

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER
FEBRUARY 24, 2025 – 7:30 PM

The regular session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Rich at 7:34PM.

Council Members Present: Aldred, Boleware, Bruce, Dwyer, Knol, and Rich

Council Members Absent: Bridges

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian; Assistant City Manager Mondora; City Clerk Lindahl; Directors Aranowski, Brown, Kettler-Schmult, Rushlow, and Schnackel, Police Chief Piggott, Fire Chief Unruh, and City Attorney Joppich

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Allison and John Piggott, children of Interim Police Chief Piggott, led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA

Council Member Knol requested that item 6 be postponed to the March 3, 2025 meeting in order to allow time for revisions to ensure the ordinance language is clear and accurately reflects the intent of expanding designated areas in Heritage Park for signature collection.

MOTION by Knol, support by Dwyer, to approve the agenda as amended, postponing item 6 to the March 3, 2025 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS FROM CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS
OAKLAND COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

Mayor Rich read the notice from Robert Wittenberg, Oakland County Treasurer, regarding Oakland County Treasurer's Office Foreclosure Prevention:

"The Oakland County Treasurer's Office is in the final stretch of our foreclosure prevention efforts. The tax foreclosure deadline for the 2022 and/or prior year taxes is on March 31, 2025. That means if these taxes aren't paid off by March 31st or any interested party hasn't entered into a repayment schedule with the Treasurer's office by then, the property will be foreclosed.

"Since December of 2024, the Treasurer's office has conducted over a thousand Taxpayer Assistance Meetings to assist taxpayers with keeping their properties by working with them to get on a repayment schedule and/or by identifying resources that may be beneficial to them and their situation. We are here to help and strongly encourage taxpayers to contact us before the tax foreclosure deadline if they have delinquent taxes for 2022 and/or prior tax years. Taxpayers interested in scheduling a Taxpayer Assistance Meeting may call us at 248-858-0611 or they may visit www.oakgov.com/treasurer."

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION TIP OF THE MONTH

Emergency Preparedness Commission members Sean Thomas and Michael Sweeney noted that February is National Heart Month in Michigan and emphasized the importance of learning CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) to help save lives during heart attacks. The Farmington Hills Fire Department offers free CPR, AED, and Stop the Bleed training classes on the fourth Thursday of most months. These classes are free for Farmington Hills residents, with a small fee for non-residents and an additional charge for certification. The training, conducted by professional firefighters, is held at Fire Station No. 4 on Drake Road. Residents are encouraged to register by emailing fdevents@fhgov.com or calling 248-871-2800. Having CPR training can help save lives and improve recovery outcomes for those experiencing a cardiac event.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council Member Boleware acknowledged receiving emails from residents regarding petition signature gathering. She also received multiple emails regarding the Costick Center, with residents urging the City Council to listen to their concerns and requesting that consultants engage directly with seniors who use the facility. Additionally, she received a request from Mr. Greenwood seeking clarification on voter participation data and whether his voting choices could be identified. She will forward this inquiry to the City Clerk. Lastly, a member of an adult cycling group submitted recommendations to improve crosswalk safety for cyclists, which she will forward to the City Manager.

Mayor Rich had also received an email regarding the Costick Center, which she forwarded to the City Manager.

Mayor Rich noted that Council received an email from Mr. Tom DeWard regarding transparency and public comment practices. Mayor Rich informed him that all council meetings are televised, livestreamed, and available on the City's YouTube channel.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Knol, support by Bruce, to approve consent agenda items 7 through 13.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

None.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Bruce said he would be having his monthly coffee hour at Panera Bread at Halsted and 12 Mile at 10:00am on Saturday and invited anyone who wanted to discuss issues in the City to join him.

Mayor Rich said that over 40 couples representing over 1,000 years of marriage participated in the "I DO STILL" vow renewal at Longacre House, with WNIC providing coverage.

The next "Walk the Hawk" will be Tuesday, March 4, at noon, on the third floor of The Hawk.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

City Manager Mekjian provided the following update:

- He has followed up relative to the email forwarded from the Mayor regarding the Costick Center. He noted that the City's consultants are involved and engaged, and their engagement with the seniors who use the Costick Center is part of their contract. A member of the consultant team will be at tomorrow's Commission on Aging meeting. City Administration has committed to put alternatives before Council by the end of the fiscal year, July 1, 2025 regarding next steps relative to the Costick Center.
- He thanked Public Services crews for their work clearing snow from major and local roads last weekend.
- He noted that cold and flu season has impacted the community and shared that a city employee contracted pneumonia, which was later transmitted to a family member who, due to underlying health issues, sadly passed away. He expressed appreciation for the strong support provided by the Farmington Hills team to their colleague during this difficult time. Recognition was also given to the Police Benevolent Fund for its contribution toward the family's funeral arrangements, with special thanks to Council Member Dwyer and others involved.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF JOHN PIGGOTT TO CHIEF OF POLICE. CMR 2-25-24

MOTION by Bruce, support by Dwyer, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the appointment of John Piggott as Chief of Police, pursuant to the recommendation of appointment by City Manager, Gary Mekjian.

Mayor Pro Tem Dwyer expressed support for the appointment of new Police Chief Piggott, noting that he had the privilege of hiring him 29 years ago and strongly supported his promotion. He commended Chief Piggott's leadership, dedication, and deep connection to both the department and the community, highlighting his extensive training, education, and progression through the ranks from cadet to deputy chief. Council Member Dwyer emphasized that law enforcement is a family affair and recognized the support of the Chief Piggott's wife and family – many of whom were present this evening – throughout his career and wished him success in his new role.

City Manager Mekjian said that the police chief is one of the most public-facing positions in the City of Farmington Hills, and it's vitally important to get the right person with the right skill set, the right temperament, and the right ability to do that.

Human Resources Director Brown provided an overview of the hiring process for the Police Chief position, emphasizing that the process was thorough, transparent, and aligned with the city's mission and values. The search included both internal and external candidates, with outreach conducted through national and local platforms to ensure broad accessibility. A structured two-phase interview process involved key stakeholders throughout the process. In phase one, a panel of stakeholders consisting of senior leaders including the fire chief, finance director, school superintendent, court administrator, and union representatives from the police department participated in the interviews. In phase two the top two candidates participated in interviews with the City Manager, Assistant City

Manager, and HR Director.

After careful evaluation, the position was offered to internal candidate John Piggott, who has demonstrated strong leadership, commitment to the city's succession plan, and the ability to uphold the city's mission and values while fostering collaboration and community engagement.

Council Members and the Mayor commended incoming Police Chief Piggott for his long and distinguished career in the city and acknowledged the legacy of his predecessors. They praised Chief Piggott's dedication to community policing, officer training, and ensuring the safety of both residents and department personnel. They expressed confidence in the Chief's ability to continue making Farmington Hills one of the safest cities in the state while providing justice for all people in the community and encouraged him to reach out for support as needed.

Council Member Boleware also affirmed her commitment to supporting the new Police Chief and ensuring he upholds the city's values and policies. However, she expressed reservations about the hiring process, citing the lack of input from residents including groups such as the Citizens Police Advisory Council, and limited interaction with Council.

Chief Piggott thanked Council and everyone who had come out this evening, including his family. He spoke to the dedication and standard of excellence of the men and women in the department and affirmed his desire to do his best in service to the Farmington Hills community.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: BOLEWARE

Absent: BRIDGES

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 5-1.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AWARD OF GENERAL CONTRACTOR FOR THE FIRE STATION #5 ADDITION AND RENOVATION TO MIDWEST CONTRACTING COMPANY, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,959,766.52. CMR 2-25-25

Fire Chief Unruh, Deputy Fire Chief Olszewski, Central Services Director Aranowski, and Heather Teeling, Lindhout Associates Architects, were present on behalf of this request for approval of award of general contractor for the Fire Station No. 5 addition and renovation.

Utilizing a Power Point presentation, Fire Chief Unruh, Director Aranowski and Consultant Teeling provided information on the award of the general contractor for the fire station addition and renovation project, funded in part by a \$3 million state grant secured in April 2024. The project aims to address overcrowding at fire headquarters, modernize facilities, and construct a dedicated Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to improve disaster response capabilities. The renovation will add 2,563 square feet of new space and update 2,899 square feet, replacing shared cubicles with individual offices, updating mechanical and electrical systems, and integrating modern audiovisual technology. After reviewing 11 competitive bids, the city selected Midwest Contracting Company for the project at \$1,866,444.30, with a 5% contingency for unforeseen issues. During construction, the fire department's

administrative staff will relocate to the third floor of The Hawk facility. Construction is scheduled to begin by April 1st and should conclude within 18-25 weeks, allowing Fire Administration to move back to Fire Station #5 before next winter.

MOTION by Boleware, support by Aldred that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue a purchase order to Midwest Contracting Company, LLC of Fenton, MI. in the amount of \$1,866,444.30 with an additional 5% City contingency (\$93,322.22) for a total of \$1,959,766.52 for General Contractor for Fire Station #5 Addition and Renovation.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE INNOVATION, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION.

MOTION by Aldred, support by Knol that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby confirms the Mayor's recommendation to appoint the listed individuals to the following Commission:

Innovation, Energy, and Environmental Sustainability Commission

Tony Reames	Length of Term: 3 years	Term ending: February 1, 2028
Chandra Koganti	Length of Term: 3 years	Term ending: February 1, 2028
Taimoor Khan	Length of Term: 2 years	Term ending: February 1, 2027
Ken Snodgrass	Length of Term: 2 years	Term ending: February 1, 2027
Bernard Hooper	Length of Term: 1 year	Term ending: February 1, 2026
Elliot Zelter	Length of Term: 1 year	Term ending: February 1, 2026

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR GRAVEL AND AGGREGATE MATERIALS TO ELLSWORTH INDUSTRIES IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED THE ANNUAL BUDGETED AMOUNT, WITH APPROVED EXTENSIONS NOT-TO-EXCEED A TOTAL OF FOUR (4) YEARS. CMR 2-25-26

MOTION by Knol, support by Bruce, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to approve the required contracts and purchase orders to Ellsworth Industries for gravel and aggregate materials not-to-exceed the annual budgeted amount with one or more administration approved extensions not-to-exceed a total of four (4) years.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: BRIDGES

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR AS-NEEDED TRANSIT MIX CONCRETE TO MESSINA CONCRETE IN THE AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED THE ANNUAL BUDGETED AMOUNT, WITH APPROVED EXTENSIONS NOT-TO-EXCEED A TOTAL OF FOUR (4) YEARS. CMR 2-25-27

MOTION by Knol, support by Bruce, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to approve the required contracts and purchase orders to Messina Concrete for transit mix concrete in the amount not-to-exceed the annual budgeted amount with one or more administration approved extensions not-to-exceed a total of four (4) years.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: BRIDGES

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE WOODCREEK HILLS SUBDIVISION ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO FLORENCE CEMENT COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,518,903.93. CMR 2-25-28

MOTION by Knol, support by Bruce, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Woodcreek Hills Subdivision Road Reconstruction Project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Florence Cement Company of Shelby Twp., Michigan, in the amount of \$3,518,903.93; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Manager and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the

contract on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE FARM MEADOWS AND CAMELOT COURT SUBDIVISION CONCRETE RECONSTRUCTION PHASE I TO HARD ROCK CONCRETE, INC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,516,829.80. CMR 2-25-29

MOTION by Knol, support by Bruce, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Farm Meadows and Camelot Courts Subdivision Reconstruction Phase I be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Hard Rock Concrete, Inc of Westland, Michigan, in the amount of \$3,516,829.80; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Manager and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE SINACOLA COURT INDUSTRIAL ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO HARD ROCK CONCRETE, INC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$965,402.71. CMR 2-25-30

MOTION by Knol, support by Bruce, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Sinacola Court Industrial Road Reconstruction Project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Hard Rock Concrete, Inc of Westland, Michigan, in the amount of \$965,402.71; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Manager and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2025.

MOTION by Knol, support by Bruce, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council study session meeting minutes of February 10, 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2025.

MOTION by Knol, support by Bruce, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council regular session meeting minutes of February 10, 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, DWYER, AND KNOL
Nays: NONE
Absent: RICH
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Rich reviewed the process and rules relative to public comment.

- Steve Ludwig, Farmington Hills resident, addressed various activities in the City.
- Edwin Matysiewicz, Barrington Green HOA, addressed issues relative to the ongoing cable installation by SiFi Networks. He asked that the City require SiFi installers to use turf pads under their construction equipment, so as to minimize the damage to residents' yards.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular session of City Council meeting adjourned at 8:41PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Lindahl, City Clerk