

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2021 – 6:00PM

The special meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was held electronically and called to order by Mayor Barnett at 8:33am

During roll call, Council members were asked to state their location from where they are attending the meeting remotely.

Council Members Present: Vicki Barnett, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Jackie Boleware, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Michael Bridges, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Valerie Knol, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Ken Massey, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Mary Newlin, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Matthew Strickfaden, Farmington Hills, Michigan

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: Jerry Richards, Michigan Municipal League, City Clerk Smith and City Attorney Joppich

REVIEW OF MEETING PROCEDURES

Jerry Richards, MML reviewed with City Council the procedures for the meeting and inquired how they preferred to ask the questions to each candidate.

Mayor Barnett suggested using the same method used for City Council and rotating the questions through the Council members.

City Council took a 5 minute break before interviews started.

INTERVIEWS FOR CITY MANAGER

Interviews for City Manager were held with the following candidates:

Gary Mekjian
Thomas Hutka
Victor Cardenas

Following the interviews, City Council took a half hour break from 1:05pm until 1:35pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Barnett acknowledged an email received from Dave Walsh, Court Administrator and letter from Steve Kaplan, West Bloomfield Township Supervisor, both expressing support of Acting City Manager Mekjian for the position.

CONSIDERATION OF EXTENDING A CONDITIONAL OFF OF EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Richards suggested narrowing the field of candidates to the top 2 for discussion purposes and focusing on the positive aspects of each and why it was felt they would be the best fit for the city.

Following each City Council member acknowledging their top candidates, it was determined that Gary Mekjian and Victor Cardenas were the top two candidates.

Each City Council member spoke about the strengths of the candidates and which one they felt would be the best fit for the city.

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the extension of a conditional offer of employment to Gary Mekjian and direct the MML to complete a background investigation and conduct further reference review.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN
Nays: BRIDGES AND BOLEWARE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 5 – 2

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby casts a unanimous vote for Gary Mekjian as City Manager.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN
Nays: BRIDGES AND BOLEWARE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 5 – 2

CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS ON TERMS OF A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT TO BE PRESENTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL PRIOR TO SIGNATURE AND EXECUTION

MOTION by Massey, support by Strickfaden, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Attorney to initiate discussions with Gary Mekjian on terms of a mutually acceptable employment agreement. Such contract will be presented to the entire Council for approval prior to signature and execution.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Bridges, support by Massey, to adjourn the special meeting at 2:41pm.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND
STRICKFADEN

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk