

**Approved
April 14, 2008**

**REGULAR MEETING
(CONDUCTED AS A COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE)
OF THE COUNCIL
CITY OF SOUTHFIELD
March 24, 2008**

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MINUTES

March 24, 2008

The meeting of the Council convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room of the Municipal Building, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, Michigan, with Council President Joan Seymour in the Chair. PRESENT: Council Members: Myron Frasier, Bill Lattimore, Joan Seymour and Kenson Siver. EXCUSED: Donald Fracassi, Sylvia Jordan, and Sidney Lantz. ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Nancy Banks, City Administrator James Scharret and City Attorney Jack Beras. There being a quorum, Council was in session.

The first item on the agenda was a review and discussion of the bid received for the purchase of two trailer mounted spray injection road repair machines.

Jim Bernath of J.B. Machinery Company brought a trailer mounted spray injection road repair machine to City Hall for Council to look at. Council began the meeting by going outside to look at the equipment. Upon returning to the Council Conference Room a brief video was shown explaining how the equipment works.

Gary Mekjian, Public Works Director, stated that the machine produces a better quality patch and the patches last two to three times longer. The trailer mounted version is recommended because of the price and the City prefers not to buy single use type vehicles.

Mr. Bernath replied that the trailer mounted version outsells the truck version twenty to one.

Councilman Frasier asked what seasons the equipment would be used. Mr. Bernath replied that the equipment can be used in winter. He started using it for some of his clients on March 1st. The aggregate must be dry when patching during the winter months.

Councilman Lattimore asked whether this request was for just the trailer and not the truck or tank. Mr. Bernath replied that he recommends using the equipment prior to purchasing the larger tank. The City can rent a tank by the month and at the end of the year the decision is made to buy the larger tank, 75% of the rental cost will go towards the cost of the tank. Emulsion has a shelf life. By renting for a year the City can better gauge whether the larger tank is necessary.

Councilman Frasier recommended that Gary Mekjian comeback before Council with a plan prior to using the new equipment. Mr. Scharret replied that the Municipal Complex will be top priority. Mr. Mekjian responded that he had a long list of areas that include Evergreen, Franklin and Ten Mile.

The consensus of Council was to refer the matter to the Regular Meeting on March 31, 2008 for formal approval.

Next on the agenda was an update by the Michigan Suburbs Alliance.

Conan Smith, Executive Director and Luke Forest, Public Policy Director made a presentation and answered Council's questions.

Mr. Smith stated that the meeting was prompted by the City's desire to know the value of it's membership in the Michigan Suburbs Alliance. The dues are based on the 2000 census. For every dollar contributed the MSA receives \$14 in grants from various organizations. He then reviewed the three program areas: Innovating Redevelopment Strategies, Elevating Regional Cooperation and Creating Collaborative Communities and Reforming Public Policies.

Mr. Smith briefly described the three redevelopment programs being offered.

The Redevelopment Ready Communities program, which Southfield has already successfully completed, helps market inner-ring suburbs as competitive places to invest development dollars while curbing urban sprawl and maintaining a high quality of life for residents.

The Michigan's Golden Spike program provides guidance to public officials who wish to build neighborhood developments that are supportive of transit. Southfield can access research on best practices and in the future may qualify for technical assistance, pending program funding.

The Regional Development Summit is held annually and draws more than 200 development professionals at which they discuss specific strategies for attracting investment to southeast Michigan. This year's summit set the stage for the National Brownfields Conference being held in Detroit in May 2008.

Mr. Smith then reviewed the programs available under Elevating Regional Cooperation.

The Regional Energy Office, launched in 2008, will work with DTE, Consumers Energy and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth to provide technical assistance to cities on energy issues, including efficiency analysis, and performance contracts for upgrades to municipal buildings.

Through the UniverCities Connection, Southfield can recruit undergraduate and graduate school interns to support staff projects and tap into cutting edge research on urban issues at most of the state's universities.

The Creating Collaborative Communities project provides training on intergovernmental cooperation. This summer, MSA and the University of Michigan-Dearborn will kick-off a certificate program curriculum for city-school collaboration.

Under Reforming Public Policies there are two programs.

Every quarter, the MSA hosts a Mayors and Managers Policy Forum on an issue relevant to member cities.

They also staff the House BiPartisan Urban Caucus, helping the four co-chairs to elevate urban issues in policy debates and to unify the more than 60 lawmakers who represent urban areas.

Southfield in many cases is ahead of the game however the MSA needs the City's leadership to ensure that the unique problems that inner-ring suburbs face do not go unaddressed. MSA works closely with the MML on public policy and advocacy.

Councilman Frasier asked if they were running parallel tracks with SEMCOG. Mr. Smith replied that he is on the SEMCOG Board. They try to make a distinction between their advocacy and SEMCOG's training. Every effort is made to not duplicate the work of other organizations.

Councilman Siver stated that Mr. Smith has done great job since taking over the MSA. The MSA has increased visibility. He supports continuing Southfield's membership. Older cities face unique issues.

Council President Seymour thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Forest for their presentation.

The consensus of Council was to refer the matter to the Regular Meeting of March 31, 2008.

Next on the agenda was a presentation on the proposed RRRASOC Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and Rubbish Hauling Agreements.

Mr. Mekjian stated that the current contracts for MRF and rubbish hauling expire in October. The proposed agreement for MRF is for 15 years and the proposed rubbish hauling contract is for five years. The two proposals will reduce costs and improve service. He asked Council to refer the items to the Regular Meeting of March 31, 2008 for formal approval.

Mike Csapo, RRRASOC, introduced Sam Caramagno, District Manager for Waste Management and Brian Conaway, Manager of Government Affairs for Waste Management. Mr. Csapo then reviewed the two proposals. A competitive proposal process was used to obtain the best proposal possible. There were several objectives when the process began. Some of the objectives were as follows:

1. Seek competitive, private sector proposals.
2. Improve upon existing service level
3. Achieve economies of scale
4. Retain local control
5. Seek innovation

Some of the key features of the proposed rubbish hauling contract are as follows:

1. Retains existing service provider
2. Lowest price submitted among 6 firms
3. Decreases overall costs
4. Further savings with Single-Stream Recycling option
5. Lowers cap on annual CIP increases
6. Improves service standards
7. Improves contractor accountability
8. 5-year contract with 3-year renewal option

Mr. Csapo explained that single stream option means that recyclables would be sorted at the recycling facility instead of curbside.

The proposed MRF Service Agreement includes the following key features:

1. Eliminates existing MRF Service Fee payment to MRF vendor
2. Provides for revenue sharing payments to the City of Southfield Adds new materials to the curbside recycling program
3. Establishes a commitment of private investment to upgrade MRF to Single-Stream
4. 15-year agreement
5. Positions MRF to meet future needs of the City and overall marketplace

The new rubbish hauling contract would result in a 10.58% reduction in cost over the length of the contract. The new MRF contract would result in a savings of nearly \$76,000 per year with the elimination of the service fee. Estimated revenue sharing of \$39,000 to \$115,000 annually.

On October 1st several new items will be added to the list of recyclables. Those new items are as follows:

1. Plastic #3 - #7
2. Plastic bags
3. Bulky plastics
4. Pizza boxes
5. Gift wrapping paper
6. Ceramic dishes
7. Small scrap metal
8. Drink boxes
9. Milk cartons

Councilman Siver expressed surprise to hear that costs were going down. He questioned why costs went down. Mr. Csapo replied that the bidding process promotes competition. The company that is coming in strictly handles recycling not rubbish hauling. Also changes in the market place and technology improvements.

Councilman Siver agreed that the single-stream option is simpler and would probably lead to greater participation by residents. He asked if technology was allowing the use of the single stream option. Mr. Csapo replied that new technology makes the single stream option possible. Cross border collection also reduces costs.

Councilman Siver asked if there had been any discussions regarding leaking trucks. Mr. Csapo responded that language in the contract specifically addresses that issue. The standards have been raised and financial penalties are built in for failure to meet the standards.

Councilman Siver replied that there have been instances of paint, oil and other liquids leaking from trucks. Mr. Caramagno responded that their personnel should not be collecting liquid waste. The company will need to focus on that issue with their employees. The fleet in Southfield is only about four years old.

Mr. Csapo noted that the contract contains language that specifically addresses the condition of the trucks. Part of the outreach education program will include a reminder for residents to refrain from putting liquids in the recycling bins.

Mr. Caramagno replied that with education of residents and the company's drivers and increased inspection of seals on the trucks the problem should be resolved. Mr. Csapo added that financial penalties escalate as problems increase.

Councilman Frasier stated that hazardous waste collection dates need to be advertised better. Mr. Csapo replied that they see a healthy turnout of Southfield residents regardless of the location. Arrangements have been made with the Livonia facility to allow Southfield residents to take hazardous materials there. However, an appointment is necessary. They are working to establish a local facility. In the meantime, they will ramp up their notification process regarding hazardous waste collection dates.

Councilman Frasier noted that the new fluorescent lights contain mercury and must be discarded treated as a hazardous waste. Mr. Csapo responded that the new lights will be an important part of their education process.

Councilman Fraiser stated that in some cases the bins are not large enough. Mr. Csapo replied that newspapers can be put into paper bags. Second bins are available at the Neighborhood Center. Hopefully, at some point larger bins will be needed which would then open the opportunity for automated collection.

Council President Seymour asked about using yard waste bags for recyclables. Mr. Caramagno replied that that was not an option because the bags do not fit in the hopper on the truck. Mr. Csapo added that they will publish all the new guidelines including dimensions, etc.

Council President Seymour stated that she was happy to hear about the inspection of trucks. She noted that some stores use to collect plastic bags. She asked if any attempt was made to encourage that practice. Mr. Csapo replied that large retailers tend to do that but it is not a widespread practice and therefore they added it to the curbside collection.

The consensus of Council was to refer the matter to the Regular Meeting of March 31, 2008.

Mr. Beras stated that the Open Meetings Act required that 2/3 of members be present and therefore the Closed Session item must be postponed.

Councilman Frasier stated that he has received complaints about poor taxicab service. The number of cabs is down. He asked if there was a possibility of negotiating with taxi cabs to transport seniors for a price. It would keep the taxis busy and provide seniors transportation.

Mr. Scharret replied that the idea was worth taking a look at. It is an embarrassing situation when out of town guests cannot get a cab.

Ms. Banks replied that there is no longer one central dispatch and the airport has much stricter rules. The hotels are using Metro Cars instead of cabs. The idea is worth exploring.

Councilman Siver reminded everyone that the dedication of the Community Farm would take place on Thursday, March 27th at 5:30 p.m. at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Lahser Road.

Councilman Siver stated that he heard from the MML about legislation that had been proposed that would jeopardize local control of rental housing. Mr. Scharret replied that he had discussions with the lobbyist and learned that the legislation is dead in the water at this point. He will get an update.

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting (conducted as a Committee-of-the-Whole) adjourned at 8:50 p.m., March 24, 2008, until the next Regular Meeting on March 31, 2008, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, Michigan.

Joan Seymour, Council President

Nancy L. M. Banks, City Clerk