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what is developed there. "We don't have immediate plans for it," City Manager William Costick said.

One against purchase

Only councilman Ben Marks opposed the purchase. "I support trying to hold the zoning. In order to buy the property we have to go into debt. We are going to have to borrow the money."

The city council should go to the voters if they want to buy the land, Marks suggested. Other council members jumped on that bandwagon and suggested that perhaps the city should follow Wixom's lead with a special millage used specifically to buy property for preservation and to limit density and development.

"We would also consider supporting the proposal for future millages especially for acquisition, and preservation of other unique properties as open areas within the city's remaining undeveloped land," Rose said.

After several unsuccessful attempts to rezone the property from single-family, property owner Kay McMahon of Ohio sued the city. Oakland County Circuit Judge Hilda Gage ruled in August, 1991, that the property should be rezoned office.

Not only did that ruling irk nearby residents, but so did a proposed consent that offered McMahon options including office, multiple-family, single-family and elderly housing.

The judgment also offered incentives for residential uses such as a waiver of the city's tree ordinance, smaller setbacks and taller buildings on the wooded acreage that features a wetland.

Residents helped

With the help of residents, the city council went back to the drawing board and continued negotiations with McMahon until city officials decided to buy the property.

Although city officials could have appealed Gage's decision, McMahon's attorney reportedly assured he too would appeal. That might have meant hefty financial damages amounting to \$500,000 plus court costs.

"We could have paid a great deal in court costs and penalties and still not had the land," councilwoman Nancy Bates said.

While Marks said he feels the purchase sets a

precedent for future zoning disputes, other council members disagreed.

"I don't think we are establishing a precedent," councilman Larry Lichtman said. "I don't think my colleagues on the council will be chomping at the bit to spend city money every time a zoning issue comes up."

Council members said they are opposed to letting the property go for a commercial use and are concerned about the effect on the rest of Orchard Lake Road, south of I-696.

"I know residents support this type of direction," councilman Terry Sever said. "What frightens me most is leaving our families and children with vacant office buildings."

The purchase, the council said, also conforms to voters' desires to preserve land and limit density. Councilwoman Joanne Smith said that was the message she received from voters while campaigning for a council seat last fall.

"I do think we are being not only fiscally responsible, we are being environmentally responsible. . . to citizens, not only those who live here now, but ones who will live here in the future," councilman Aldo Vignozzi said.

ON THE AGENDA

Below are highlights from the agendas of meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington City Council
Council chambers
23800 Liberty
12 noon, Monday, Sept. 28

The city council has scheduled a special meeting to discuss hiring a new city manager and to interview prospective candidates from within city hall.

Farmington Hills
Zoning Board of Appeals
Council chambers
31555 11 Mile
7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 28
Call 473-9540 for information.

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nounced recently he will retire on Jan. 4.

After two special meetings and discussion on the topic of replacing Deadman, the council decided to post the opening internally and do a search within city hall before looking outside.

The city council is scheduled to meet in a posted, special session at noon today to further discuss the search and to interview potential candidates from within city hall. The meeting is open to the public.

Discussed by several council members as a key candidate within city hall is public safety Director Frank Lauffoff, who heads the city's

largest department both in size and budget.

Twenty years ago, Deadman was promoted to city manager after moving up through the ranks as a public safety officer and public safety director.


But council members left this search open-ended, believing there may be several employees interested in applying for the post.

Although the council agreed to an inside search, councilwoman JoAnne McShane said she believed the search should be opened up to

both inside and outside candidates. Council members Richard Tupper, Arnold Campbell and Mayor William Hartsock all spoke in favor of first doing an inside search. Councilwoman Shirley Richardson also said she favored an inside search, but said she didn't want to rush the process.

That also concerns Pogue. "They aren't even looking to see what else is out there," he said. "I don't think the citizens are at all concerned that they are rushing through to replace him (Deadman)."

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Bookings opened for Networking '92

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce is accepting exhibitor reservations for booth space at Networking '92, its third annual business show at Mercy Conference Center, Oct. 27-29.

The purpose of Networking '92 is to bring together business owners and professionals from around southeastern Michigan to meet new business prospects, exchange information and ideas, and display products and services in a business-to-business environment.

"Networking '92 provides an exhibitor with invaluable opportunities to reach a highly-targeted and captive audience on a relatively low cost-per-contact basis," said Jonathan Grant, Networking '92 committee chairman and president of Reliance Forms & Supplies, Farmington Hills.

"Exhibitors can demonstrate their products or services and speak face-to-face with potential customers. They can accomplish weeks of cold calling in just two days."

The show's planning committee is expecting approximately 60 exhibitors.

"One of the attractions of our show is the diversity of exhibitors. We have exhibitors from all areas of business including healthcare, financial, professional services, real estate and development, computers and technical. It's like one stop shopping for all your business needs," said Judy Soronen, the Chamber's executive director.

Several thousand business leaders and decision-makers from the Farmington/Farmington Hills area and surrounding communities are expected to attend Networking '92.

In addition to the exhibits, the show will also feature a "Taste of Farmington" preview party with food from some of the area's best restaurants, a luncheon with guest speaker Heinz Prechter of American Sunroof Corp., a business after hours mixer, door prizes and much more.

Booth prices are: \$490 for a 10-by-8-foot; \$280 for a 10-by-5. Each exhibitor receives at no additional charge.

- Back/side drapes, carpeting, two topped/skirted tables, a chair, 110 volt electrical outlet.
- Four complimentary "Taste of Farmington" preview party tickets.
- Free parking adjacent to the show location.
- Show admission tickets for distribution.

For more information about Networking '92 or reserving booth space, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 474-3440, or by fax at 474-9235.

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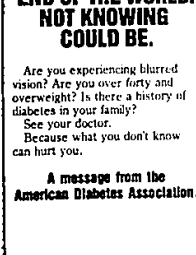
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