

City council nominates Campbell to mayor's job

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
Arnold Campbell, who was the top vote-getter in the Nov. 2 city election, received another vote of confidence Monday: He was nominated to serve as mayor of Farmington.



Arnold Campbell
"I'm looking forward to an exciting two years," said Campbell.

FARMINGTON

whose wife Betsey and two children were in attendance. "I'm looking forward to working with our newest council member, Mary Bush, on fulfilling a lot of the dreams that we all share for to make Farmington one of the best communities to live in the state of Michigan."
Hortscock concludes his third term as mayor. He's been on the council for 20 years.
"During the 20 years I've taken great pleasure and honor to serve my third term as mayor," said Hortscock, who received a plaque commemorating his three terms as mayor. "I want to thank members of council, both present and past who have given me this great opportunity to serve as mayor."

In a separate nomination, councilwoman Jo Anne McShane was selected to serve as mayor pro-tem.
Campbell switched spots with councilman and outgoing mayor Bill Hartsock at the start of Monday's council meeting. Mayors are nominated by fellow city council members and serve a two-year term.
Campbell has served as mayor pro-tem for two years.
Although Monday's proceeding was a formality, the nomination was a proud moment for the long-serving councilman.

DDA's proposal for special assessment gets council OK

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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On a note of praise, the Farmington Downtown Development Authority had its plan for a special assessment approved by city council Monday.
Comments were few during a public hearing over the plan, which will include an assessment of 9.5 mills (or \$9.50 for every \$1,000 of state equalized valuation). Only Civic Theater owner Greg Hohler spoke and that was to commend the work of the DDA.

increment financing as a result of Senate Bill 1.
"The DDA figured to lose \$130,000 next year — more than half of its budget.
With TIF, the DDA captures money from increases in property values. But Senate Bill 1 eliminates property tax for schools, which means a reduction of 33 mills that the DDA would not be able to capture.
The assessment would be rolled back to reflect any state replacements in funding.
Monday's low turnout might have been interpreted as antipathy toward the assessment, but city manager Frank Luhoff said that's not the case. His office and the DDA fielded several calls.
Some business owners may have been against the assessment, but didn't state their opposition before the DDA or council.

"For the most part, we were able to get the message out to the property owners," Luhoff said. "If we had not got the message out, you would've seen more of a turnout. . . . The questions were answered."
A public hearing has been set on the assessment for 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6, in city hall. The assessment district will basically follow the boundaries of the Central Business District.
The special assessment is being established through Public Act 120, which allows cities to establish principal shopping districts for the purpose of redevelopment and development.
DDA director Judy Downey said the money will be spent for administration, marketing, promotion and maintenance of downtown.

"We all remember the many, many empty shops and the general malaise downtown," Hohler said. "We've really overcome that."
The special assessment will allow that work to continue, city officials said. Money raised — \$650,000 over five years — replaces anticipated losses in tax



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