Center.

If approved by the state Liquor Control Commission, an additional package liquor outlet would be allowed in the city. Farmington has reached its limit for regular SDD liquor licenses, according to City Manager Robert Deadman. The Maple Village's downtown store is currently licensed to sell only beer and wine.

Mayor Pro Tempore Alton Bennett, Councilman Ralph Yoder and Mayor William Hartsock questioned the city being considered as a "resort" area, with businesses eligible for a SDD resort license. Bennett also questioned the need for an additional package liquor outlet in Farmington.

BENNETT VOICED disapproval of the application, offering a motion to object to an additional license in the city. Council members Bennett and Arnold Campbell approved the motion, while Yoder, Hartsock and Richard Tupper voted to defeat the measure. No representative from Maple Village was at the meeting.

"The matter was left to our judgment without input," Bennett said. "We're working under a close time restraint." Farmington officials received the state correspondence Dec. 4, and

are required to give input by Dec. 19, according to Deadman.

Tupper voiced strong disapproval to the motion to object. "Why should we stifle the business of someone in our own community when it's not even our decision?" he asked.

Although voting against the motion to object, Hartsock said, "It's clear we not only have a right, but a responsibility, to react. I think the need has not been determined."

"I HATE to stifle his ability to make a buck, but I don't like it," Yoder said. His vote against the motion to object focused on the potential "wrath of the downtown committee" (the Downtown Farmington Development Committee) and merchants if the council showed disapproval.

The city offers only input to the state

agency, which makes the ultimate decision on most liquor licenses. City officials have direct input for Class C licenses, or liquor by the glass.

Twenty-five SDD resort licenses are offered throughout the state annually, according to Farmington Department of Public Safety Director Frank Lauhoff, and 10 have been awarded in 1985. This annual number will be effective through 1988, he added.

Deadman, Bennett and one resident in the audience theorized the state, through the resort licenses, was allowing additional liquor licenses to be approved under a different name.

license.

ANOTHER RESIDENT said the opening of an Arbor Drugs store in the old Farmer Jack store on Farmington Road may have a bearing on the application. "How would you like to be placed between Perry and Arbor?" he asked the council.

Perry Drug Store, another chain, recently opened in the Crossroads Shopping Center at 9 mile and Farmington Road, and does not yet have a liquor

license. According to information presented at the meeting, the existing SDD package liquor license at Godmar's Rexall Pharmacy will transfer to Arbor upon its opening in early 1986. Arbor recently purchased the Godmar pharmacy.

Maple Village Discount Drugs also has a store at 31505 Grand River in Farmington, which has a package liquor license, according to city officials. The downtown store has a state designated merchant (SDM) license for beer and wine.

# Court caseload grows

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Increased civil caseloads in the 47th District Court of Farmington have led to requests for additional computer space and hardware.

Approval was granted by the city councils in Farmington Hills Dec. 9 and in Farmington Dec. 16.

A total of \$21,000 from both cities' general funds was approved, adding 512K in memory, an additional printer, a computer expansion board giving space for eight more terminals and addition of three terminals immediately for the computer system.

Approval was based on an \$18,870 quote from Horizon Systems & Software Inc. of Farmington Hills, the court's current computer vendor.

The approved amount was thought to be "sufficient to meet the needs to bring up the new computer programs" and handle any additional installation expense, according to Farmington City

Manager Robert Deadman, in a report to the council.

THE HILLS will pay 82 percent, or \$17,312, while Farmington will pay 18 percent, or \$3,688. The amounts are based on a formula used to determine cost-sharing of court expenditures by the communities.

The additions will "double the memory capability . . . allow for more efficient processing . . . and enable the court to expand its computer programs," according to a Nov. 6 letter from district Judges Michael Hand and Margaret Schaeffer in requesting the changes.

The courts will computerize civil, small claims and probation case management, the letter said.

The computer upgrades will allow automatic printing of "notices of court hearings, failure-to-appear, will do some calendaring and will keep an updated list of the status of all cases," according to a report from Farmington

Hills assistant to the city manager Karen Birkholz.

"CIVIL CASES have increased markedly since small claims jurisdiction was raised to \$1,000," according to the judges' letter. With an additional increase to \$1,500 Jan. 1, they expect a "further increase in the work of the civil division," which is more complicated, according to Hand.

Hand told the Farmington council the computer expansion "is probably as much as we can handle physically unless you add to the courthouse." He said the change would carry the court administration through at least five years.

The court was computerized several years ago "so that the personnel needs of an expanding court could be reduced," according to Deadman. "We believe the new computer system has fulfilled council's expectations."

Plans call for a year-to-year review of the court's computer operations.

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