

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER
NOVEMBER 27, 2023 – 6:00PM

The study session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Bruce at 6:05pm. He noted that there was not a quorum present of current Council members to hold a formal meeting so he called for a recess at this time and noted that they would reconvene the formal meeting if there were a quorum at some point.

Attorney Joppich pointed out that there is no action taken at a study session and cautioned Council not to deliberate on any issues; but stated that staff could still provide information to Council on the topics on the agenda.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bruce reconvened the meeting at 6:45pm as there was now a quorum present.

Council Members Present: Boleware, Bridges, Bruce, Knol

Council Members Absent: Barnett and Massey

Others Present: Mayor elect Rich, Council members elect Aldred and Dwyer,
City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City
Manager Mondora, Directors Brown, and Kettler-Schmult and
City Attorney Joppich

It was noted that City Clerk Smith had provided background information on the liquor license moratorium to City Council.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bruce asked if the moratorium would automatically expire as of December 11, 2024. Clerk Smith confirmed that it would automatically expire should there be a consensus of Council to take no further action at the December 11, 2023 meeting to extend the moratorium.

Attorney Joppich stated that if there was consensus to bring this forth at the December 11, 2023 meeting for further discussion and possible extension, staff would like some recommendation as to the length of the extension in order to prepare the appropriate resolution for that meeting.

Discussion was held on the master plan process and when that was expected to be completed as well as potential for redevelopment liquor licenses or licenses issued through a Downtown Development Authority or Corridor Improvement Authority (DDA.CIA).

Charmaine Kettler-Schmult, Director of Planning and Community Development, stated that the proposed timeline for adopting the master plan is May, 2024.

Attorney Joppich and Planning Consultant Bahn further discussed redevelopment licenses and that process and/or utilizing a CIA District.

Council commented that past discussion also included the city's liquor license ordinance and changes to that to allow for specific types of facilities such as cigar bars or jazz bars to operate without having to be a bona fide restaurant, which is a requirement in the existing ordinance.

Council inquired if a quota license is issued and the business ceases to operate, would the city lose the license. Clerk Smith stated that the city has an agreement that they request owners to sign indicating that they will return the license to the city; however, it is difficult to track licenses if they are transferred to another community and whether or not they originated from the city as one of their quota licenses.

Attorney Joppich stated that he would provide an updated legal opinion on the city agreement.

The consensus of Council was that they would prefer to allow the moratorium to expire and allow existing applicants to come before City Council for those licenses.

ADJOURNMENT

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk