

**MINUTES  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER  
MARCH 23, 2026 – 7:30 PM**

The regular session of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Boleware at 7:33PM.

Councilmembers Present: Aldred, Boleware, Bridges, Dwyer, Knol and Starkman

Councilmembers Absent: Rich

Others Present: Acting City Manager Mondora, City Clerk Lindahl, Directors Farmer and Rushlow, and City Attorney Joppich

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mariam from the Mayors Youth Council.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Starkman, to approve the agenda as published.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS FROM CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

**MAYOR’S YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE ON THE MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE’S 2026 CAPCON**

Mayor Pro Tem Boleware noted that the Mayor’s Youth Council (MYC) trip to the Michigan Municipal League CapCon conference was funded by the revenues from the weddings conducted by Mayor Rich throughout the year.

Annie Treharne, Mayor’s Youth Council staff liaison, explained that the MYC was open to students that live within Farmington and Farmington Hills and they were able to send four student representatives to the CapCon conference in Lansing this month. Three of the student representatives were present to speak about their experience.

Mayor’s Youth Council members Mardula, Mariam, and Anushka described the conference as an insightful and eye-opening experience that gave them a stronger understanding of Michigan government, the legislative process, politics, and the role community members play in public service. The students especially valued hearing the speeches by the gubernatorial candidates, as the candidates highlighted key issues relative to the upcoming election, including literacy, energy, and the economy, which encouraged them to think more deeply about the needs of their community.

The students also participated in a youth breakout session, where they learned how youth councils in Sterling Heights and Petoskey organize service activities and engage young people in local government, giving them new ideas for strengthening youth involvement and community service efforts in Farmington Hills.

**GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY UPDATE**

Suzanne Coffey, Chief Executive Officer of the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), appeared before Council at the request of Acting City Manager Mondora to provide an update regarding the recurring water main breaks affecting the 14 Mile Road corridor. Other representatives from GLWA present included Jody Caldwell, Chief Planning Officer, Peter Fromm, Director of Water Transmission, and Stefanie Burns, Public Affairs.

Ms. Coffey acknowledged that the pipe on 14 Mile Road was not meeting service level expectations. The pipe, which stretches from Inkster Road to Walled Lake on 14 Mile Road, was built in the 1970s and most recently broke on March 7th. Farmington Hills was one of six communities affected and was most impacted by disruption from the break. Redundancy in the Farmington Hills water system limited the impact to water service.

GLWA began a proactive inspection program for this line after the first break in 2017. Water mains of this type were not originally designed to allow easy internal inspection. The segment that failed on March 7 had been inspected twice since 2017, most recently in 2021, and no defects were found. GLWA has completed thousands of inspections in the broader corridor and renewed 64 individual pipe segments, but these best-practice measures have not prevented repeated failures on this line. GLWA is now working with national experts and consultants to evaluate a more comprehensive, systemwide approach for the entire segment, which would come at significant cost.

The most recent break has been repaired, and another pipe segment was identified during inspection and repaired. 14 Mile Road was expected to be open by the first or second week of April, weather dependent.

In response to Council questions, Ms. Coffey provided the following additional information:

- The pipe is a highly engineered prestressed concrete cylinder pipe with multiple layers, including an outer concrete layer, wire winding for compression, a steel cylinder, and an inner mortar coating. The failure appears to involve corrosion or hydrogen embrittlement affecting either the mortar coating or the wire winding. The pipe is degrading faster than expected.
- In response to repair costs, Coffey said the immediate repair is covered under existing contracts, but a full replacement of the approximately six-mile section between Haggerty and Inkster Roads would likely cost hundreds of millions of dollars. That work is not currently budgeted, but the line is now GLWA's highest priority and staff are evaluating options, estimates, and possible adjustments to the capital improvement plan.
- Regarding whether this type of pipe from the 1970s is experiencing similar problems elsewhere in the country, a manufacturer from that era acknowledged that approximately 4% of its pipe had manufacturing anomalies that could cause accelerated deterioration. This issue is known nationally and is not believed to be unique to Michigan or to freeze-thaw conditions, although the rate of deterioration on this particular line remains unusual even to national and international consultants.
- GLWA has approximately 800 miles of this pipe type across eight counties. Currently they are focusing inspections on the 14 Mile corridor. GLWA previously completed a loop project along M-5 to provide additional redundancy and allow this section of the system to be isolated more effectively during failures.
- GLWA is studying broader options for the corridor and whether the inspection performed in 2021 should have detected the type of defect involved in the recent failure. The electromagnetic inspection technology used in 2021 was specifically designed to detect breaks in the wire winding in order to signal this type of deterioration. GLWA is considering acoustic fiber optic cable, which can

be installed inside the pipe to listen for wire breaks and transmit data for ongoing monitoring. GLWA has already installed that technology in newer pipe west of M-5 and staff are now evaluating whether that approach could help identify failures earlier on this line.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Councilmember Knol received correspondence from a constituent who participated in the Farmington Hills Police Department RCAT training offered to CPL holders. The training was led by Officer Breeanna Streber, and the constituent wrote that Officer Streber was a knowledgeable, professional instructor, and that police engagement with CPL holders built trust and reflected well on Farmington Hills.

Mayor Pro Tem Boleware received correspondence from Lloyd Banks III regarding the condition of the road that abuts the post office and library. Acting City Manager Mondora reported that a review of the deed and documents for that access driveway had determined the responsible party is the office park located south of the post office. The Zoning Division had given the responsible party a notice to cure.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, to approve the consent agenda as published.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, KNOL AND STARKMAN

Nays: NONE

Absent: RICH

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

There were no consent agenda items for discussion.

### **COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Bridges noted that Comfort Care at 12 Mile Road and Orchard Lake Road was in disrepair, and asked Acting City Manager Mondora to investigate what authority the City had to hold the property owner accountable.

Councilmember Aldred said that he would be working with Councilmember Starkman on wording for a resolution opposing proposed state zoning preemption laws. The purpose of House Bills 5529-5532 and 5581-5585 was to increase housing, produce more affordable housing and would make massive changes to what local municipalities could control in terms of zoning including prescribing that a single-family home minimum lot size could not be greater than 1,500 square feet, and permitting a duplex on any single-family lot. To provide context, the current largest single-family lot size in Farmington Hills has a minimum size of about 30,000 square feet. The smallest single-family home lot size in Farmington Hills is RA-4, which is 8,000 square feet. Permitting a duplex on any single-family lot would mean that the density could double in single family zoning districts.

Councilmember Starkman said that the current State legislature recess was an opportunity for the City to clarify its position on the bills and present that position to the State. Zoning is a large part of local

government and the bills would have a significant impact and encouraged residents to contact their legislators about the bills.

Mayor Pro Tem Boleware noted that zoning issues were important to residents and that the House bills would take control over zoning away from the City. She encouraged residents to contact their legislators about the bills.

**CITY MANAGER UPDATE**

Acting City Manager Mondora expressed condolences to City of Huntington Woods DPW Supervisor Doug Chmiel's family and co-workers on behalf of the City. Doug passed away on March 13th in the line of duty responding to a storm event. Members of the Police Department assisted with traffic control at the funeral and members of Farmington Hills DPW attended.

Acting City Manager Mondora shared that she received a message of sincere thanks from West Bloomfield Township Supervisor Jonathan Warshay for aid from the City in response to the incident at Temple Israel.

Yard waste pick-up will resume on April 6th.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.**

MOTION by Knol, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby confirms the Mayor's recommendation to appoint the following individuals to various Boards and Commissions:

**Commission on Children, Youth and Families**

	<b>Length of Term:</b>	<b>Term ending:</b>
Jennifer Day	3 years	February 1, 2029

Jennifer Day will fill the regular vacancy left by Tammy Luty.

**Committee to Increase Voter Participation**

	<b>Length of Term:</b>	<b>Term ending:</b>
Camiron Andrews	3 years	February 1, 2029

Camiron Andrews will fill the alternate vacancy left by Jim Molnar.

**Farmington Hills Beautification Commission**

	<b>Length of Term:</b>	<b>Term ending:</b>
James Colwell	3 years	February 1, 2029

James Colwell will fill the regular vacancy left by JoAnn Rowland.

	<b>Length of Term:</b>	<b>Term ending:</b>
Evan Rosin	3 years	February 1, 2029

Evan Rosin will fill the regular vacancy left by James Geisling.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH ROSATI, SCHULTZ, JOPPICH AND AMTSBUECHLER, PC TO ADD EMPLOYMENT LAW AND LABOR RELATIONS SERVICES. CMR 3-26-31**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the Acting City Manager to execute a contract amendment with Rosati, Schultz, Joppich and Amtsbuechler, PC to add employment law and labor relations services to the scope of services and authorize the Acting City Manager to send a notice of termination and request for the City's legal files to the Ogletree Deakins law firm.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, KNOL AND STARKMAN  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: RICH  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION FOR THE VACATION OF AGREEMENTS FOR STORM WATER RETENTION AND DISCHARGE RESTRICTION SYSTEM FOR THE TAWHEED CENTER, LOCATED AT 29707 TEN MILE ROAD. CMR 3-26-32**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the attached resolution to vacate three Agreements for Storm Water Retention & Discharge Restriction System, as legally described therein, copies of which are attached to the resolution, pursuant to the establishment of a new agreement as part of the engineering plan approval process.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, KNOL AND STARKMAN  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: RICH  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT #1 TO THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND AND THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS FOR HERITAGE PARK. CMR 3-26-33**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the Acting City Manager to approve Amendment #1 to the Interlocal Agreement between the County of Oakland and the City of Farmington Hills for Heritage Park.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, KNOL AND STARKMAN  
Nays: NONE

Absent: RICH  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 6 TO THE WATER SERVICE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS. CMR 3-26-34**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the Acting City Manager and City Clerk to sign Amendment No. 6 to Water Service Contract Between Great Lakes Water Authority and City of Farmington Hills.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, KNOL AND STARKMAN  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: RICH  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR THE TUCK ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT. CMR 3-26-35**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the following resolution:

**CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
RESOLUTION FOR MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM GRANT FOR TUCK ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

**RESOLUTION NO. R-61-26**

At a session of the City Council of the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, State of Michigan, from the City Council Chambers on March 23, 2026, at 7:30 o'clock P.M, with those present and absent being:

PRESENT: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, KNOL, AND STARKMAN  
ABSENT: RICH

The following resolution was offered by Councilmember Bridges and supported by Councilmember Knol:

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington Hills is preparing a Local Bridge Program Grant for replacement of the Tuck Road Bridge over the Rouge River,

WHEREAS, Michigan Department of Transportation, Local Bridge funds are available to offset up to 95 of the cost of construction for local agencies bridges,

WHEREAS, the condition of the Tuck Road bridge warrants replacement,



Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, KNOL AND STARKMAN  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: RICH  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE FARM MEADOW AND CAMELOT COURT SUBDIVISION CONCRETE RECONSTRUCTION PHASE II TO MARK ANTHONY CONTRACTING, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,318,770.06. CMR 3-26-38**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Farm Meadows and Camelot Courts Subdivision Reconstruction Phase II be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Mark Anthony Contracting, Inc of Milford, Michigan, in the amount of \$4,318,770.06.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, KNOL AND STARKMAN  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: RICH  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE FOLSOM ROAD RECONSTRUCTION FROM 9 MILE ROAD TO ORCHARD LAKE ROAD PROJECT TO PRO-LINE ASPHALT PAVING CORP. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,693,999.55. CMR 3-26-39**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Folsom Road Reconstruction from 9 Mile Road to Orchard Lake Road Project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Pro-Line Asphalt Paving Corp. of Washington, Michigan, in the amount of \$2,693,999.55.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, KNOL AND STARKMAN  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: RICH  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE BIDDESTONE WOODS SUBDIVISION PAVING PROJECT TO SPRINGLINE EXCAVATING, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,164,776.98. CMR 3-26-40**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Biddestone Woods Subdivision Paving Project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Springline Excavating of Farmington Hills, Michigan, in the amount of \$2,164,776.98.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, KNOL AND STARKMAN

Nays: NONE  
Absent: RICH  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE RICHLAND GARDENS SUBDIVISION PHASE 1 ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO FONSON COMPANY, INC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,968,929.14. CMR 3-26-41**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Richland Gardens Subdivision Road Reconstruction Phase I Project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Fonson Company, Inc of Brighton, Michigan, in the amount of \$4,968,929.14.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, KNOL AND STARKMAN  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: RICH  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE RIDGEWOOD DRIVE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO ASPHALT SPECIALISTS, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,456,246.00. CMR 3-26-42**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Ridgewood Drive Road Reconstruction Project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Asphalt Specialists, LLC, in the amount of \$1,456,246.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, KNOL AND STARKMAN  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: RICH  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR A CONCESSIONS ATTENDANT. CMR 3-26-43**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves an employment request per Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Julian Wilder, who is related to an employee of the City, Marsha Koet, who is a Senior Division Supervisor.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, KNOL AND STARKMAN  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: RICH  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2026.**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council study session minutes of March 9, 2026.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, KNOL AND STARKMAN  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: RICH  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2026.**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the regular session minutes of March 9, 2026.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, KNOL AND STARKMAN  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: RICH  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Angie Smith, Farmington Public Schools, wished council members a Happy March Reading Month, and thanked council members for reading to students. Ms. Smith thanked council members for collaborating with the schools and celebrated a strong, great relationship.

Suzanne Dengiz, resident, asked how the City is selecting firms for the engineering, environmental, and urban planning studies related to the proposed senior activity center. She urged the City to ensure that any consultants retained have demonstrated experience designing senior centers, including facilities that accommodate persons with special needs and comply with ADA requirements. Ms. Dengiz believed that the City's consultant Sports Facilities Companies lacked relevant senior center experience and cautioned against repeating that mistake going forward. She was concerned that a site near I-696 could pose health and cost challenges, particularly if substantial accommodations are required at the Hawk property, and she questioned whether the proposal reflects fiscal responsibility and adequate consideration of senior residents' needs.

Mark Forshee, Farmington Hills resident, opposed building a new \$30 million senior center because he felt the cost was too high to taxpayers for something that would benefit only a small percentage of the population.

Karen Twomey, resident, expressed concern with a shallow, stagnant low area on Heritage Park property behind her home that receives runoff from the Independence Hill subdivision due to inadequate drainage planning and culvert placement, causing water from City-owned land to flow onto their property. Prior owners experienced substantial damage and current and prior costs associated with flooding, waterproofing, septic issues, and related repairs total approximately \$100,000. She asked the City to address the longstanding drainage problem rather than requiring homeowners to bear the expense of corrective work.

Dennis Greggio, resident, passed out a fact sheet regarding the water drainage situation at their home. He reiterated that stormwater frequently pools in the Heritage Park flood zone adjacent to his property and then overflows onto his land, creating severe flooding conditions. After a recent thunderstorm they were forced to operate two pumps continuously for approximately 36 hours, moving an estimated 180,000 gallons of water in an effort to protect their walkout basement and garage. He argued that the City should not expect homeowners to absorb those losses when the runoff originates from City property. He asked the City to consider corrective measures.

Liane Kufchock, resident, spoke regarding the future of the Costick Center and the City's consideration of options for senior facilities. She stated that the City should reconsider continuing senior programming within the Hawk building, which is already being used successfully by many seniors for daytime activities and programs. Constructing a separate senior facility would duplicate amenities and infrastructure, including aquatic facilities, and could require additional transportation between locations. Ms. Kufchock advocated for an integrated "one-stop" approach that would keep senior programming centralized rather than isolated in a separate location.

Eric Schmidt, resident, thanked councilmembers for their work. Mr. Schmidt said he regularly played basketball at The Hawk and the facility was well used by people of all ages, with day pass limits often being reached. He suggested adding basketball courts at The Hawk rather than using the facility for a new senior center, stating that courts designed to accommodate tournaments, along with concession facilities, were limited in the area and could generate revenue given the competitive nature of youth sports.

Sue Homant, resident, expressed concern about the potential health effects of locating a senior center near I-696 based on information from search results and health sources people who live, work, or spend time near major freeways may be exposed to elevated air pollution levels. Those exposures may present heightened risks for older adults, children, and individuals with preexisting health conditions, and research linked such pollution to respiratory, cardiovascular, metabolic, and cognitive health concerns. She urged the City to take the potential public health impacts into account when considering the location of a future senior facility.

William Lubaway, resident, expressed concern about student achievement levels, particularly reading proficiency, and stated his view that academic performance has contributed to enrollment declines in the District. Mr. Lubaway also objected to a diversity, equity, and inclusion proclamation adopted by the school district several years ago, arguing that it mischaracterized the community's history, which included the community's founding by abolitionist Quakers, the role the community played in the Underground Railroad, and the approximately 40 community members who died in the Civil War. He urged that the proclamation be rescinded.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The regular session of City Council meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Lindahl, City Clerk