



Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2017
Conference Room
Farmington City Hall
23600 Liberty St
Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on February 6, 2017, in Farmington City Hall, Farmington, MI. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Pro Tem Steve Schneemann.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Sara Bowman	Council Member	Present	
Greg Cowley	Councilmember	Present	
William Galvin	Mayor	Absent	
Steve Schneemann	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Jeff Scott	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present

Director Christiansen
Director Demers
City Clerk Halberstadt
City Manager Murphy
Attorney Saarela

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Councilmember Cowley
SECONDER:	Councilmember Bowman
AYES:	Bowman, Cowley, Schneemann, Scott

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Dan Vargovick, Dubin Optometric Clinic, stated the parking restrictions of the city are sending the wrong message to those who are disabled. He sees two issues that need to be fixed: Farmington does not have enough handicap parking spots and employees with valid handicap permits are being ticketed for violating the 3-hour parking limit. He noted the city's remedy to the disabled is to take up the issue with the parking committee and to park in outlying lots with employees

picking each other up. He believes the answers are simple: the city should add handicap parking spaces and provide permits to disabled that allows them to park longer in 3-hour parking.

4. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT – RELAY FOR LIFE

Murphy provided an overview of the special event request. The American Cancer Society is looking for permission to hold their annual Relay for Life event at Shiawassee Park on May 19, 2017 through May 21, 2017.

Motion to approve American Cancer Society Relay for Life Special Event Request to begin May 19, 2017 and conclude May 21, 2107.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Councilmember Bowman
SECONDER:	Councilmember Scott
AYES:	Sara Bowman, Greg Cowley, Steve Schneemann, Jeff Scott

5. DISCUSS PROPOSED ADDITION TO PARKING ORDINANCE

Moving vehicles in same lot for the purpose of extending parking time – Civil Infraction

Removing or altering a parking enforcement officer's tire mark - Civil Infraction

Commander Demers provided background on both parking issues. He stated the Parking Committee has considered both matters and recommended a change in ordinance.

Bowman asked if this problem is unique to Farmington.

Responding to a question from Bowman, Demers stated that in his research he found that the City of Rochester previously had this problem before switching to metered lots.

Bowman questioned how many times this is happening.

Responding to an additional question from Bowman, Demers stated that Parking Officials have confirmed that shuffling cars from space to space within the North and South lots is a common occurrence to defeat the 3-hour parking limit.

Bowman asked if caught, would the offender receive two tickets.

Demers responded there would likely be only one violation as both are civil infractions with equal fines. However, it would be up to Council to implement a fine schedule.

Responding to a question from Bowman, Demers stated that they are confident that the issue is not with customers, but employees who are moving their cars from space to space.

Scott is disappointed that this is happening. The restrictions were put in place to be customer friendly and he's concerned that employees are looking for a way around it. He posed a question regarding employees leaving for lunch and returning to the lot.

Demers answered that an employee would need to go to a completely different lot if lots were numbered. He said that this is something Council should consider.

Cowley discussed the challenge of restricting employees from moving their cars around. He advised that once the 3-hour limit is reached they cannot park in another timed lot. He suggested they park in one of 4 untimed lots. He also recommended issuing two tickets and believes this should have been done months ago. He stated that another option is to meter the whole parking lot.

Schneemann believes the two parking issues are significantly different from one another: to remove a mark placed by an officer is deceitful; moving a car to another spot shows ingenuity. He feels that we shouldn't be surprised that people try to find a way around the parking ordinance. He cautions against continued tweaking of the ordinance. It may end up frustrating people because they lose track of what the rules are. If rules continue to change and evolve on a regular basis the city will lose public confidence. He would like to limit tweaking the ordinance, but if changes are necessary there should be a grace period.

Demers stated that when a change occurs they usually give a two week grace period before issuing a ticket.

Responding to a question by Schneemann, Demers affirmed that every lot that is time-limited is clearly signed, but not numbered.

Schneemann would like to have more specific language regarding each lot in order to reduce the public confusion.

Scott asked regarding the clarity of wayfinding signs in terms of timed and untimed lots. He suggested the Downtown Development Authority consider additional signage.

Responding to a question from Bowman, Demers advised State Law allows communities to subject handicap spaces to timed parking.

Murphy advised the handicap parking issue will go to the parking committee for consideration.

Murphy asked what changes Council would like to see made to the ordinance.

Cowley expressed support for issuing two tickets. He wants there to be only one shot in a timed lot. Once someone has reached the 3-hour limit they are no longer able to park in a timed lot.

Scott would support not allowing someone to move from one timed parking lot to another.

Bowman stated she is not ready to create more parking laws. She does not support double tickets. She also does not support ticketing someone who moves their car. She believes there needs to be better signage, maps, and more education to the public as to where to park.

Schneemann's experience is that the more attractive a place becomes the laws become more draconian. He wants Farmington to be a friendly community and not to be so overbearing and punitive that we lose patronage. He does believe there is some logic to three and out rule, but the proposal could be onerous. Without the mayor in attendance, he believes they do not have full opinion of council. He didn't hear any disagreement on tire mark erasing. He would like clear delineation of the parking lots in terms of location and boundaries.

6. WATER AND SEWER FEE SCHEDULE

Christiansen presented a review of water and sewer connection fee comparisons with other cities that was briefly discussed at the December 19, 2016 City Council meeting. The purpose of this item is to discuss whether the city should update its' current water and sewer connection fees.

Cowley asked for Christiansen's recommendation as to what the fees should be.

Christiansen suggested \$1000 for a one inch residential tap and an increase of \$100 for every additional ½ inch. In addition, he recommends \$1200 per tap for residential sewer connection. For commercial, a 12" tap would be \$3200 and after that it is metered.

Cowley expressed support for Christiansen's recommendation.

Scott stated he does not want someone deterred from a sprinkler line tap due to the connection fee. He does not believe fees would be detrimental to a project.

Discussion followed regarding the number of taps for a condominium project and about adjustments for a sprinkler tap.

Responding to a question from Bowman, Christiansen clarified that this fee would be a one-time capital charge to tap into the water and sewer system, i.e. new construction.

Schneemann asked for clarification on comparable fees and when the city's fees were last changed. He expressed support for a \$1200 water fee and a \$1500 sewer fee.

Discussion followed regarding the number of fire suppression installations in the city.

Schneemann would like to add language to the city fee schedule where cost for fire suppression could be waived.

Murphy suggested that Council regroup, do more research and possibly take an average of the comparable rates.

Schneemann clarified these are strictly for tap fees only and have nothing to do with residential and commercial water bills. These fees would be for new taps, new developments and new construction.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was heard.

8. COUNCIL COMMENT

Bowman is looking forward to the joint meeting tomorrow between the City of Farmington Hills, Farmington, and Farmington Public Schools. She is interested in seeing how we can be mutually beneficial to each other.

Schneemann wished Mayor Galvin well and hopes he is on the mend.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Councilmember Cowley
SECONDER: Councilmember Bowman
AYES: Sara Bowman, Greg Cowley, Steve Schneemann, Jeff Scott

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

William E. Galvin, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Approval Date: February 21, 2017