

**CITY OF MONROE
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2008**

Work Session of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Monday, June 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Present: Council Members Beneteau, Clark, Conner (arrived 8:30pm), McGhee, Molenda, Paisley and Mayor Worrell

Also Present: George Brown, City Manager
Paul Livernois
Chris Kosal
Nancy Colpaert
Nancy Bellaire
Alisha Cooley
John Timko
Andrew Smith
Ryan Smith

Mayor Worrell called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

George Brown, City Manager, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss library facility improvement options, and how to proceed with the process.

Jeff Green, Historic Preservation and Land Use Planner, provided a notebook with resources and materials for presentation to introduce the subject matter surrounding the Dorsch and Navarre Library and the United Furniture Building.

Paul Livernois, LSAT, gave an overview of the process and findings that the Library Service Advisory Team, (LSAT) has taken to identify and make recommendations to Mayor and City Council regarding library services to Monroe County residents.

Jeff Green, Historic Preservation and Land Use Planner, spoke about the six architect firms and their plans rendered to the LSAT.

Christine Kosal, LSAT, stated that the feasibility study/needs assessment, which was performed in 2006, was recommended by the majority of the committee and approved by council. The committee initially recommended to do nothing, (remain status quo), but libraries are not being maintained at that level any longer. She stated that the committee would like to see a focus group hired to poll a representative group of citizens to find out what library services would be most wanted and what they would be willing to pay for.

Nancy Colpaert, Monroe County Library System Director, indicated that staffing two different facilities would be costly but certainly doable. She also stated, with more room we can add more programs, classes, clubs, etc.

Nancy Bellaire, Monroe County Library System Assistant Director, stated that as economic times get tougher, people look for ways to tighten the budget and internet is just one of the amenities they may get rid of which brings them to the libraries to use computers to register for school, or job searches, resumes, etc.

Alisha Cooley, 306 S. Macomb Street, spoke in favor of expansion of the Dorsch Library with the United Furniture building or rebuilding of a new facility. She stated that our library should thrive because it will embody a new idea of how libraries function, including technology and computers. The library of today is no longer passive, and not a place of decorum and quiet, but an active and responsive part of the community and a destination to downtown.

Paul Livernois, LSAT, spoke in favor of demolishing the United Furniture building and expanding the Dorsch Library or build a new facility near the River Raisin.

John Timko, 1034 Bentley Drive, spoke in favor of demolishing the United Furniture building and adding on a two story addition to Dorsch Library extending into the alley way.

Andrew Smith, 211 Saint Ann Lane, stated that if building a new library is the avenue decided upon, he is in favor of combining forces with the surrounding townships; so as to have a larger population of citizens to share the financial burden and downtown would be the ideal location. He further stated that the third floor of City Hall or the second floor of the Ice Arena, could serve as optional locations that will not create financial burden.

Dyan Smith, 211 Saint Ann Lane, stated that no one really wants to address Navarre Library and the issues. She thinks that using the United Furniture building would be a disservice to the library because of the limited square footage, and stated she is in favor of building a new facility near the river.

George Brown, City Manager, stated there are three options to consider; 1st option, do nothing; 2nd option, proceed with preliminary architectural plans to develop cost estimates to remodel the United Furniture Building; 3rd option, retain a consultant to develop a professional needs analysis, community preferences and a measure of support for expansion for a new library project.

Mayor Worrell asked George Brown, City Manager, to make a recommendation to council that they can vote for or against at a council meeting, but then ultimately council will have to decide what to do with the United Furniture Building.

It was moved by Councilman Paisley, seconded by Councilman Beneteau to adjourn the Library work session at 8:40 p.m.

Sharon C. Malotky
Deputy Clerk, Clerk's Office

Mark G. Worrell
Mayor