

Business Assn. Asks Downtown Improvements

Action by the Farmington City Council on several projects which it is felt would help make for a better downtown business district was called for by the Farmington Downtown Business District Association at its general meeting last Tuesday night.

Council Aims Business Assn. Requests Mon.

Projects proposed by the Farmington Downtown Business District Association which it would help make the business district a better one were viewed by the City Council Monday night.

Efforts are being made to keep all parking meters in the downtown area functioning properly. It is no easy job, City Manager Earl Scherffus told the Council in answer to the businessmen's complaint that meters were not being kept in operative order.

JAMMING OF meters is constantly going on, Scherffus and Public Safety Director Joseph DeVriendt lamented. It was proposed by Councilman Wilbur Brotherton and wholeheartedly endorsed by other Council members that businessmen and citizens operate by reporting any broken or jammed meters to the city promptly.

On the matter of sidewalks badly in need of repair, the Council acted quickly following a report by the city manager. Scherffus told them that the city had been out last fall instructing several property owners to get sidewalks repaired or put in but that it was too late in the season to get much done. He asked Council authorization in sending out letters again ordering that work be done as early as weather permits this Spring.

This authorization was given. Eliminating the step-up on the north side of Grand River was claimed to be "not feasible."

Requests Use Of City Water

A request by Earl LaPrue for extension of city water facilities further westward on Grand River Ave. outside the city limits to serve a proposed new business place was looked on dimly by the City Council Monday night.

Newsstands 10c Subscription \$3.00 Per Year

Farmington Enterprise Leadership~Our Purpose Service~Our Goal

Read Weekly By Over 60% Of the Families In This Area

SEVENTY-SECOND YEAR — No. 21

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1960

FOURTEEN PAGES

Citizens for Michigan Director to Speak Tues.

Dr. Ralph Conant, director of the non-profit Citizens for Michigan committee headed by American Motors President George Romney, will be featured speaker at a dinner meeting of the Farmington Kiwanis Club Tuesday night, Feb. 23.



DR. RALPH CONANT

to all other service clubs and organizations in the area to join with the Kiwanis in bringing this excellent speaker to the community, a club spokesman said.

Twp. Board of Review Dates

Dates have been announced for hearings by the board of review on real estate and personal property appraisals set by the township.

Because the township assessor's office has completed a part two years of work on property valuations, and many will be changed, the township board recently decided to send out notices of the new valuations when any changes had been made.

These notices are expected to be in the mail well before the end of this month. Property owners may protest the appraisals before the board of review, if deemed unreasonable.

These have nothing to do with the current taxes, most of which are now paid. They are the valuations upon which the taxes to be paid next January will be established. If no protest is made before the board of review, the figures will be considered final.

Members of the township board of review are the supervisor, Curt Hall, Bob Harris, and Victor Saliba.

Here are the dates the board of review meets:

REAL PROPERTY March 8 to 12, and 2 to 5 p.m.

March 14: 9 to 12, and 2 to 5 p.m.

March 15: 2 to 5, and 6 to 9 p.m.

Friday, March 18: 9 to 11 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m.

All workers are urged to attend the luncheon. Those attending are requested to bring a dish to pass as well as their own service.

The luncheon will begin at 1 p.m.

Rezoning Near Star Cutter Is Given Approval

Zoning changes requested by Norman Layton and Star Cutter Co. for property north and west of the Star Cutter plant on Grand River were unanimously approved 1-0 Tuesday night by the township zoning board, after a public hearing.

This doesn't mean industrial park area is to be spread out overnight. Water must be brought up from the mains which will have to be built north of the 8 mile water line.

THE TARBUSI sewer arm will serve both the industrial and residential area to be developed by Mr. Layton, as well as a considerable area both north and south of Grand River, west from Farmington city.

Positions for the Tarbusi arm are now being circulated by backers in the area, but it may be several weeks before official signatures will be obtained.

SEVERAL PEOPLE, not all in the immediate vicinity appeared last week and spoke against the rezoning proposal. One other citizen who spoke in favor used figures to tell the effect such rezoning and development might have on local taxes.

The statement was made that when the light industrial area and the residential tract, were rezoned it might mean as much as \$500,000 a year to the school district in taxes.

THE PLAN as outlined earlier by Mr. Layton to the township board would include a group of light industrial or research plants to the west of the township line.

The plan would be developed and sold under deed restrictions controlled by Mr. Layton, would not be objectionable.

After considering the facts presented the zoning board considered the plan and then cast a unanimous vote in favor of the two rezoning requests.

Car License Lines Forming

The Farmington Dept. of State office must sell ten times as many auto plates per day during the ten days remaining this month, than it did last month.

One was to let the developer of the center have the greenbelt and require him to put up a summer wall and another for the city to plant hearty trees and "police" the greenbelt strip to see that it was kept clean.

It was proposed by City Manager Earl Scherffus that an attempt be made to negotiate with the developer along other lines. His suggestion was that the city and developer share jointly in the moving of the present wooden fence to the middle of the 15-foot greenbelt area. This could be followed by present owners exchanging the property and making the portion on the commercial side of the fence. The cost for this would be borne by the developer, according to Scherffus' proposal.

The manager was instructed to proceed along these lines by the Council.

Walk to Play Area In Cville Okayed

Necessary funds for the construction of a walkway from the city to the play area elementary school east to the play area south of the new senior high school building was authorized by the Board of Education at its regular meeting last Thursday night.

Extremely muddy conditions in this area prompted the action, a school official commented.

A crushed stone walkway is called for. Work is scheduled to start within the next couple of weeks.

Next Monday Area Holiday

Monday, Feb. 22, is Washington's birthday and a national holiday, therefore, all banks and most government business offices will be closed.

It's a legal holiday, where as Lincoln's birthday on Feb. 12 is not. Thus last week the banks were closed, but municipal offices and the post office remained open.

This coming Monday the banks, township offices, and the post office will all be closed. City offices will be open as usual, however.

On the semi-holiday Feb. 12 many people tried to get into the banks and some were turned away for the week-end cash problem.

City Can Have Detroit Water This Year; Voters to Decide

Detroit City water can be flowing from the taps of every home and business place in the City of Farmington before this year is over, but it is being left squarely up to the residents to decide whether this is what they want or not.

In a detailed report to the City Council Monday night, City Manager Earl Scherffus provided the entire City of Farmington with water not only with its present needs but its estimated ultimate needs as well, he stated.

WORK ON the laying of the 54 inch main has been stepped up considerably so that water for the dry areas in the northern portions of Livonia can be provided yet this summer, Scherffus commented.

This main is also ample to provide the entire City of Farmington with water not only with its present needs but its estimated ultimate needs as well, he stated.

Authorization to sell the existing Detroit water for the entire City of Farmington is being set up for a special election to decide on this question.

A little less than a year ago city voters were asked to express their opinion on whether or not they wanted Detroit water as a means of advising the City Council on the course of action to follow relative to this matter in the future. The question on the April 6, 1959, ballot was: "Shall the City of Farmington purchase Detroit water supply at a total cost to the City of Farmington of approximately \$250,000? There were 58 'yes' and 133 'no' votes cast.

In general obligation bonds will require a 60% of 60 percent 'yes' vote at the polls on April 11. This is why it will be important for all desiring Detroit water to get out and cast their ballots, Scherffus emphasized. A light vote, with those wanting soft water from Detroit neglecting to cast ballots, could easily permit an organized opposition group to defeat the proposal, he pointed out.

Payment on the bonds could probably be spread over a 15 year period, it was indicated. The city manager expressed confidence that the amount would be paid in full from the bond issue, and any increases that might be necessary in water-use rates would be more than offset by money which could be saved that is presently being spent for water softening services.

It was estimated that the total rate charge for Detroit water for the City of Farmington would be \$1.61 per 1,000 cubic feet. Since the city already has adequate storage facilities locally, no additional storage capacity would be made by the City of Detroit, Scherffus said. This will result in a saving over a short period of time.

WITH APPROVAL of the bond proposition in April, it is felt that work on the laying of the main and the construction of a needed pumping station and other phases of the project could be started by the latter part of June or first part of July. Although no estimate was made of how soon the entire job could be completed, it was pointed out that work of this nature can be completed very rapidly when all planning has been completed in advance.

Detroit water could be produced from the main line to the city south of Nine Mile and east of Farmington Road very soon after a hook-up at Eight Mile and Farmington Road was made, Scherffus pointed out. This would benefit the larger portion of the city to the north as well as the city to the south.

Rehearsals are presently being held twice each week at Boys Republic on Nine Mile Road between Inkster and Middlebelt roads.

This is the major money making project of the Jaycees each year. Profits realized are used for a variety of community projects by this active local club.

City Still Has Greenbelt Woe

The problem of what to do about the greenbelt for what was supposed to have been a greenbelt between the Bel-Air Shopping Center and the residential property directly in back of it came up for discussion again at the City Council meeting Monday night.

City Attorney Robert Kelly told the Council that he had investigated the situation there, found things very messy, and suggested two possible solutions. One was to let the developer of the center have the greenbelt and require him to put up a summer wall and another for the city to plant hearty trees and "police" the greenbelt strip to see that it was kept clean.

It was proposed by City Manager Earl Scherffus that an attempt be made to negotiate with the developer along other lines. His suggestion was that the city and developer share jointly in the moving of the present wooden fence to the middle of the 15-foot greenbelt area. This could be followed by present owners exchanging the property and making the portion on the commercial side of the fence. The cost for this would be borne by the developer, according to Scherffus' proposal.

The manager was instructed to proceed along these lines by the Council.

Investigating Joint School Bus Buying

An investigation into the possibilities of buying school buses jointly with other school systems in Oakland County is now being conducted by Clarenceville school official.

Other school equipment has been purchased in this manner in the past, according to Stanley Irish, assistant superintendent for the Clarenceville system. Irish has ten buses, eight of which are operating regularly, he added.

Medical Clinic, Hospital Later Proposed on Farmington Rd.

A request by Dr. Allen Sosin to purchase the vacant parcel of city-owned land on the west side of Farmington Road between Alta Loma and Freedom roads was made to the City Council at its regular meeting Monday night.

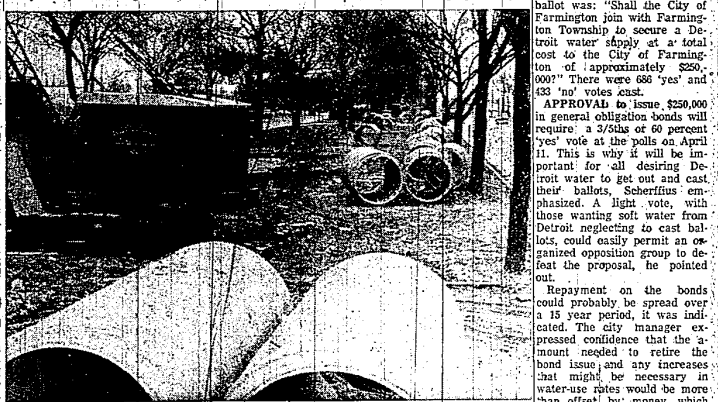
Dr. Sosin told the Council that he would like to have a medical clinic constructed on the site with plans to include an emergency medical center which all doctors in the clinic could use jointly.

THERE is a continually growing need for an emergency medical center of this kind and this area appears to be an ideal location for it, Dr. Sosin commented. He expressed hope that it might later be possible to construct a community hospital at the site, either sponsored privately or by the city itself. A clinic adjacent to a hospital or emergency medical center has proven to be a very successful arrangement in other communities, he added.

It was indicated that Dr. Sosin would like to purchase the entire 8 1/2 acre site. Dr. Sosin was agreeable to obtaining a portion of it with hopes that the city would retain the rest and convey it as a hospital site later before selling it for some other type of development.

The Council agreed to give the matter thorough study and make an early decision on this request. It was asked that it be brought up again at the next regular meeting or the following meeting for discussion.

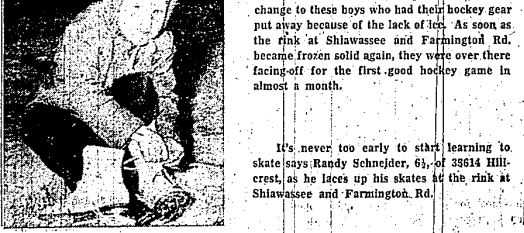
Dr. Sosin stated that he would like to see the medical clinic he proposes completed within the next year.



WATER AND SEWER lines from Detroit are both moving this way rapidly and large line can be seen strung along Eight Mile Road from Farmington Road eastward for several miles. Despite cold weather, excavation and tile laying crews are in full operation. Work on both the Farmington Interceptor Sewer and the Detroit main trunk water line is on schedule, it has been reported.



THE RECENT cold snap was a welcome change to these boys who had their hockey gear put away because of the lack of ice. As soon as the rink at Shawwassee and Farmington Rd. became frozen solid again, they were over there facing-off for the first good hockey game in almost a month.



It's never too early to start learning to skate says Randy Schneider, 61, of 39314 Hillcrest, as he laces up his skates at the rink at Shawwassee and Farmington Rd.