

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 23, 2021 – 7:30 PM

The regular session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Barnett at 7:35pm.

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

Council Members Absent: Bridges

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Valentine, Directors Monico and Schnackel and City Attorney Joppich

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barnett led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA

MOTION by Massey, support by Strickfaden, to approve the agenda as amended, with the addition of item #9a Recommended approval of request for employment under section 10.01A of the City Charter.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: BRIDGES

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2021 AS SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

The following Proclamation was read by Council Member Massey:

**PROCLAMATION
Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
September 2021**

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2019 over 47,500 Americans died by suicide, which means there was one death by suicide every eleven minutes, and there were an estimated 1.38 million suicide attempts; and

WHEREAS, suicide rates increased 33% between 1999 and 2019, and suicide is now the 10th leading cause of death overall in the United States; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the second leading cause of death for people ages 10 to 34, the fourth leading cause among people ages 35 to 54, and the eighth leading cause among people ages 55 to 64; and

WHEREAS, suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion, or background; and

WHEREAS, we can reduce these disturbing statistics through public awareness, education, and treatment, which all play a crucial role in preventing this tragic problem that causes loss of life, and terrible suffering for the families and loved ones left behind; and

WHEREAS, Farmington SAFE (Suicide Awareness For Everyone) is dedicated to making a difference by empowering community members, bringing the stigmatized topics of depression and suicide out into the open, and connecting those who need mental health assistance to the many resources that are available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Vicki Barnett, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim September 2021 as **Suicide Prevention Awareness Month** in the City of Farmington Hills and encourage community members to “Talk About It” in order to raise awareness of depression and suicide and work together to prevent this tragic loss, which greatly impacts families and communities.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2021 AS NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

The following Proclamation was read by Council Member Newlin:

**PROCLAMATION
National Recovery Month
September 2021**

WHEREAS, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, over 20 million people in the United States age 12 or older have a substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control reported that 70,630 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States in 2019, which represents an increase of over 4% compared to 2018; and

WHEREAS, synthetic opioids other than methadone are currently the main driver of drug overdose deaths, showing that further education and awareness is needed about the risks and potential harm associated with prescription drug misuse; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorders occur when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes clinically or functionally significant impairment, such as health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home; and

WHEREAS, stigma and stereotypes associated with substance use disorders often keep people from seeking treatment that could improve their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorder recovery efforts benefit both individuals and their communities by focusing on the person’s ability to live, work, learn, and fully contribute to society.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Vicki Barnett, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim September 2021 as **National Recovery Month** and call upon our citizens, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to increase their awareness and understanding of substance use disorders and the need for appropriate and accessible services to promote recovery.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was acknowledged:

- Email from a resident inquiring about the status of the public hearing for the gravel road conversion to paving for their subdivision
- Email from Charles Blackwell claiming the city was in violation of the Open Meetings Act as the city did not disclose the name or title of the person requesting a review in closed session.
- Emails received from Mr. DeWard regarding unclaimed funds and that has been turned over to staff.

With regard to the email from Mr. Blackwell claiming a potential violation of the the Open Meetings Act (OMA), City Attorney Joppich explained that the closed session held pertained to a personnel review which is permitted under closed session per the OMA and that purpose was clearly stated in the motion and minutes. Mr. Blackwell stated that he believed the name or title of the person being evaluated should have been included in the motion. Mr. Joppich read the portion of the OMA pertaining to this matter that states . . .” the roll call vote and the purpose or purposes of the closed session shall be entered into the minutes of the meeting at which the vote was taken”; and that is what occurred. He noted that there was also no case law that addresses this section of the OMA. Attorney Joppich stated that there is nothing wrong with stating the employees name or position and after speaking to the City Clerk the city will try to do that going forward in an effort to be more transparent even though it is not required. He also clarified that there was nothing wrong with the action taken by Council at that previous meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Oakland County Commissioner Marcia Gershenson provided the following update for Oakland County:

- A drive-up food distribution center will be held at the Oakland County Farmer’s Market on Wednesday, August 25, 2021.
- Veterans Resource Fair will be held Thursday, August 26, 2021 from 9am until 12noon
- Various mental health resources are available at www.oakgov.com such as the warn line and Oakland County on-call nurse

COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Council Members comments or announcements.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

City Manager Mekjian provided the following update:

- The 2020 Census data is available
- Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation is currently conducting an on-site assessment of the Police Department as part of the Department's accreditation process and citizen input is welcome
- DTE is supposed to be holding public education meetings in mid-September
- 3G wireless will not be supported by the end of the year and those with 3G will not be able to dial 911
- Deer management meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2021 at the Hawk
- Residents that lost power may be eligible for a refund through DTE

Councilmember Knol requested a report from DTE on the number of households that were out, how long they were out of power, when and the cause of the power outage (trees, infrastructure, etc). She commented that Farmington Hills is an older community and she wants to ensure that DTE is investing in the city's infrastructure.

Mayor Barnett stated that DTE has filed a draft plan as required with the Michigan Public Service Commission that included brining power stations up to date but that the city did remind them not to build to current standards but plan for future needs.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

MOTION by Knol, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby confirms the Mayor's recommendations for the following appointments:

Committee to Increase Voter Participation

	Length of Term:	Term ending:
Dawn Raymond	3 years	February 1, 2024

Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees

	Length of Term:	Term ending:
Ernie McClellan, Jr.	Unexpired term	February 1, 2022
Kathie Brown	Unexpired term	February 1, 2023

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF FLEET VEHICLES WITH SIGNATURE FORD FOR NINE VEHICLES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$324,746, BERGER CHEVROLET FOR TWO VEHICLES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$59,858, AND TODD WENZEL BUICK GMC FOR EIGHT VEHICLES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$278,627. CMR 8-21-81

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue purchase order(s) as follows:

- 1) To Signature Ford for nine (9) vehicles in the amount of \$324,746
- 2) To Berger Chevrolet for two (2) vehicles in the amount of \$59,858
- 3) To Todd Wenzel Buick GMC for eight (8) vehicles in the amount of \$278,627

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE PRESSURE REDUCING VALVE (PRV) VAULTS PROJECT TO TROJAN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$716,136.89. CMR 8-21-82

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) Vaults Project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Trojan Development Company, Inc. in the amount of \$716,136.89; and

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND CITY HALL STRUCTURAL REPAIRS TO RAM CONSTRUCTION SERVICES OF MICHIGAN, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$47,000. CMR 8-21-83

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Police Department and City Hall Structural Repairs Project be awarded to RAM Construction Services of Michigan, Inc. in the amount of \$47,000; and

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF PROPOSAL FOR BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER STUDY PHASE 2 TO PUBLIC SECTOR CONSULTANTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$78,815. CMR 8-21-84

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to approve the contract for Phase 2 of a Business Innovation Center Study with Public Sector Consultants in the amount of \$78,815.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the request for employment under Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Dillon Cotton as a Hawk Gymnasium Coordinator in the Special Services Department. Dillon is the son of Dennis Cotton, who is a Healthy Living Coach in the Special Services Department.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the request for employment under Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Stephanie Sawyer as an Aquatic Specialist in the Special Services Department. Stephanie is the sister of Fana Rombou, who is an Aquatic Programmer in the Special Services Department.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 9, 2021.

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council study session meeting minutes of August 9, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING
MINUTES OF AUGUST 9, 2021.**

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council regular session meeting minutes of August 9, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Massey, support by Strickfaden, to adjourn the regular session City Council meeting at 8:12pm.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk