

CITY OF TECUMSEH
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
JULY 6, 2009
TECUMSEH CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Pro-tem Baker called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken as follows:

Present: Mayor Pro-tem Baker, Council members Housekeeper, Johnson, Naugle, VanAlstine and Wright.

Absent: Mayor Schmidt

Also Present: City Manager Kevin Welch, City Clerk Laura Caterina, City Attorney Laura Schaedler, and news media representatives.

Mayor Pro-tem Baker announced that Mayor Schmidt was detained in traffic and would arrive later this evening.

No one spoke during the public comment opportunity concerning items on this evening's agenda.

Discussion Items:

(A) City Strategic Plan - City Manager Kevin Welch explained the process the City underwent to establish and update our first Strategic Plan. Once again Facilitator Jan Parson assisted the City in identifying new goals at the recent Strategic Planning Session held in March, 2009, when City Council, Department Heads and various boards and commissions representatives met to develop a new 5-year Strategic Plan. At the end of the session, four committees were formed that subsequently identified goals and corresponding strategy/action plans to achieve goals, as follows: (1) Improving Roads/Infrastructure and Buildings - Goal: to assess the current condition of our roads, infrastructure and buildings and to recommend a plan to maintain and improve those assets, with a focus on sustainability. Strategy involves formation of a community committee represented by residents and business owners, who will evaluate the assets and recommend the best strategy to City Council. (2) Maintain Housing Values/Tax Base - Goals: (a) Maintain tax base & enlist community groups to help with home repair (more community involvement). Strategy - Identify homeowners in need of home repairs and enlist community groups; (b) Promote neighborhood cohesiveness (neighborhood pride), by sponsoring a "Yard of the Month" award; (c) Create program to assist homeowners with energy savings (educate the public). (3) Economic Development - Goals: (a) Develop network to market community to potential businesses (create partnership between business and education) by developing and nurturing relationships that assist the City in its economic development goals; (b) Encourage Mecca for young families (provide activities for young teens), by defining the wants & needs of targeted groups; (c) Outreach marketing program - Utilize opportunities to connect with desired populations. (4) Quality of Life - Goals: (a) Create cultural destination in Tecumseh that will attract people of all ages, both within and outside the community by creating Farmer's Market Art Exhibits and Art in the Woods; (b) Provide a safe destination for kids involved in recreational skating by constructing a new skate park; (c) Recognize individuals who devote their time and

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talents to the community by implementing a "Volunteer of the Month" program; (d) Create a visible program for the community by demonstrating healthy living and diverse age group involvement in a "Tai chi in the Park" program. Kevin thanked everyone who served on these committees for their hard work, noting that the 2009-2013 Strategic Plan will be placed on the July 20th, 2009 regular Council agenda for approval. Council member VanAlstine mentioned that National Public Radio had an interesting program on today that outlined steps small communities can take to help maintain their homes. Mayor Pro-tem Baker spoke in support of efforts planned to assist residents who aren't capable financially or physically to maintain their homes, remarking that our current and future senior citizens will be especially grateful for this help.

B. 2010/11 City Budget - Council Input - City Manager Kevin Welch explained his recommendation to form an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of 3 Council members that would focus on priorities and solutions regarding upcoming budget concerns, as they relate to the challenging financial times we are experiencing. Kevin noted that the proposed Ad Hoc Committee would be appointed by Council at a regular upcoming meeting, would meet in public in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, and make budgetary recommendations that would require approval of the full City Council. This task could be achieved by the full Council, but would be quite labor intensive (Ad Hoc Committee would be much more efficient). Once budgetary issues are resolved, the committee would be dissolved (by January, 2010 at the latest).

Motion VanAlstine and seconded Wright, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Harvey E. Schmidt, Mayor

Laura Caterina, City Clerk