

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER
JULY 25, 2022 – 7:30 PM

The regular session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Barnett at 7:37pm.

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

Council Members Absent: Bridges

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Valentine, Directors Mondora, Monico, Randle, Schnackel and Skrobola, Police Chief King and City Attorney Joppich

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Matt Strickfaden led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA

MOTION by Bruce, support by Newlin, to approve the agenda as published.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Councilmembers acknowledged the following correspondence:

- Letter from a resident who was frustrated with the rules for allowing recreational vehicles on property. This was forwarded to the City Manager's Office to have the Planning Commission review and consider a revision.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Knol, support by Massey, to approve the consent agenda as read.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: BRIDGES

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Oakland County Commissioner Marcia Gershenson stated that she has been redistricted out of the Farmington Hills area but is still around and will be running for re-election in November.

She reported the following:

- Education Navigators have been assigned at several universities including OCC, Oakland University and Baker College to assist people in navigating the paperwork and finances in order to go back to school. More information can be found on the Oakland County website at www.oakgov.com

- The County's first virtual tax foreclosure auction is being held and will end August 12th. More information can be found on the county website through the Treasury Department
- Walled Lake Consolidated Schools District is holding a job fair Thursday, August 4th from 10am-2pm.

Mayor Barnett mentioned the Michigan Reconnect Program where people 25 years and older who have never attended college could attend for free.

Pamela Gerald, Southfield resident, addressed the discussion regarding the Police Department training targets and the fine job of the Police Chief in handling that discussion. She commented on the transparency dashboard but stated that most people would not understand the statistical data and the approach by the city should be holding town hall meetings asking residents about their experiences in the city and the citizens should be asking how they can assist the police department rather than disparage the department. She suggested a citizens academy and taking the approach of DEI and putting inclusion first rather than diversity.

Mayor and Council members responded that the Police Department has a citizens academy and many of them have attended the academy and felt it was an excellent program.

Dr. Wendy Webster Jackson, Samoset Trail, commented on the positive experiences she has had with the Farmington Hills Police Department. She also addressed the issue of the deer population as several residents have come to her with concerns. She stated that other areas have done culls and she is not certain if Farmington Hills has considered that option or not but the meat can then be processed and donated to those in need.

Mayor Barnett commented that the Assistant City Manager has been working with other communities on a regional approach to the deer population and could provide more information to Ms. Webster-Jackson following the meeting.

Matt Strickfaden, resident, stated that he was present to advocate on behalf of his neighbor who has experienced flooding in your yard to the septic field and up to her house. He stated that she has been living with this issue for the past 28 years and asked the city to assist her with this matter.

City Manager Mekjian stated that this was brought to his attention this morning and he is following up with staff and hopes to have a solution for the resident. He noted that a vast majority of the rouge river is not public property so staff will need to review not only her property but make sure that other properties are also not adversely affected.

Assistant City Manager Valentine discussed the log jams in the river at Heritage Park and how the city is addressing that issue and concerns with flooding in the area.

Bill Mentz, resident of Eastfield, commented on the negative publicity of the Police Department and the division that this can cause. He mentioned that the city is one of the most diverse cities and the ACLU and Anti-Defamation League came back stating that there were no concerns after reviewing the matter of the targets. He stated that the city does not need more division and while residents may not always agree they need to find ways to get along. He stated that the City Council and staff has always responded to any of his concerns or questions and he thanked Police Chief King, all of public safety and the City Council for their service.

Dixon Tyson, resident along rouge river, stated that in the process of efforts to move the water in this area he has lost 12 feet of property and would like some assistance. He also received a water bill from Oakland County that was more than a family of 5 living near him and he is on a well.

Council expressed concern with the billing and felt if he was on a well and the county was unable to meter usage that he should be on minimum billing.

City Manager Mekjian explained how the billing works and asked Mr. Tyson to provide his name and number to staff so they can review his issue and ability to perhaps qualify for assistance programs.

Mayor Barnett asked for a future update from GLWA on the billing procedures and minimum billing.

COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council made the following comments and announcements:

- Farmington SAFE is hosting their annual Softball Tournament on August 6th at Founders Sports Park starting at 9am.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

City Manager Mekjian gave an update on the SiFi groundbreaking to provide city-wide fiber to homes that should begin next spring.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RETENTION OF MILLER CANFIELD FOR SPECIAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR INDEPENDENT LEGAL REVIEW OF SITUATIONAL AWARENESS POLICE TRAINING. CMR 7-22-67

Steve Joppich, City Attorney, explained that this item was a follow up to the discussion held at the June 27th City Council meeting regarding the Police Department training targets and council request for a legal review of the situational awareness training for that department. Staff reviewed options for organizations that could take on this legal review and Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, LLC is being recommended. Michelle Crockett from Miller Canfield attended the study session meeting prior to this regular session to discuss the scope of the review and would serve as lead on the legal review.

MOTION by Massey, support by Bruce, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the retention of Miller Canfield as special legal counsel for purposes of undertaking the independent legal review of the situational awareness police training and providing the City Council with one or more legal review reports relating to same, and to authorize the City Manager to sign the Engagement Letter submitted by Miller Canfield for such purposes.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR ANALYSIS OF SITUATIONAL AWARENESS TRAINING, TRAFFIC STOPS AND CITATIONS AND ARRESTS WITH WINBOURNE CONSULTING IN A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$121,110 PLUS TRAVEL EXPENSES AS REQUIRED. CMR 7-22-68

Mayor Barnett commented that this item was also on the study session agenda prior to the regular session and there was not interest amongst Council to move forward with this agreement at this time. She anticipated this issue coming before Council at a future meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF 2 GROUND LEASE AGREEMENTS AND SMART CITIES AGREEMENT WITH SIFI NETWORKS FOR 15 YEARS WITH RENEWALS; AND APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO I.T. SERVICES INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF FARMINGTON FOR 5 YEARS WITH ADDITIONAL RENEWAL TERMS. CMR 7-22-69

MOTION by Knol, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves and authorizes the City Manager and City Clerk to sign both ground lease agreements with SiFi Networks and the Smart Cities agreement with SiFi Networks for fifteen (15) years with automatic renewal upon mutual agreement for up to three (3) additional and separate five(5) year terms and the amendment to I.T. Services Interlocal Agreement with the City of Farmington remains five (5) years with additional renewal terms with fees increased from the previous year by the rate of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 3% whichever is less.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD ON CONTRACT FOR THE THIRTEEN MILE ROAD WATER MAIN EXTENSION PROJECT TO BRICCO EXCAVATING COMPANY, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$761,563. CMR 7-22-70

MOTION by Knol, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the award of the Thirteen Mile Road Water Main Extension Project to the lowest competent bidder, Bricco Excavating Company, LLC of Oak Park, Michigan in the amount of \$761,563.00; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes the City Manager and the City Clerk to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FOR THE ISKCON TEMPLE TO HOLD A FESTIVAL AUGUST 19-21, 2022.

MOTION by Knol, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves a Special Event Permit for the Iskcon Temple Annual Festival of Janmashtami to be held on Friday, August 19 through Sunday, August 21, 2022 from 10:00am to 9:30pm, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- There shall be no parking within 20' of any tent and the west drive shall remain clear from Grand River to Lochdale for emergency vehicles
- Egress shall be maintained throughout the building

- Fire lanes shall not be blocked or restricted
 - a. Temporary “NO PARKING FIRE LANE” signs shall be put up along Lochdale and Independence Office Drive from 8/19/22 to 8/21/22
- Cooking/open flame devices shall not be used under tents
- Proponent must contact Fire Prevention to schedule an inspection prior to beginning the event
- Event shall comply with minimum Fire Prevention requirements
- An electrical permit with final inspection is required
- An overflow parking plan is suggested but not a requirement for the permit
- And subject to all conditions outlined by the Police Department upon final review of that department

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF RESCHEDULING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS OF AUGUST 8, 2022 TO AUGUST 15, 2022 AND SEPTEMBER 26, 2022 TO SEPTEMBER 19, 2022.

MOTION by Knol, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby reschedules the regular City Council meetings of August 8, 2022 to August 15, 2022 and September 26, 2022 to September 19, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR A HEALTHY LIVING COACH/GYM COORDINATOR.

MOTION by Knol, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the request for employment under Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Hunter Montgomery as a Healthy Living Coach/Gym Coordinator in the Special Services Department. Hunter is the husband of Deb Montgomery, who is a Healthy Living Coach in the Special Services Department.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FOURTH QUARTER FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT AND QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT.

MOTION by Knol, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby acknowledges the Fourth Quarter Financial Summary Report and Quarterly Investment Report.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2022.

MOTION by Knol, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council study session meeting minutes of July 11, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2022.

MOTION by Knol, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council regular session meeting minutes of July 11, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

CLOSED SESSION

CONSIDERATION APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS FOR POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (POAM), COMMAND OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (COAM) AND MICHIGAN FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LABOR COUNCIL (NOTE: COUNCIL WILL RETURN TO OPEN SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CLOSED SESSION TO TAKE ACTION IF NEEDED AND TO CLOSE THE MEETING).

Mayor Barnett announced that City Council will return to open session immediately following the closed session to take action if needed and to close the regular meeting.

MOTION by Knol, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves entering into a closed session to discuss Collective Bargaining Agreements for Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM), Command Officers Association of Michigan (COAM) and Michigan Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: BRIDGES

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Council entered back into regular session immediately following the closed session at 9:51pm.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, to adjourn the regular session City Council meeting at 9:52pm.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk