

LOCAL NEWS

Ferndale selects interim city manager

■ Former Mount Clemens official will help city find replacement.

By Michael P. McConnell

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File photo/Journal Register News Service
Warren Remando served as city manager for Mount Clemens from 1984-1996.

FERNDALE — A former city manager of Mount Clemens is the City Council's choice to serve as interim manager of Ferndale for the next several months. Warren Remando, 62, of Jackson, retired as city manager of the Macomb County community after serving as manager from 1984-96. Remando used to visit Ferndale occasionally before he moved to Jackson and recently drove and walked

around the city before taking the interim manager's job.

"A lot of progress has been made," he said, "and Ferndale has come a long way." Remando said his upcoming stint here will largely consist of serving as an administrative caretaker to oversee ongoing city operations.

"As an interim manager your job is make sure that any ongoing projects stay on track," he said. "I won't be dealing with the budget process or undertaking new projects for the city."

Ferndale City Manager Tom Barwin, 52, will leave July 28 to take a similar post in Oak Park, Ill. After more than eight years here, elected officials have credited Barwin with having the vision to help revitalize the city.

The City Council is expected to finalize the pay rate and other details of Remando's new position at its regular meeting

on Monday.

Three candidates were interested in serving as interim manager in Ferndale. Two of them — Christine Roeder and Darwin Parks — are Ferndale residents who also have government management experience and advanced degrees.

However, in three interviews the City Council conducted this week, officials chose Remando over the other two candidates.

Councilman T. Scott Galloway and Mayor Robert Porter are spearheading the effort to find a permanent replacement for Barwin. Galloway said Remando is a good fit for the interim manager's job because he is not interested in becoming the permanent manager in Ferndale.

"Warren (Remando) has a lot of experience and has worked in older core cities that are a lot like Ferndale," Gal-

loway said. "I also think he will be a help to us in our search for a new city manager."

Barwin also gave Remando high marks and is working with him to bring him to speed on city business.

"(Remando) is very deep in experience and has over 25 years in city management," Barwin said.

He added that Mount Clemens and Jackson, where Remando previously worked, are both diverse cities like Ferndale.

"He'll easily be able to handle anything the city is going to face over the next few months," Barwin said.

The City Council on Monday is expected to choose a firm to conduct a search and a full-time city manager. Officials will select one of the three firms that submitted proposals for the task, Galloway said.