Hills council votes to cablecast meetings

Some say the Farmington Hills City Council's three-member financial study committee has been the most divisive controversy in the city since the new council took office in November.

But out of it came a promise to continue cablecasting the weekly council meetings.

"We are united and this will be done," Mayor Jean Fox said Monday after council's unanimous decision to continue broadcasting the meetings on cable television with portable equipment.

FOX'S COMMENT followed a compromise that brought an end to the debate over the controversial study committee, which repeated the controversial study committee, which consider the controversial study committee, and the control of the receipts. The Feb. 12 meeting the needings of the routings, was taped. Because of late notice, the meeting could not be cablecast live. Monday's meeting was cablecast live. Wonday's meeting was cablecast live. "I know of many people this evening who are watching it tonight because they were not able to attend," sald Julian Hovanesian, a member of the city's Committee to increase Voter Participation, which supports televising meetings.

Resident Carole Boyd agreed. "The Infor-

mation of what is going on is getting out into the community."

the community.

THE COUNCIL balked in August at the estimated \$68,000 in remote-controlled video production equipment and estimated \$12,000 in audio equipment needed to set up the council chambers for cablecasting meetings.

A majority of council members in August and they preferred to spend that kind of money on other projects, such as sidewalks.

The quality C: the 11th-hour taping of the Feb. 12 meeting surprised most city council members. The Feb. 12 and Feb. 19 meetings

"The question I ask is why not televise all the meetings," councilman Aldo Vagnozzi said, asking for a regular schedule.

BUT COUNCILMAN Terry Sever expressed concern about the cost of televising the meetings. Councilman Lawrence Lichtman said he favors using the portable cameras and doesn't want to "interrupt" the televised meetings "looking for numbers."

"This has caused me to wonder how much we need to spend for a permanent system." Lichtman added.

Councilman Ben Marks questioned where the money to pay for tolevised meetings will come from. He asked that other needed city projects are not "hur or diluted" because of the cost of cablecasting.

City manager William Costick said he will provide the council by early March with an analysis of the cost of using the portable equipment versus permanently equipment equipment series by the council chambers. He also is expected to stake the council chambers are also is expected to stake the council chambers and the said county cable council chambers and the council chambers are also in the council chambers. Met of Wilson of Oskidan County Cable Co. will be asked to activate the institutional cable channel from its headquarters, Costick added

Despite compromise, controversy took its toll

By Joanne Maliazowski
stafi writer

man Lawrence Lichtman, a member of the now-defunct study committee.
The Farmington Hills City Council three-member study committee of the Farmington Hills City Council three-member study committee of the Farmington Hills City Council three-member study committee of the Farmington Hills City Council three-member study committee opponents Mayor mixed feelings remain.

"I think It's very unfortunate that a few committee opponents Mayor mixed feelings remain.

"I think the council functioned fairly were together," Lichtman in the past couple of weeks we had to go through this debate," said council manned annoyed that the controver mained annoyed that the controver the benefit of the doubt."

Angry residents had accused the ad hoc committee of conducting city business behind closed doors because required quorum for public meet-

Committee members, however, had invited the press to attend its two meetings. Finally, committee

#COUPON#

Concerned about a comment she made several weeks ago that she didn't want a quorum of the council

opened the meetings to the public

"I DON'T LIKE feeling defensive." councilwam Ban, Bates said. "I hope etitizens realize there was no legal reason why the committee had to be formed openly.
"Conclusions were not the study committee's charge. The three members were expected to bring back recommendations. We've heard you, lwonder if you've heard us." Bates told residuals.

Hills council scraps study panel

"The method by which this goal (studying financial needs) is to be ac-complished has met with much pub-ilic criticism and the objective has been lost in the controversy," Grant

His proposal to restructure the committee met with opposition from residents and from Fox and council-

residents and troil few and contact man Aldo Vagnozzi.

A surprised Fox sald she "thought a compromise was attained," with the intention of "reconstituting as a committee of the whole."

GRANT DISAGREED. "I think possibly you did misunderstand me," he said, adding later, "I don't believe we can accomplish this during the framework of regular council meet-

financial issues to be studied are similar to those studied by the six task forces that developed the Year 2000 report. "What purpose did we study all those thousands of hours, to restudy the issues?" asked Krohner, a Wayne County assistant prosecu-tor.

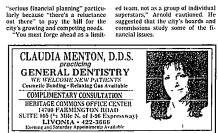
a Wayne County assistant prosecu-tor.

"Government by committees is wrong." Krohner continued. "Your function is to carry out the will of the people, not your own private agenda."

the peopue, not you agenda.

After listening to Krohner's call the committee a "preconceived" idea among certain council members, Lichtunan said: "Im disappointed, with your professional background, that you make accusations impugning someone's integrity..."

Resident Martin Krohner said the
Resident Martin Krohner said the



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