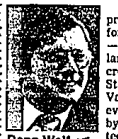


Hills on record urging tax reduction

By Joanna Mallazowski
staff writer

Councilman Donn Wolf wants a tax cut for Farmington Hills in 1987-88.



Donn Wolf

A resolution expressing the desire for reduced taxes in light of a large expected increase in the city's State Equalized Valuation — however, was adopted by the skin of its teeth.

Council members Jan Dolan, Joan Dudley and Terry Sever opposed adoption of the resolution designed to tell city manager William Costick and his administrative staff to go easy with the proposed 1987-88 budget and try to provide a reduction for taxpayers.

"I want to give the city administration some direction, some feeling of how we feel," Wolf said. "That is our job — to set policy — and tax policy is awfully important. And it seems more appropriate to do it at this time than to wait until they have put hours and weeks into the 1987-88 budget."

Though city assessor Dean Babh has yet to put the finishing touches on the city's final SEV figures, Wolf based his request for a tax cut on estimated increases in the city's value.

WOLF TOLD the council that an estimated \$250 billion has been added to the city's SEV, translating into a \$2.5 million increase in the city's revenue.

The total estimated SEV increase is comprised of new commercial and industrial construction, which is expected to add \$90 million; a reappraisal of commercial and industrial properties is expected to bring in another \$70 million. Residential SEV

has increased an estimated \$90 million, Wolf said.

Taxpayers deserve a break, Wolf continued, because they did their share last year with their support of a \$7 million bond issue for road improvements and a 0.5-mill levy for five years for park and recreation development.

Acknowledging that the Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment and

truth-in-taxation will help to reduce the tax rate, Wolf said he would like to see a 1-1/4-mill decrease this year.

Despite adoption of the resolution, Wolf's request touched off a flurry of debate.

Dolan immediately refused to support the resolution because the council was not offered any information regarding the issue until Wolf spoke about it. "Until we are supplied with

that, it's out of line."

THOUGH MAYOR Ben Marks questioned the necessity of adopting a resolution showing a desire to reduce taxes, in the end he supported Wolf's request.

"I'm going to ask you not to put anyone on council in a compromising position by voting no (against the resolution)," Marks said.

But council members wanted to

vote on the resolution. "This is an election year," Dudley said, implying motive for the resolution. "... I'm tickled pink we are going to vote for it."

Sever also opposed the resolution though he said he would support a tax reduction in 1987-88. But Sever said he would first like to see documentation of what, if anything, would change with city services and improvements if taxes are cut.

Councilman Joe Alkateeb, who supported the resolution called it, "a psychological push more than anything else."

In 1986-87, the city's \$19.5 million budget was supported with a 9.8 mill tax rate. The rate included 1 mill allocated specifically for road improvements. The 0.5-mill for parks and recreation approved by voters last June was levied on July 1.

Police seek manslaughter warrant

Police have arrested a 28-year-old Detroit man and plan to seek a warrant charging him with manslaughter following a Saturday morning car crash that killed a Dearborn Heights man.

The driver of a Buick that apparently ran a red light at the Farmington-Eight Mile intersection — bordering Livonia, Farmington and Farmington Hills — was released pending issuance of a warrant from the Wayne County Prosecutor's office, said Sgt. Kenneth Marlow of the Livonia police.

A warrant will not be issued until police complete their investigation, he said.

The crash killed Dale Bishop, 33, of Dearborn Heights. Bishop, who was not wearing a seat belt, was thrown from his car and was pronounced dead at the scene.

His car, a 1978 green Ford Pinto, was destroyed when it burst into flames shortly after the collision.

WITNESSES SAID they heard an explosion at the scene when the Buick struck the Pinto, said Commander Thomas Cox of the Farmington Department of Public Safety, whose department assisted at the scene. It was estimated the Buick was travel-

ing at between 80-90 miles per hour at impact, Cox added.

Cox estimated between 200-300 people stopped to view the collision scene, causing police to rope off the area, which took several hours to clean up.

Marlow said no alcohol or drugs appeared to be involved in the collision.

Remodeling Farmington city hall proposed

Farmington council members will spend \$40,000 — plus architectural fees — to renovate the city hall vestibule and council chambers.

The council voted 3-0 Monday to amend the current budget by \$30,000 and approved the renovation concept. Councilmen Arnold Campbell and Ralph Yoder were absent.

A total of \$10,000 was already budgeted for the renovations, which city manager Robert Deadman called "inadequate to do the kind of work that should be done throughout the building."

Council members will meet soon with architect John Allen, the original city hall designer, to approve final plans and select materials.

Under the plan, a vestibule with a set of interior doors will be constructed on the building's east side to maintain heating and cooling, according to a city report. This project is estimated to cost \$8,200.

Modernizing the council chambers

is also planned, including a \$5,400 main level lavatory, which would accommodate the handicapped. A lighting revision, carpeting of the chambers, new ceiling tiles and a council table with more contour to facilitate better conversation are

also planned at a cost of \$23,400. The architect's fee is estimated to be 8.5 percent of the project's \$40,000 cost.

Councilwoman Shirley Richardson applauded the proposal, saying: "I have really felt for a long time ...

the intersection and struck the two other cars.

THE DRIVERS of the two cars — James Painter, 35, of Farmington Hills and Mark Lambert, 27, of Sterling Heights — were treated for minor injuries at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills and released.

Their cars were in the westbound curbside lane of Farmington Road when they were struck.

Assisting Livonia police at the scene were Farmington public safety officers, Farmington Hills police, Farmington Hills and Livonia firefighters and Community Emergency Medical Service.

Heartworm: summer threat

This is not a very pleasant room at all. I'm surprised it took so long. Definitely something is needed."

Councilman Richard Tupper questioned the need for a handicapped restroom, saying he didn't think it was necessary.

through the blood to the dog's heart. Large accumulations of adult heartworms can impair blood circulation, causing serious damage to the heart, liver and kidneys. Infected dogs can be the source of larvae.

How can alert owners spot a heartworm problem? Carron lists difficulty in breathing, coughing, fatigue, listlessness, weight loss, and fainting. These signs often appear after severe damage to the internal organs has occurred.

Dober's sentencing is scheduled today

A Livonia youth convicted of assault with intent to commit murder in a Farmington Hills shooting is scheduled to be sentenced this morning before Circuit Judge James Thornburn in Oakland County Circuit Court.

Paul Dober, 18, was convicted of shooting Terrence Metzler of Detroit in the fall of 1985 at the Putt 'N' Games on Grand River in Farmington Hills, where Metzler was a security guard.

Thornburn found Dober guilty March 3 following a bench trial.

Originally scheduled for March 12, the sentencing was postponed twice allowing for defense requests for psychological evaluation of Dober.

Dober is being held in the Oakland County Jail in lieu of a \$50,000 cash or surety bond.

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