

# Council members unhappy with long meetings

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Feb. 19, the Farmington Hills city council meeting lasted until nearly 2 a.m. that Wednesday. The lengthy meeting — from 7:30 p.m. on

— prompted comments from several council members at Monday's meeting. "I, for one, am an early riser in the morning," council member Charles Williams said. "I really think that when this situation comes up, it should be adjourned to another meeting."

## Suspects arrested

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"Both walked in wearing masks and gloves," Cox said. While one of the men emptied cash from the teller drawers the other went into the bank vault, according to police. The men left the bank and jumped into a car sitting nearby in the parking

lot. The car was driven to the corner of Grand River Ave. and Mooney, where the robbers got out and continued to flee on foot, Cox said.

The suspects were later nabbed by police in the Valley View condominium complex, almost two blocks west of the bank, Cox said.

## Municipal tax bills due in mail

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assessment is the same as last year's, and blue dots where assessments have risen more than 8 percent. Yellow dots mark sites where the increase has been less than 8 percent, and green dots indicate reductions in assessments.

"We look at the sales in a given area," the assessor said. "The same rules apply, be it high or low. People have maintained that assessments never go down, but they do."

"We compare the assessments to the sale prices," he said. "It's just a com-

parison of sales to assessments. It's just looking at the market value."

The largest increases have been in commercial and industrial properties, Babb said.

"For the most part, there has not been a tremendous amount of growth in our residential lot," Babb said. "The largest residential increases have been approximately 15 percent."

"THERE ARE only a couple areas going up 15 percent," Babb expects his office to be busy come Monday morning.

"I think that 3 in the morning is kind of late," council member Don Wolf said. "I, too, get up early," council member Joan Dudley said. Meeting more than one evening a week would not necessarily be a good solution, she added.

"For some of us, we only have one evening free."

Public comments on several zoning items took up much of the time at the Feb. 19 meeting.

"The first hearing went until 10:30 p.m.," said City Manager William Cockick. That hearing — on a proposed change to allow parking use at a site near the Northwest Alliance Church — drew a number of residents who spoke to the council.

AFTER THE Feb. 19 public meeting adjourned, council members went into

a closed session, to discuss the possibility of changing the city's attorney. No decision was reached.

During the public comments session at Monday's meeting, veteran council-watcher Aldo Vagorzi questioned the decision to hold the closed session on attorney review.

"Going into executive session always bothers me," he said.

Vagorzi said, however, that he recognized city attorney Paul Bibeau had requested the closed session, as allowed under the state's Open Meetings Act.

Council members should first determine whether a new attorney is needed, Vagorzi said, "rather than having five candidates considered at the same time for what may not be a vacancy."

The council should also spell out

their reasons for considering a change, he added, "and allow the firm (Paul Bibeau's) to make some improvements in those areas."

## Trustee hopefuls invited to file

Candidates for two seats on the Farmington Public School Board of Education must file nominating petitions by 4 p.m. April 8 at the Board of Education offices, 32500 Shawwassee, Farmington.

Candidates must acquire names of 20 registered voters on the nominating petitions. The two four-year terms are from July 1, 1985 to June 30, 1989.

To be an eligible candidate one must be a registered and qualified school elector. Property ownership is not a requirement for candidacy.

Petitions are available at the Board offices from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Administrative Assistant, Scott Bacon, is available to assist candidates with information about filing and campaign finance laws.

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