

Council adopts appointment guideline

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opposition in the suggestions.

Vagnozzi included suggestions for retaining current members and for

recruiting new ones:

- Notices should be sent to current members as their terms expire.
- Members with long years of service should be recognized in the

same manner as veteran city employees.

- Council members should be encouraged to serve as liaisons with the boards and commissions.

• Boards and commissions should be asked to report to the city council annually.

- Every media outlet — city newsletter, cable television, city

newsline and newspapers — should be used to publicize openings on the boards and commissions. Publicity should include the openings and description of duties.

- Homeowner associations and community organizations should be asked to help publicize board and commission openings.

- A brochure describing the boards and commissions should be prepared and made available at city offices and distributed among community organizations.

- Students should be considered for appointment to boards and commissions, particularly those that might directly affect them.

- Vacancies between terms should be publicized in the same manner as open seats.

- Each city council member should be encouraged to submit names for appointment consideration.

THOUGH MOST council members accepted the suggestions favorably, the greatest opposition was in the suggested use of students. Councilwomen Jody Soronen and Jean Fox offered their reasons.

"They're not taxpayers. They're not, with a few exceptions, well-informed," Soronen said.

Fox agreed. "I think you need more experience than students would have," she said, adding that she would support using students as liaisons.

Vagnozzi disagreed with the councilwomen. "I don't think we can have enough education on local government," he said.

Students could serve on boards, such as the parks and recreation commission. The reactivated Farmington Hills Committee to Increase Voter Participation includes two high school student interns who will help conduct studies for the seven adult members.

Vagnozzi tried to minimize arguments that students are not taxpayers with a vested interest in city government. Students, Vagnozzi said, may not pay property taxes but they pay sales taxes and fees.

"Mr. Mayor, I think I'll go back in the audience, I used to get more done there," Vagnozzi said, when it became clear the council wasn't over-whelming in their support or enthusiasm for his ideas.

Councilman Terry Sever suggested setting a timetable for mayors to fill board and commission vacancies.

"I'm hoping down the line we have more than one or two (candidates) to choose from. Sometimes, the mayor feels pressured (to quickly fill the position)," Fox, in turn, suggested that a timetable could restrict a mayor's attempt in finding qualified candidates for vacancies.

Mayor Ben Marks told the council he appointed members within 60-90 days after a vacancy occurred. "I met with every candidate who was submitted to this council," he said.

Governor vows to ax payment bills

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a supplemental state shared revenues bill in an effort to balance the state budget.

"The issue is whether the money is appropriated," Costick told the Farmington Hills City Council last week.

Attorneys for the Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Townships Association have not advised the affected communities to file suit against the state.

THE STATE census statute allows communities with increased populations to receive greater shares of state revenues. But there are also statutes that say money can be distributed only if there is enough money and it is in the state budget, Costick said.

The anticipated increase in state shared revenues, distributed based on population, would have been used in Farmington Hills for capital improvements, such as a new centrally located fire station, new fire equipment and road projects.

Disappointed communities reacted to Blanchard's veto by joining forces and forming Census Counts, an organization charged with lobbying for the additional state shared revenues that the growth communities had their hearts and pocketbooks set on.

While Census Counts is forming a unified stand and a publicity package to force the release of the expected increased revenues, the state Senate and House are doing their part, said Karen Birkholz, assistant to the Farmington Hills city manager.

In mid-November, the state Senate overwhelmingly passed a bill that would reappropriate more than \$3 million in state aid to the communities with increased populations. Originally, the bill called for reappropriating \$3.6 million.

CITY OFFICIALS were hoping the state House would act on the bill before Thanksgiving. The best prediction for what's expected to be the toughest fight in the state Legislature is at least a couple weeks wait

while the funding bill goes through the appropriations committee, said a spokeswoman for state Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington.

"The governor's office already said that if it passes the House and the Senate, he will veto it again," Birkholz said.

In early October, state representatives, including Brotherton, sent Blanchard a letter protesting the veto of supplemental appropriations.

"Let's not balance our own (state) budget on the backs of local units of government," the letter said. Suburban officials maintain their communities with increased populations are entitled to the state payments because the mid-decade census statute provides the additional payments to those communities that are centers of the state's growth.

Under the census statute of the 1970s, any community whose interim population count shows at least a 15 percent increase is eligible for higher annual state shared revenue payments.

In 1987-88, Farmington Hills expects to receive \$3.4 million in state money, based on the 1980 population. State shared revenues represent 16 percent of the city's current \$21.4 million budget.

FARMINGTON HILLS officials were certain they wouldn't receive increased payments this year because the census results weren't certified until after July 1 — the start of the new budget year.

But officials expected the supplemental payments beginning July 1, 1988. Unlike many other communities, however, Farmington Hills budgeted a minimum \$50,000 for the census rather than pay with the expected state shared revenues.

Communities have sent resolutions to the governor urging him to release the supplemental money. In addition to Farmington Hills, other affected Oakland County communities include West Bloomfield Township, Novi, Walled Lake, Wixom, Rochester Hills and Bingham Farms.

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No clear guidelines exist to state how often to x-ray an arthritic joint. Every 12-18 months is in order in a stable joint. However, films every 6-6 months may be appropriate in a joint undergoing change.

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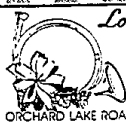
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