

'Welcome to' Residents greet manager

No one had to ask Nancy Leonard how she felt about Frank Lauhoff, Farmington's new city manager.

She had Lauhoff's photograph pinned to her blouse with a hand-lettered "Our leader" underneath. Leonard, a longtime Farmington resident, was one of about 50 who attended the "welcome to" party for Lauhoff at City Hall Monday. The hour-long gathering was sandwiched between a two-hour "goals" meeting and the regular city council meeting.

Lauhoff, 40, replaces Robert Deadman, who retired recently after 20 years as city manager and 35 years with the city. Lauhoff had been in charge of the city's public safety department.

After 8½ years as public safety chief, Lauhoff had "passed that probationary period," said Mayor William Hartsock in introducing the new manager.

Lauhoff, the only city employee to apply for the position, was the unanimous choice of the city council last September.

Hartsock had said he consid-

ered the city manager's relationship with the city council a marriage of sorts, and called Lauhoff a "suitable partner."

Like Deadman, Lauhoff rose through the ranks — the police ranks — to gain the city's top post.

Starting as a public safety officer in 1974, Lauhoff worked his way up to sergeant/commander in 1978, was promoted to deputy director of the department in 1982, and became chief of the police/fire operation in September of 1984.



Duly sworn: Above, Frank Lauhoff is sworn in by Patsy Cantrell, the city's clerk and treasurer. At right, Mary Nassar (right) and her daughter Nancy Wolf meet and congratulate the new city manager.



Proud family: Vicki Lauhoff and daughters Denise (left) and Cindy are all smiles as Frank Lauhoff takes the oath and becomes Farmington City Manager.

Divided council delays debate on Mercy lease

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Harry Kazerta of the Commission on Aging said he was fed up with a squabbling Farmington Hills City Council and threatened to walk out of Monday's study session on leasing the Mercy Center for senior programs.

Councilman Terry Sever prevailed upon Kazerta to stay — then walked out himself about 20 minutes later.

After a lengthy discussion of whether to go into executive session to discuss the future lease options of the Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center, council members decided nothing, . . . except that they weren't clear on whether they could go into a closed session to discuss ongoing negotiations.

"I'm not going to attend any executive session about this tonight, tomorrow or in the next 10 years," Sever said.

The council scheduled the

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study session to discuss police department operational issues and negotiations between the city and the Sisters of Mercy, who own the Mercy Center on 11 Mile near Middlebelt that the city leases for many of its adult programs.

City Manager Bill Costick asked for direction on how to proceed, but had little to show for his efforts.

Sever and councilman Aldo Vagnotri wanted to proceed with the discussions on negotiations for a lease and other options for the senior center.

Council members Larry Lichtman and Joanne Smith wanted to go into executive session and not tip the city's hand on negotiation strategy and options.

"We're not trying to be secretive," Smith said. "We are just protecting our interests."

But with no clear majority as to

whether to continue a public discussion of the issue — councilman Ben Marks was absent, leaving six members — and without knowing if they could legally go into executive session — city attorney John Donohue had left to attend Farmington's city council meeting — there was little else to do.

Sever said he wanted to set a deadline for a commitment to either have a lease agreement with Mercy or to break off negotiations and try another option.

"I disagree with those loose statements," Costick told him.

Sever said he saw no point in arguing the matter and left.

The city has leased space at the center for its programs on a year-to-year basis. It is considering a longer lease, among other options.

Mayor Nancy Bates said the issue would be on Monday's agenda and that the council would schedule an executive session to discuss negotiations behind closed doors.

Police chief pushes for more supervisors in field

Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer says adding more supervisors in the field will make his department more efficient and help keep the city out of legal liability claims.

Dwyer made his case before city council members at a study session Monday. He updated the council on department improvements and programs and made his case for increased manpower.

"What we see emerging is an increase in crime in urban areas," he said. "You're going to see it come here."

Although the city's major crime decreased by 4 percent last year, armed robberies and burglaries dramatically increased in January. The chief cited the city's own guidelines as justification for more supervisory officers.

The 1987 city council plan recommended the department have

■ 'What we see emerging is an increase in crime in urban areas. You're going to see it come here.'

Bill Dwyer
Farmington Hills Police Chief

106 uniformed officers by 1991-92. The department has 98, of which two are funded by grants.

Dwyer wants to add three sergeants, who would come from within the department. That would allow three police cadets to move up into the regular ranks. He would also like to hire a civilian supervisor for his dispatchers.

"The problem is that we can get into a critical situation where there's no supervisor on the street," Dwyer said. "We are seen as 'deep-pocket' defendants. Even if we do a good job, someone will

say we were negligent because we didn't have a supervisor on the scene."

Dwyer said the city should also consider assigning an officer specifically to motor carrier enforcement, which could be an income producer.

"The Idaho State Police found that 38 percent of trucks had serious enough problems that they were red tagged," he said. "Many trucks are overloaded and are tearing up our roads. This is a program that would pay for itself."



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