

**Approved
May 5, 2008**

REGULAR MEETING
(CONDUCTED AS A COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE)
OF THE COUNCIL
CITY OF SOUTHFIELD

April 7, 2008

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MINUTES

April 7, 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 Pro Tem Donald Fracassi in the Chair. PRESENT: Council Members: Donald Fracassi, Myron Frasier, Sylvia Jordan, Sidney Lantz, Bill Lattimore, and Kenson Siver. EXCUSED: Joan Seymour. 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 presentation on upcoming special events.

Bill Waterhouse, Parks & Recreation Director, gave an update on special events planned for Summer 2008. Contracts for the individual events will be brought back before Council for formal approval at the appropriate time.

The special events include the American Heart Association Walk on May 17, 2008; the Smooth JazzFest on June 13-15, 2008; the Star Spangled Southfield Festival, June 23-29, 2008; the Southfield SportsFest/Gus Macker on June 28-29, 2008 and the Chaldean Festival on August 9-10, 2008.

The American Heart Association Walk attracts between 10,000 and 15,000 participants. The event is very well run. This will be the third year that the event is held in Southfield.

The Smooth JazzFest will include recognition of the City's 50th Anniversary. Advertising and marketing will also include recognition of the City's 50th. The organizers have asked the City to allow them to use the front lawn for \$1.00. In past years the City has charged \$4,500.00. The event has not done well financially. He has spoken to the promoter about ways to make the event work better, including lowering ticket prices and broadening the type of jazz featured. They agreed to lower prices. They are excited about it being their 10th Anniversary. Advertising will begin earlier and new acts are being sought.

Councilman Lattimore recommended a better selection of artists. Chene Park has a free jazz fest. He asked if the City gets a cut of the revenues. Mr. Waterhouse replied that the City receives \$2.00 for each ticket the City sells. The Optimist Club will once again run the beer tent and will keep any profits they make.

Councilman Siver asked how much money the City generated from ticket sales. Doug Block replied approximately \$7,800.00.

Mr. Waterhouse replied that the local radio station spoke to officials at CBS for a long time to convince them to bring the jazz fest back. The station stressed the importance of the event to the area.

Councilwoman Jordan stated that she wasn't sure she was willing to waive the \$4,500 fee for the use of the front lawn.

Councilman Lantz voiced his support for lowering the fee to \$1.00.

Councilman Fracassi asked if the City loses any money with this event. Mr. Waterhouse replied that the City is reimbursed for any expenses. The Police Department bills the promoter separately.

Councilman Lattimore stated that the JazzFest is the only event that the City charges for the use of the front lawn.

Councilwoman Jordan replied that the JazzFest is different. It is a fundraising event. The Chaldean Fest does not charge an entrance fee.

Mr. Waterhouse replied that the radio station is not looking to make money, they would be happy to break even. The profit margin on this type of event is slim.

Councilman Fracassi stated that he has no problem with waiving the fee this year but not in the future. The City doesn't always have to be a donor to organizations putting on an event. He asked why the Music Festival was not included in the list of events.

Mr. Waterhouse replied that a separate presentation was already done on that event in connection with the 50th Anniversary.

Councilman Lantz stated that the Smooth JazzFest has collateral benefits. He recommended taking a consensus and moving on.

Mr. Waterhouse stated that the JazzFest promotes Southfield especially with it being the City's 50th Anniversary. The \$4500 fee will not make or break the City. This event has become a staple of the City over the past ten years. The City is a partner and a sponsor of the event.

Councilman Fracassi stated that Council needs to establish a policy for events that promote the City and those that do not.

Mr. Waterhouse asked for a consensus regarding the \$4500 fee.

Mr. Waterhouse stated that the Gus Macker Tournament was held at Oakland University for several years and then moved to West Bloomfield. The Optimist Club of West Bloomfield contacted the Southfield Optimist Club to see if they would be interested in taking it on. The City was approached by the Optimist Club. The City expressed interest in being a part of the tournament but not in running it. The decision was made to make the Gus Macker Tournament part of a sports festival. Several events would be conducted by various organizations under the City umbrella. The Chamber of Commerce, Southfield Community Foundation, YAC, Optimists and SYA have all expressed interest in using this opportunity as a fund raising event. The CCAB, 50th Anniversary Committee, P & R Board, the Southfield Hockey Club and the Junior Thunderbirds Basketball Team are all enthused about the idea.

Gus Macker has local and national sponsorships. They do a lot of things for you, such as programs, tournament newspapers, quarterly newsletter and setting up brackets, etc. The City will have an opportunity to be on Fox 2 and to go to some of the schools. Hotels and restaurants have also expressed interest. There is a commitment in the community to make it work.

The Chaldean Festival is tentatively scheduled for August 9-10, 2008. The event will be the same as last two years. The organizers were told that any significant changes would have to come before Council.

Councilwoman Jordan asked about the fundraising options for the Sports Festival. Mr. Waterhouse gave the example that a court sponsor would be \$500.00. If the Optimist Club brings a court sponsor, the Optimists would get \$250 and the City would get \$250. The Optimists would also be required to do a specified number of hours of volunteer work at the event. The registration fees and sponsorships covers most of the costs. The registration fee includes security and restrooms. He would like a Sports Festival Committee in the future. He sees the event becoming an entity within itself. The key is getting it off the ground this year. Detroit wants to host the Gus Macker tournament but Southfield has been given the first opportunity. An escrow account has been set up.

Councilman Siver thought doing promotional assemblies at the schools was a great idea. He asked what the registration fee was. Mr. Waterhouse replied the fee was \$116 per team.

Councilman Lantz voiced his support of the plan. He asked that Mr. Waterhouse comeback when a more formal plan had been put in place.

Councilman Lattimore stated that his only concern was the huge volunteer commitment that is required. Gus Macker is a great lead event. It would be great for the City and the kids.

Councilman Frasier asked if there was sufficient time to plan it and get the volunteers together. Mr. Waterhouse replied that the Officials Association has indicated that their referees would be willing to work for less.

The consensus of Council was to move forward but Mr. Waterhouse should come back to Council with more definitive information.

The consensus of Council was to waive the \$4500 rental fee for the front lawn for the Smooth JazzFest.

Next on the agenda was a change to the Council Meeting Schedule.

City Clerk Nancy Banks stated that the fireworks have been moved to Monday, June 23, 2008. She recommended that the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for June 23, 2008 be cancelled and that a Regular Council Meeting be scheduled for June 30, 2008.

Councilman Siver suggested that the June 23, 2008 Council Meeting be cancelled but to hold off scheduling a meeting for June 30, 2008.

Councilman Frasier stated that the City and Council must be open to scheduling an extra meeting if it is found that one is needed.

Mr. Scharret assured Council that he would request an additional meeting if the need arises.

C-15-2008 Motion by Siver; seconded by Lattimore.

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 10 of the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Southfield City Council on February 23, 1998, Council hereby determines that there is an immediate need to act.

Motion passed unanimously.

C-16-2008 Motion by Lantz; seconded by Lattimore.

RESOLVED: that Council does hereby cancel the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for June 23, 2008.

Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Fracassi asked for an update on the South Parking Lot.

Mr. Scharret stated that the Building Authority met earlier in the day regarding the matter. There have been construction issues due to the material choices of the contractor. It was made very clear to the contractor that the City is unhappy and will take whatever action is necessary. The contractor wants to finish the job. They have worked out an alternative approach. The City agreed to the alternative approach on the condition that the contractor extends the warranty for one year. If the Legal Department approves the warranty extension, the project will be put on the fast track. The parking lot will have to be closed once again. Shuttle services will be arranged as needed.

Next on the agenda was an Election Update.

City Clerk Nancy Banks stated that on February 14, 2008 the Election Commission met to discuss the following: 2008 Elections, Proposed Election Inspector Compensation, Permanent Absent Voter List and Proposed Precinct Location Changes.

A State Primary Election will be held on August 5, 2008 and the Presidential General Election will be held on November 4, 2008.

A comparison of neighboring communities was done by the City Clerk's Office on Election Inspector wages. The City of Southfield was found to be on the lower end of the pay scale. Currently, election inspectors are paid \$120 each and chairpersons are paid \$145 each. She recommended that the inspector's pay be increased to \$140 and the chairpersons pay be increased to \$180 each. The increase will help attract new workers and retain the current inspectors.

On November 21, 2007, the Michigan Department of State Bureau of Elections issued a directive regarding the sending of Absentee Voter Application forms to voters. Based on a recent Michigan Appeals Court ruling, it was determined that mass mailing of absent voter applications was prohibited without first receiving a direct request from the voter. Therefore, a permanent absent voter list has been created. Forms were sent out to all seniors 60 years of age and older and the disabled who previously requested an absentee ballot.

Ms. Banks also proposed precinct location changes to take effect in 2009. The Election Commission agreed the changes should take place but should be delayed until 2009. Precincts 1 & 7 will move from Akiva School to the Albanian Community Hall (former St. Ives Church). Precincts 25 and 26 will be combined into one precinct and vote at St. John's Armenian Hall. Precinct 21 will move from Kennedy School to St. John's Armenian Hall. Precinct 19 will move from Thompson School to Kennedy School. Precinct 15 would move from Schoenhals School to Thompson School. It will be less congested at Schoenhals School by having only two precincts, 10 & 11, voting at that location.

Ms. Banks asked for a consensus on the proposals as recommended. She will be bringing one additional proposal before Council, in the near future, which would consolidate the Birmingham School precincts.

Councilman Siver recommended splitting up Precinct 2 between Precinct 3 and 4. Ms. Banks replied that state boundary requirements limit the City's options.

Councilman Fracassi questioned why Precinct 10 voters were voting at Schoenhals School rather than Vandenberg School. Vandenberg is much closer. Voting in Precinct 10 has decreased over the years because of its voting location.

The consensus of Council was to move forward with the recommendations of City Clerk.

Ms. Banks announced that she had earned her Master Municipal Clerk Certification. She is one of only 18 in the State of Michigan and one of 600 in the United States.

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting (conducted as a Committee-of-the-Whole) adjourned at 8:50 p.m., April 7, 2008, until the next Regular Meeting on April 14, 2008, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, Michigan.

Donald Fracassi, Council President Pro Tem

Nancy L. M. Banks, City Clerk