

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2021 – 6:00PM

The Study Session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was held electronically and called to order by Mayor Barnett at 6:03pm. Members were asked to state their name and location (city and state) as to where they were attending the electronic meeting.

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: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Directors Gardiner and Skrobola, Police Chief King and City Attorneys Joppich and Gordon

DISCUSSION ON MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IN MICHIGAN

Attorney Joppich explained that during the last two study session at which this topic was discussed, City Council had asked him to report back on several items, which is planned to do tonight. He introduced Attorney Deban Gordon from his office that assisted him in obtaining and compiling the information being presented this evening.

Attorneys Joppich and Gordon provided information on and reviewed the following with City Council:

- Amendments that update the City Code relative to changes in state law that decriminalize the possession and use of marihuana and marihuana paraphernalia
- Civil cases that have been filed against cities, villages and townships pertaining to the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act (MMMA), Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act (MRTMA), and Michigan Medical marihuana Facilities Licensing Act (MMFLA)
- List of Michigan communities that have opted in to the MMFLA
- List of Michigan communities that have opted in to the MRTMA and those that have opted out of the MRTMA
- Summary of the State of Michigan Social Equity Program and whether Farmington Hills is eligible for participation in the program
- Determination of whether the pending court cases against the City of Warren involve a challenge relating to the “competitive” license review procedures under Section 9 of MRTMA
- Contact MRA to inquire about having one of their representatives attend a future City Council study session
- Legal findings as to whether a municipality that opts-in can include requirements for a license application to be a resident of the community and/or to already have a marijuana license somewhere else in the state
- Legal findings on whether a municipality that opts-in under the MMFLA or MRTMA can pick and choose which types of facilities it will allow and license in the community

Discussion was held on trends in other court cases. Attorney Gordon commented that there were many cases that involved communities not following their own ordinances they adopted.

Attorney Joppich talked about next steps and offered some options that included inviting industry people to present to City Council. He cautioned Council that if they do so, to keep in mind that these same people would most likely be applying for licenses if Council decides to opt in. He also offered that Council could consider doing what the MRA is doing and establish work groups in which staff would facilitate the work groups and report back to City Council.

Discussion was held on the right for anyone to circulate petitions to put forth an ordinance on a future ballot, what work groups might look like, the desire to hear more about legal challenges and safety concerns that have not yet been discussed.

The general consensus was that City Council was interested hearing more about work group options. Mayor Barnett requested City Attorney Joppich to provide City Council with options for creating work groups at a future study session on March 8, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk