Hills axes tax cut for moving company

The Farmington Hills City Council turned down a request from a company moving from the city to Plymouth Township for a tax break.

Michigan law requires approval from the community the business is leaving before its new community.

nity can grant a tax break.

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The request from Perceptron, inc. would have not affected their move from Research Drive in Farmington Hills, but would have allowed them to get a five-year tax abatement from Plymouth Township. It would not have cost Parmington Hills any lost tax money.

"I would like the

money.
"I would like the council to go
on record that 198s (abatements)
are not in the best interest of the
state," Councilwoman Nancy
Bates said. "It puts other businesses in the position of subsidiaing their own competition."

The council voted 6-1, with Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi dissenting, to reject the request. Vagnozzi said he did not like tax abatements for the most part

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unless they would be specifically aimed at helping a city that need-ed an extra incentive to attract businesses, but he wanted to be

"I'm no great fan of tax abatementa," he said, adding that Perceptron had tried to expand or relocate in Farmington Hills before looking elsewhere. "I'd like us to ask the state to end tax abatements. They were supposedly to help citles like Dotrolt. They've been misused by communities."

Communities can offer a tax shatement, which runs a term of years at a lower than normal tax rate, as an incentive to attract businesses.

City Attorney John Donohue said at the present time, an appeals court ruling backed the

city council's right to refuse the

Affed Peaso, Perceptron president and CEO, said the company had doubled its number of employees in three years from 70-140, with the greatest number being from Washtenaw County, to which Plymouth Township is closer.

"We're moving because we are growing by leaps and bounds," he said. "Avoiding taxes Is not our primary motive. But we have a fi-ductary duty to our shareholders, who are often wives and families with children."

Interim City Manager and City Clerk Kathy Dornan said the Eco-nomic Development Corporation and city council should meet in a study session to discuss a policy

regarding industrial facilities ex-

nptions. In other action, the council: Heard a presentation on the police department's annual report. Police Chief Bill Dwyer said for the 12th year burglaries were down. Serious crimes were allown 2.7 percent despite aboven 2.7 percent despite three homicides, which were all solved. Heard a request from Richard Tupper and the Rav. Budge Gere representing the Neighborhood House. They are requesting joint funding from Farmington and Farmington Hills for a staff person. Heard a presentation on the po

son.

Wheard a report from Todd Lipa, director of the city's docentralized teen program, about the youth program. Two East Middle School students, Matt Dean and David Kinchen, both 13, praised the programs that operated after school at the Costick Center. Lipa said the norzam has been well

school at the Costick Center. Lips aid the program has been well received.

B Discussed community policing with Chief Dwyer who presented a report detailing 39 programs run by the police department that are part of the community policing effort.

WL Schools look for feedback on 4th bond issue

By Tim Smith

Walled Lake school district residents — including those in the northwest corner of Farmington Hills — might not hold the hammer in determining whether one more bond issue attempt is made. But they can at least hold the tolephone.

But they can at least hold the tolephone. Between 7-9 p.m. on Thursday, May 9, the public is lavitated to call (810)600-8000 and talk directly to members of the Walled Lake Board of Education and discuss the need—about another bond inselection and discuss the need—about another bond inselection gethered during the session will be officially presented at the school board's subsequent regular meeting, 730 p.m. Thursday, May 16 at the Education Services Center. Officials insist a decision

the Education Services Center.

Officials insits a decision about holding the fourth bond issue since October 1993 has also yet been made. They merely want the public's input before going ahead this time.

"We're trying to gather the information now to see, one, if people are interested in going for the bond end, two, if we do, what things should be included," said veteran school board trustee David Flammer. "We're still in the fact-finding and decision-making stance. Certein-

ly the needs haven't gone away. They just become more preasing as time goes on."

Three bond Issues of more than \$100 million have been sent up and shot down by voters: in October 1993; September 1994; and February 1998. Each proposal was intended to find new and improved space to handle a fast-growing enrollment.

to handle a fast-growing enrollment.

(the phono-in session) is to help make a decision," said Lois Langa, the district's director of personnel and community relations. ". What they learn will be made public."

Although bend member will be answering the phone calls, members of the administration, including Superincent James Geisler, will be available to help answer questions.

available to help answer questions.

These most certainly will include: When should a bond iscue be held?; What needs should be addressed in the meet bond issue? (Such as student enrollment growth, technology and the condition of aging buildings.)

Flammer sald early talks about when a bond lesue could be held have focused on a Saturday in late Nevember. But state legislators are discussible their or require all elections be held on specific dates.

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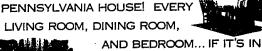


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