

MINUTES  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL  
CITY HALL - COMMUNITY ROOM  
OCTOBER 24, 2022 – 6:00PM

The study session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Barnett at 6:00pm.

Council Members Present: Barnett, Boleware, Bridges, Bruce, Knol, Massey and Newlin

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Valentine, Director Brockway, Kettler-Schmult and Mondora, Police Chief Unruh and City Attorney Saarela

**MDOT I-696 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

Brian Travis and Jeffrey Pitt, representing Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) provided an overview of the I-696 reconstruction project between I-275 and Lahser Road including closures and how traffic flow would be maintained.

Council comments/suggestions included:

- Review of re-routing NB Orchard Lake Road traffic to 12 Mile Road EB as that could be problematic
- Improving the median area between I-696 and 12 Mile Road
- Consider allowing the bike lane on Northwestern Highway to be used as an extra lane for traffic during construction
- Inquired if there would be improvements to the Orchard Lake Road bridge
- Increasing police presence during construction and use of temporary signage
- Right hand turns only into the Hawk from 12 Mile Road if traffic will be re-routed down 12 Mile Road from Orchard Lake Road

Karen Mondora, Director of Public Services, stated that the city has made the Oakland County Road Commission aware of their concerns over the median area and with regard to work on the Orchard Lake Road bridge, the city is working with a consultant on renderings and cost estimates and with MDOT to determine if the plans could be permitted. She added that a placeholder has been including the Capital Improvement Plan budget and would occur at the end of the MDOT project with also some landscape improvements.

Brian Travis reviewed contract hours, evening work and noise impact. He noted that there would be a 24/7 phone number available for the project ombudsman.

Other suggestions for reaching out to residents included the city and school newsletters.

Mr. Travis further discussed road closures required for the bridge work that was part of the MDOT project.

Mr. Pitt noted that they will continue to communicate with the city as project impacts arise and they will listen to any community concerns. He appreciated any assistance in helping to get project information out to residents.

In response to Council, Mr. Pitt indicated that they would not be upgrading pumping stations but there are projects coming up for emergency generators for pumping stations.

A suggestion was made for vegetation other than grass on the expressway embankments.

Fire Chief Unruh suggested a meeting with MDOT to address response time concerns and gaining access during road closures.

**THE EMERSON COMMERCIAL REHABILITATION DISTRICT REQUEST**

Cristia Brockway, Director of Economic Development, discussed the proposed Emerson project for which Council approved a PUD in January 2022. She mentioned that staff also has discussed with the developer a request for a Commercial Rehabilitation District that appears to be appropriate within the designated boundaries.

Some concern was expressed that Council was seeing this request for the Commercial Rehabilitation District for the first time at study session and then are being asked to approve the Resolution to establish the District at the regular meeting.

It was clarified that the public hearing would be held this evening at the regular meeting and the resolution would come back to City Council for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:17pm

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk