



Regular City Council Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Monday, August 16, 2021  
Council Chambers  
23600 Liberty Street  
Farmington, MI 48335

## FINAL

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on August 16, 2021 Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, MI. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem LaRussa.

#### 1. ROLL CALL

| Attendee Name    | Title         | Status  | Arrived |
|------------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| Sara Bowman      | Mayor         | Absent  |         |
| David DeLind     | Councilmember | Absent  |         |
| Joe LaRussa      | Mayor Pro Tem | Present |         |
| Steve Schneemann | Councilmember | Present |         |
| Maria Taylor     | Councilmember | Present |         |

#### City Administration Present

Superintendent Eudy  
DDA Director Knight  
City Clerk Mullison  
City Manager Murphy  
City Attorney Saarela  
Director Warthman  
Director Weber

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 3. APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Accept City of Farmington Board and Commission Minutes
- B. City of Farmington Minutes
  - a. July 19, 2021 Special
  - b. July 19, 2021 Regular
- C. Farmington Monthly Payments Report
- D. Farmington Public Safety Monthly Report
- E. Municipal Credit and Community Credit Contract (SMART) Agreement
- F. Special Event Applications: Annual Patriot Day Ceremony
- G. Historical Commission Resignation

Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.\*\*

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Schneemann, Councilmember                |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Taylor, Councilmember                    |

### 4. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Move to approve the regular agenda as amended, removing Item 6B Miss Oakland County and Item 7C Setting Public Hearing Date for Review of the Principal Shopping District Special Assessment Roll.\*\*

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Schneemann, Councilmember              |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Taylor, Councilmember                  |

### 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Reverend Linda Seatts-Ogletree, 20965 Birchwood, expressed frustration with recent power outages.

Pam Green, 21469 Birchwood, spoke of dissatisfaction with power outages and gave suggestions for improvement.

Jeff McGowan, 21052 Larkspur, described his unhappiness with recent negative changes in power service.

## 6. PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

### A. Mutual Aid Proclamation

City Manager David Murphy described a proclamation that, on behalf of its residents, expressed sincere gratitude for the resources, time, and expertise the cities of Clawson and Livonia made available to us in helping to recover from a recent severe weather event.

### B. Main Street Oakland County Accreditation Presentation

Tim Colbeck, liaison for Farmington DDA to Mainstreet Oakland County, spoke of how accreditation has changed this year because of the pandemic. He personally attested for what he has seen and what he knows has been achieved by the Farmington DDA, and stated that he believed they were meeting and exceeding all the goals that Mainstreet Oakland County had set forth. The Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority, Kate Knight, said she values Farmington's strong partnership with Mainstreet Oakland County, and she looks forward to a great plan for the future.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Consideration to appoint a delegate for the Annual MML Convention September 22-24, 2021

The Michigan Municipal League requested that the City Council designate a delegate and an alternate, by official action, who will be in attendance at the annual meeting September 22–24, 2021. This person will be the official representative to cast the vote for the City of Farmington. They Bylaws for the League provides that each member city and village shall be equally represented and provide a vote in the election of officers and any proposals presented.

**Move to appoint Mayor Sara Bowman as Farmington's delegate for the annual MML meeting September 22-24, 2021 and Mayor Pro Tem Joe LaRussa as the alternate.\*\***

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Taylor, Councilmember                    |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Schneemann, Councilmember                |

### B. Board and Commission reappointments

LaRussa requested action on reappointments for three returning committee, commission and board members.

Schneemann recused himself from voting on the Library Board candidate as Schneeman's business is presently engaged by the Library Board. LaRussa determined that the Library Board

appointment should be moved to the next meeting at which there will be a quorum on this question and requested action on the other two appointments.

**Move to reappoint Joe Mantey to the Downtown Parking Advisory Committee for a term ending June 30, 2024; and Cheryl Blau to the Farmington Area Arts Commission for a term ending June 30, 2024.\*\***

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Schneemann, Councilmember                |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Taylor, Councilmember                    |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor              |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   | Bowman, DeLind                           |

**C. Temporary closure of The Syndicate, to the extent required by MLCC for issuance of special liquor license to DDA for the Harvest Moon Festival**

Knight explained the need to temporarily close The Syndicate Social District during the Harvest Moon Festival in order for the MLCC to issue a special liquor license for the event. Currently, Section 551 of the Code requires closure of the entire commons area within the Social District during the effective period of a special license. An amendment of Section 551 has been proposed to allow a more limited closure of the commons area during the term of the special license. It is unclear whether the amendment will be approved prior to Harvest Moon, however, if it passes, the Resolution would require whatever closure is required by state law.

Schneemann asked Knight about the Syndicate and how communication occurs between the DDA, the City, and other Syndicate entities. Knight responded that the DDA has conversations with each merchant and that notifications about the change would be posted at each establishment. She indicated that the responsibility for communicating changes falls on the DDA.

Taylor asked more about the legislation pending to allow a social district to operate in conjunction with a special event that requires a liquor license, and LaRussa asked whether there would be public notification of this temporary change. Knight said that the DDA will be having discussions at the point of purchase to those businesses that are participating in the Syndicate social district.

**Move to approve Resolution Temporarily Closing Social District for Special License Located in a Social District During the Effective Period of the Special License.\*\***

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Schneemann, Councilmember                |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Taylor, Councilmember                    |

**D. Consideration to approve Farmington Hills IT to order and oversee the installation of six switches, five upgraded wireless access points, and miscellaneous hardware to manage the flow of data for the network**

Murphy explained that for several years, City Hall workstations have been responding slowly to most programs and it has been getting progressively worse. Farmington Hills IT Manager Jack Li explained that the switches we have that manage the data flow as it traverses the network and secure the network are 10 to 15 years old and should be replaced. Additionally, the Wi-Fi at City Hall and the DPW Building is quite slow and needs an upgrade.

Schneemann asked when this issue was identified as a problem. Weber answered that upgrades had been planned but not until 2025 and that the current equipment is now no longer being supported by its manufacture. LaRussa asked that public hotspots be considered and added somewhere in the plan for improvements.

**Move to approve Farmington Hills IT to order and oversee the installation of six switches, five upgraded wireless access points, and miscellaneous hardware to manage the flow of data for the network \*\***

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Taylor, Councilmember                    |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Schneemann, Councilmember                |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Schneemann, Taylor, LaRussa              |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   | Bowman, DeLind                           |

**E. Consideration to award Shiawassee and Drake Park restroom improvement-project RFP**

Murphy reviewed planned improvements to park bathrooms, noting that increased material and labor costs have changed the cost of the project since it was projected. He requested that Council accept the Request for Proposal (RFP) submitted by Summit Company and said that a budget amendment for the project would be presented to Council at a later date.

In response to a question by LaRussa, Murphy said that he didn't think that delaying and trying to get more bids would improve the cost, given the current construction climate.

**Move to award Shiawassee & Drake Park Restroom Improvement RFP to Summit Company and allow the City Manager to execute the contract documents. The total amount for the project is for \$328,000.00.\*\***

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Taylor, Councilmember                    |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Schneemann, Councilmember                |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Taylor, LaRussa, Schneemann              |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   | Bowman, DeLind                           |

#### F. Consideration to approve payment application No. 1 for Drake Park improvements

Superintendent Eudy asked Council to approve payment for work completed on Drake Park improvements completed in July.

Taylor asked about a completion estimate, and Eudy said that it should take three to four weeks and that they hoped to finish before school starts. Schneemann asked if recent rain has caused delays, and Eudy said that it only put them a week behind.

#### Move to approve Payment Application No.1 for Drake Park Improvements to Asphalt Specialist Incorporated (ASI).\*\*

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Taylor, Councilmember                    |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Schneemann, Councilmember                |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor              |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   | Bowman, DeLind                           |

#### G. Consideration to approve payment - Change Order No.2 and Construction Estimate No.3 - for the Farmington 2020 Sidewalk Program

Eudy requested payment for work completed in Division D of the Sidewalk Program.

#### Move to approve payment to Luigi Ferdinandi & Son Cement Company for Change Order No.2 and Construction Estimate No.3 in the amount of \$156,189.09 for the Farmington 2020 Sidewalk Program.\*\*

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Schneemann, Councilmember                |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Taylor, Councilmember                    |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Schneemann, Taylor, LaRussa              |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   | Bowman, DeLind                           |

#### H. Consideration to approve construction estimate and payment No. 2 for Local Street Crack Sealing Program

Eudy reported that during the month of July, Wolverine Sealcoating has applied 58,418 pounds of crack sealer to local streets. All of priority area #1 and 35% of priority area #2 have been completed under this contract.

Schneemann asked how Wolverine's quality compared to the City's former contractor. Eudy noted that they did well, but that the former sealer used was a bit higher in quality.

**Move to approve Construction estimate and payment No. 2 to Wolverine Sealcoating for Local Street Crack Sealing Program.\*\***

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Taylor, Councilmember                    |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Schneemann, Councilmember                |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Taylor, LaRussa, Schneemann              |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   | Bowman, DeLind                           |

**I. Consideration to approve 2021 major streets pavement marking quote and allow City Administration to execute contract documents**

Eudy recommended authorizing PK Contracting to proceed with the 2021 Major Streets Pavement Marking Program. He noted that their current quote is competitive with other RFP prices but exceeds the allowable City Administration authorization amount, requiring City Council approval.

Schneemann asked about raising the allowable City Administration limit to lessen the need to bring things like this to be brought to council, considering inflation in costs across the board. He asked that Council revisit the allowable limit at a later meeting to increase it.

LaRussa asked how often this type of pavement marking is done. Eudy reported that it is an annual need, and that the markings should not be delayed until spring since they are even more necessary as the days shorten.

**Move to approve 2021 Major Streets Pavement Marking quote from PK Contracting and allow City Administration to execute contract documents.\*\***

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Schneemann, Councilmember                |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Taylor, Councilmember                    |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor              |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   | Bowman, DeLind                           |

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was heard.

**9. CITY COUNCIL COMMENT**

Taylor asked for an update on progress on the Oakland Street project. Eudy said that the plan was to start after Labor Day and to have the road milled and compacted before the snow flies, with final parts completed next spring. Murphy noted that there will be a public meeting as soon as a start date is established.

LaRussa welcomed new Deputy Clerk Halley Hilton to Farmington. He also spoke of his recent participation in a Michigan Public Service Commission meeting to address dissatisfaction and problems with DTE during recent weather events. He asked Murphy about whether the City had filed a formal complaint, or whether discovery was in process. Murphy assured him that Farmington had filed no complaint thus far. LaRussa stated that this problem is a hot topic and that he is hopeful that all this activity in the community will bring action. He noted that infrastructure is something that is taken seriously in Farmington.

Murphy mentioned that cost estimates to remove trees in our cemeteries, considered part of the recent emergency, are over his spending limit. As it was part of the emergency response, Murphy told Eudy to go ahead with the cleanup and informed Council of the action. He also said that City Administration has met with the Oakland County Road Commission about the Farmington Road Streetscape, as more funds are sought for the project.

Schneemann spoke of resident complaints of boxes and crates left out behind Fresh Thyme. Murphy said that he would look into it.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

**Move to adjourn the meeting.**

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Taylor, Councilmember                    |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Schneemann, Councilmember                |

Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.

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Joe LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem

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Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: September 20, 2021

**\*\***To view approved documents, please see the Agenda Packet link that is relevant to this meeting at <http://farmgov.com/City-Services/Government/Agendas-and-Minutes/City-Council.aspx> or contact the City Clerk.