

MINUTES  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 8, 2021 – 7:30 PM

The regular session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was held electronically and called to order by Mayor Barnett at 7:38pm.

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: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Directors Mondora, Monico, Schnackel and Skrobola, Police Chief King, City Attorneys Joppich and Young

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Barnett led the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA**

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was acknowledged:

-Email from Tom DeWard that has been sent on to staff and the City Attorney for follow-up

**CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION by Massey, support by Bridges, to approve consent agenda items #4 through #7, #12 and #13 as read.

Council Member Newlin inquired if the fee schedules going forward for the HAWK passholder fees will take into consideration income levels. Ellen Schnackel, Director of Special Services, answered that her department works closely with the schools and other agencies to accommodate those needs.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, to approve to approve consent agenda items #8 through #11 as read.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0-1.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Carmen Delly indicated that she works in the marihuana industry and would love to be a part of a work group discussed at the study session meeting. She encouraged Council to consider consumption lounges as part of their discussions. She also inquired about a tentative time frame for this issue moving forward and inquired if the caregiver ordinances in place would be gone if the other ordinances they are discussing were passed.

Attorney Joppich indicated that the caregiver laws will still be in place as far as they know.

Marcia Gershenson, County Commissioner, mentioned the following programs/resources offered through Oakland County:

- Summer internships
- Small business grants. She will also send this information to Clerk Smith for posting at City Hall.
- A business expo hosted by Oakland University is being held February 10<sup>th</sup>
- Student aid night February 25, 2021
- OCC Annual Scholarship. Applications are due April 15, 2021

In response to Mayor Barnett regarding an update on COVID vaccines, she suggested signing up and doing so through all avenues available.

Gerald Griffin also expressed interest in the marihuana work groups and being involved in the process.

Kristi Kelly suggested that discussion on marihuana laws are inclusive of all of the laws, including medical marihuana, as they are so closely related. She would also like to be a part of any work groups formed.

Karen Goldberg stated that she also works in the marihuana industry and likes the idea of the work groups suggested. She indicated that the main issue they run into are inconsistencies in ordinances or it being left

unclear as to what the city actually wants and so there are many follow up questions needed. She questioned the ordinances being proposed for medical marihuana.

Mayor Barnett stated that there has been some discussion surrounding the repurposing of buildings following the pandemic and the need for zoning ordinance changes to facilitate this.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following comments and announcements were made:

- Comments this evening from the marihuana industry were helpful and shows the importance of gaining that input
- Congratulations to Gary Mekjian on being selected as the new City Manager
- Recognized the Lady of Sorrows for Catholic School Week and including them in their celebration

### **CITY MANAGER UPDATE**

City Manager Mekjian provided the following update:

- Thank you to those who supported him as City Manager
- The COVID 19-Town Hall held on February 1, 2021 was recorded and a link can be found on home page of the city's website
- Tax Bills are due February 16<sup>th</sup> and he noted that there are options for paying taxes on-line for residents since city hall remains closed to the public at this time
- City Hall is officially closed on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> to all business in honor of President's Day

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **CONSIDERATION OF APPEAL OF A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) REQUEST DATED NOVEMBER 17, 2020. (TABLED FROM JANUARY 25, 2021).**

Steve Joppich, City Attorney, introduced Carlito Young from his office to present on this item.

Attorney Young explained that City Council had tabled this matter in order for him to obtain more information from the Police Officers involved as well as from Dr. Frol the applicant who was appealing the redaction of certain information from the report provided to him under the Freedom of Information Act. He indicated that after reaching out to the Officers he was able to offer to Dr. Frol the option to read the portions of the report that had been redacted in lieu of providing a copy and explained the reasons for keeping those items redacted. In return, Dr. Frol agreed to rescind his FOIA appeal. Attorney Young stated that he did read the information and Dr. Frol was satisfied with the information contained in the report and since he has rescinded the appeal, there is no further action required of City Council.

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves removing from the table discussion on the appeal of a Freedom of information Act (FOIA) Request dated November 17, 2020.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION FOR REFINANCING OF WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT BOND DEBT. CMR 2-21-16**

Karen Mondora, Director of Public Services, noted that back in 2012 City Council authorized construction of water system improvements that included the elevated water storage tank and other infrastructure to make that function at that time. The city has been advised by WRC and consultants that the bonds could be refinanced that would benefit the city.

Steve Burke, Financial Advisor for MFCI, explained that they brought two refunding options to the city for consideration that would represent a savings of approximately \$875,000 to the city's water customers; the present value would be realized over next 13 years. He noted that these bonds were issued in 2012 and 2014 and the savings is from the interest rates being lower today than when the bonds were issued.

Raphael Chirolla, Oakland County Water Resource Commission, stated that according to Mr. Burke's analysis, the two bonds would reduce the debt service by approximately \$85,000 each year until maturity and at current rates that represents ½ percent reduction in revenue requirements for debt service.

Councilmember Bridges inquired when the city would have satisfied the payments for the water tower.

Mr. Chirolla responded that the bonds issued in 2014 or refinancing as proposed would mature in 2034.

Director Mondora added that with regard to Councilmember Bridge's question on the return on investment, the city started realizing savings in 2015 from the water tower project and staff expects in the next year or two the \$16 million dollars should have been recouped in savings to the water customers.

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF OAKLAND  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

**RESOLUTION NO. R-28-21**

At a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, held on February 8, 2021.

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

ABSENT: NONE

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 342, Public Acts of Michigan, 1939, as amended ("Act 342"), the City of Farmington Hills (the "City") and the County of Oakland (the "County"), acting by and through its Water Resources Commissioner as county agency, have entered into the Oakland County Farmington Hills 2012 Water Supply System Improvements Contract, dated May 1, 2012 (said contract hereinafter referred to as the "Contract"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Contract, the County has issued its Oakland County Farmington Hills Water Supply System Bonds, Series 2012, dated August 1, 2012 (the "Series 2012 Bonds"), in the

original principal amount of \$6,800,000 and its Oakland County Farmington Hills Water Supply System Improvements Bonds, Series 2014, dated September 1, 2014 (the "Series 2014 Bonds," and together with the Series 2012 Bonds, the "Prior Bonds"), in the original principal amount of \$8,800,000. The Prior Bonds were issued to defray part of the cost of acquiring and constructing water supply facilities to improve, enlarge and extend the Oakland County Water Supply System for Farmington Hills to serve the County and the City; and

WHEREAS, the Series 2012 Bonds remain outstanding in the aggregate principal amount of \$4,555,000, mature in various principal amounts on October 1 in the years 2021 through 2034 and bear interest at rates per annum that vary from 2.00% to 3.125%; and

WHEREAS, the Series 2014 Bonds remain outstanding in the aggregate principal amount of \$6,725,000, mature in various principal amounts on October 1 in the years 2021 through 2032 and bear interest at rates per annum that vary from 2.00% to 3.00%; and

WHEREAS, the City has been advised that conditions in the bond market have now improved from the conditions that prevailed at the time the Prior Bonds were sold and that all or part of the callable Prior Bonds could be refunded at a considerable savings to the City; and

WHEREAS, it is the determination and judgment of this City Council that all or part of the callable Prior Bonds should be refunded to secure for the City the anticipated savings.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

The County is requested and authorized to issue its refunding bonds in one or more series in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$11,325,000 (the "Refunding Bonds") pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, amended, for the purpose of refunding all or part of the outstanding Prior Bonds (as shall be determined by the County Water Resources Commissioner as County Agency) and paying the costs of issuing the Refunding Bonds.

The proceeds of the Refunding Bonds shall be sufficient, together with other available funds to be contributed by the City, if any, to pay the costs of issuing the Refunding Bonds and to pay the principal of, redemption premiums, if any, and the interest on the Prior Bonds that are refunded.

The City covenants and agrees to continue to make payments to the County in accordance with the requirements of the Contract, said payments to be in amounts sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Refunding Bonds and any of the Prior Bonds that are not refunded as the same shall become due and all paying agency fees and other expenses and charges (including the county agency's administrative expenses) that are payable on account of the Refunding Bonds and those Prior Bonds that are not refunded. The City acknowledges and agrees that its obligations as set forth in the Contract shall continue for the Refunding Bonds and the County shall have all rights and remedies set forth in the Contract to enforce the obligations of the City with respect to the Refunding Bonds in the same manner and to the same extent that such rights and remedies are available with respect to the Prior Bonds.

The City specifically (but not by way of limitation) reaffirms its pledge of its full faith and credit for the payment of its obligations with respect to the Refunding Bonds and its obligation to levy taxes for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Refunding Bonds in accordance with the provisions of the Contract.

The Mayor, Clerk and Finance Director/Treasurer are each authorized, if necessary, to file an application for the State Treasurer's approval to issue the Refunding Bonds.

The Mayor, Clerk, City Manager, and Finance Director/Treasurer are each authorized to approve the circulation of a preliminary and final official statement for the Refunding Bonds, to cause the preparation of those portions of the preliminary and final official statement that pertain to the City, and to do all other things necessary for compliance with Rule 15c2-12 issued under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Rule"). The Mayor, Clerk, City Manager, and Finance Director/Treasurer are each authorized to execute and deliver such documents and certificates and to do all other things necessary to effectuate the sale and delivery of the Refunding Bonds.

The Mayor, Clerk, City Manager, and Finance Director/Treasurer are each authorized to execute a certificate of the City, constituting an undertaking to provide ongoing disclosure about the City for the benefit of the holders of the Refunding Bonds as required under paragraph (b)(5) or (d)(2) of the Rule, as applicable, and amendments to such certificate from time to time in accordance with the terms of the certificate (the certificate and any amendments thereto are collectively referred to herein as the "Continuing Disclosure Certificate"). The City hereby covenants and agrees that it will comply with and carry out all of the provisions of the Continuing Disclosure Certificate.

All resolutions and parts of resolutions, insofar as the same may be in conflict herewith, are hereby rescinded.

ADOPTED:

Yeas: Barnett, Boleware, Bridges, Knol, Massey, Newlin and Strickfaden

Nays: None

STATE OF MICHIGAN            )  
  ) SS:  
COUNTY OF OAKLAND        )

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**  
**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF PREQUALIFICATION OF CONSULTANTS FOR**  
**VARIOUS ENGINEERING SERVICES. CMR 2-21-17**

MOTION by Massey, support by Bridges, , that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the below list of pre-qualified consulting firms to provide as-needed preliminary engineering and design services, construction engineering and inspection services, right-of-way acquisition, valuation and negotiation services, geotechnical engineering, geotechnical design and material testing services, traffic engineering and design of traffic signals, and environmental engineering design and environmental services for a period of three years; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes staff to extend the pre-qualification of any or all of the firms on the approved list in on-year increments for up to four additional years after the initial three year agreement; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes staff to enter into an agreement with the most qualified Consultant as project become available.

**PRE-QUALIFICATION LIST**

**Preliminary Engineering and Design Services**

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Novi, MI  
Fleis & Vanderbrink, Farmington Hills, MI  
Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc., Bloomfield Hills, MI  
OHM Engineering Advisors, Livonia, MI

**Construction Engineering and Inspection Services**

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Novi, MI  
Fleis & Vanderbrink, Farmington Hills, MI  
Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc., Bloomfield Hills, MI  
OHM Engineering Advisors, Livonia, MI

**Right-Of-Way Acquisition, Valuation and Negotiation**

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Novi, MI  
Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc., Bloomfield Hills, MI  
OHM Engineering Advisors, Livonia, MI  
O.R. Colan Associates, LLC, Livonia, MI

**Geotechnical Engineering, Geotechnical Design Services and Material Testing Services**

G2 Consulting Group, Troy, MI  
Materials Testing Consultants, Ann Arbor, MI  
Testing Engineers & Consultants, Troy, MI

**Traffic Engineering Services and Design of Traffic Signals**

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Novi, MI  
GHD, Farmington Hills, MI  
Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc., Bloomfield Hills, MI  
OHM Engineering Advisors, Livonia, MI

**Environmental Engineering Design and Environmental Services**

Environmental Consulting and Technology, Inc., Ann Arbor, MI  
Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Novi, MI  
Fleis & Vanderbrink, Farmington Hills, MI  
Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc., Bloomfield Hills, MI  
OHM Engineering Advisors, Livonia, MI

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS FOR THE FARMINGTON HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER (THE HAWK) TO AVE SOLUTIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,062.00. CMR 2-21-18**

MOTION by Massey, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the Acting City Manager to sign an agreement and issue purchase orders for the

Maintenance Equipment & Tools for the Farmington Hills Community Center (The Hawk) to AVE Solutions for \$29,062.00.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHING 2021 PASSHOLDER FEES FOR THE NEW FARMINGTON HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER – THE HAWK. CMR 2-21-19**

MOTION by Massey, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the proposed passholder fees as outlined in the City Manager’s Report dated February 8, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE CITY’S QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT.**

MOTION by Massey, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby acknowledges the City’s Quarterly Investment Report as of December 31, 2020.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL GOALS SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2021.**

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council goals session meeting minutes of January 16, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

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



Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: STRICKFADEN

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0-1.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2021.**

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council special meeting minutes of January 19, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0-1.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2021.**

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council special meeting minutes of January 23, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0-1.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2021.**

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council special meeting minutes of January 24, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0-1.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL JOINT STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2021.**

MOTION by Massey, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council special joint study session meeting minutes of January 25, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2021.**

MOTION by Massey, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council regular session meeting minutes of January 25, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

None.

**ATTORNEY REPORT**

City Council received the Attorney Report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Massey, support by Boleware, to adjourn the regular session City Council meeting at 8:31pm.

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