

SPECIAL MEETING (STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION) OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAGINAW, MICHIGAN, HELD SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2009 AT 8:30 A.M. AT THE SAGINAW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 515 N. WASHINGTON AVENUE, SAGINAW, MICHIGAN.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Joyce Seals called the meeting to order. The following Councilpersons were present: Gregory Branch, Larry Coulouris, Amanda Kitterman-Miller, Amos O'Neal, Bill Scharffe, Paul Virciglio, and Mayor Joyce Seals-7.

Absent: Councilmen Daniel Fitzpatrick and Andrew Wendt-2.

Also in attendance were the following staff members: Darnell Earley (City Manager), Tim Morales, (Assistant City Manager for Finance), Yolanda Jones (Assistant to the City Manager/Budget Officer), Michelle Allen (Chief Assistant City Attorney), Diane Herman (City Clerk), Tom Darnell (Director of Public Services), Odail Thorns (Economic Development Director), Dennis Jordan (Employee Services Director), Beth Church (Personnel Generalist), Ralph Carter (Labor Relations Administrator), Gerald Cliff (Police Chief), E. Dean Holland (Fire Chief), Edgar Johnson, (Battalion Chief), Jay Beelman (Information Services Director), and Carl Johnson (Plante & Moran).

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Councilwoman Kitterman-Miller moved to waive the Council Rules of Order and change the Order of Business to follow the Special Agenda prepared by the City Manager, seconded by Councilman Virciglio.

Adopted unanimously.

*(Councilman Fitzpatrick arrived and took his seat.)*

REPORTS FROM MANAGER:

Management Update

Audit and Financial Report

Jerry Desloover, of Rehmann Robson, gave an overview of the City of Saginaw's Annual Financial Report (Audit) and the Report on Federal Awards (Single Audit) for the fiscal year-ending June 30, 2008,

Carl Johnson, Plante & Moran, Inc. discussed the details of the City's Annual Financial Report (Audit) for fiscal year-ending June 30, 2008. He expounded on the decline in revenue and the increase in expenses and how both affect the City. He also advised Council of the monies owed the City by the Saginaw Housing Commission and the efforts made to collect those funds.

City Manager Darnell Earley commended Plante & Moran for its work, which contributed to the successful reorganization of the Finance Department.

There was some discussion amongst the City Council members, City Manager and Carl Johnson on the Police and Fire Pension and the investment of the funds due to the decline in the stock market. A suggestion was made to move the money to guaranteed

accounts. The Mayor noted that the City Manager and Mayor are only two votes on the Board. City Manager Darnell Earley advised when the Board would meet again for those interested in attending.

*(There was a break taken from 10:50 a.m. to 11:03 a.m.)*

#### Crime Update

Police Chief Gerald Cliff and Officer Ruben Vasquez reviewed the Police Department's crime stats. Chief mentioned that Michigan has the most violence of the 14 Great Lakes States, yet has fewer police officers per capita. Saginaw and Wayne Counties were considered most violent. He gave statistics on guns, drugs, specific crimes, drunk driving and warrants issued. Chief Cliff then gave an overview on the 12-hour shifts with regard to advantages, disadvantages, effectiveness, and costs.

*(Lunch was served from 11:45-12:15 p.m.)*

#### Management Team – Departmental Accomplishment for 2008

Following lunch, Odail Thorns (Economic Development Director), Jay Beelman (Information Services Director), Diane Herman (City Clerk), Michelle Allen (Chief Assistant City Attorney), Tim Morales (Assistant City Manager for Finance), E. Dean Holland (Fire Chief), and Tom Darnell (Director of Public Services), each gave a brief synopsis on their departmental accomplishments for 2008 and projects planned for 2009.

#### Discussion on the Department Heads Performance Evaluation

Dennis Jordan, Director of Employee Services, reviewed his department's accomplishments and goals. He then spoke on the significance of performance evaluations to be used as a tool for training and developing by identifying areas that need improvement. Said evaluations can be utilized by the City Manager for merit increases, promotions or terminations. Said a development criteria and job measurement needed to be established for each department head. Stressed also the need for accountability at the division head level.

#### Management Team – Departmental Accomplishment for 2008 - Continued

Police Chief Gerald Cliff gave his Department's accomplishments for 2008 and plans for 2009.

*(There was a break taken from 2:55 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. Councilman Fitzpatrick excused himself during the break.)*

#### Review of the City of Saginaw's Department Head Retreat

City Manager Darnell Earley provided Council with a copy of the results of the December 17, 2008 department head retreat, which was self-explanatory.

#### Council and Management Team Dialogue

There was general discussion and questions on various City matters from Council

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members directed to the City Manager and staff. Subjects discussed were the City's tax structure and the need to remove the dollar and tax cap. It was noted the Police and Fire Safety millage, if renewed, would not provide the same services as when it was initially voted in. Other items discussed were the 2010 Census, recycling, demolitions, and issues at the 310 Club hindering the proposed sale of the downtown hotel.

Economic Outlook and Challenges

City Manager Darnell Earley concluded the meeting with an economic outlook for the City. He provided all with a handout prepared by the House Fiscal Agency, which included statistics for the United States and Michigan on State Revenue, Unemployment, Home Sales and other matters. He noted that Saginaw had a lot of key pieces in place. He said the number one challenge was to get a message to the community about the tax cap.

*(At 4:23 p.m., during the City Manager's wrap up, Councilwoman Kitterman-Miller excused herself from the meeting.)*

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:26 p.m., Councilman Virciglio moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Scharffe.

Adopted unanimously.

Diane M. Herman  
City Clerk