

WORKING SESSION - FEBRUARY 24, 1992

The working session of the Ann Arbor City Council was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Mayor Elizabeth S. Brater.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Present: Councilmembers Larry Hunter, Ann Marie Coleman, Ingrid Sheldon, Kirk Dodge, Robert Grady, Nelson Meade, Mark Ouimet, Thais Anne Peterson, Robert Eckstein, Mayor Elizabeth S. Brater, 10

Absent: Councilmember Kurt Zimmer, 1

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator Alfred A. Gatta, Historic Preservation Coordinator Louisa Pieper, City Attorney Elizabeth Schwartz

Historic District Committee/Downtown Historic District Study Committee Members Present: J. Michael Schroer, Johanna Aztalos, Mary Hathaway, David S. Evans, Jean L. King, Norman Tyler, Mary M. Culver, Rosemarion Blake

WILLOW RUN PLANT CLOSING

Mayor Elizabeth Brater, on behalf of City Council, acknowledged General Motors announcement that it will close its Willow Run Facility. She said that the City will seek to work with officials from eastern Washtenaw County to offset an already serious economic situation in this area.

STATE STREET AND EAST LIBERTY STREET HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Historic District Commission Chairman J. Michael Schroer introduced the subject of tonight's working session which is the historic designation of properties on State Street and Liberty Street.

Norman Tyler, member of both the Historic District Commission and the Downtown Historic District Study Committee, distributed a list of answers to questions that are most commonly asked of the Commission by those who own or occupy historically designated properties. The list includes answers to questions regarding the purpose of the Commission and how and why it was established, advantages of an historic designation, rights and duties regarding historic properties and the appeals process.

Mary Hathaway explained why Liberty Street is included in the Historic District designation. She said that Liberty Street is a well travelled connecting route between State and Main Street by both pedestrian and vehicle. The street is seen as a stabilizing corridor when

anticipated surrounding development occurs because it is part of the identity of Ann Arbor's downtown. Its designation as an historic street has received strong support from owners and commercial tenants.

J. Michael Schroer updated Council on the status of districts approved 3 years ago. He said that a published booklet was distributed to each of the property owners to explain procedures to follow when repairs and renovations are needed. He said that the Historic District Ordinance deals only with building facades.

A question and answer period followed. All documents submitted as part of the working session were filed with the City Clerk.

There being no further business, Councilmember Coleman moved that the meeting be adjourned.

On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

W. Northcross
Clerk of the Council

Linda J. Wise
Recording Secretary