



City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, September 18, 2017
Council Chambers
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on September 18, 2017, at 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 7:05 PM by Mayor William Galvin.

1. ROLL CALL

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

City Administration Present

Director Christiansen
Director Demers
Superintendent Eudy
City Clerk Halberstadt
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Schultz
City Treasurer Weber

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Clerk Halberstadt.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Irwin Moyna, Farmington/Farmington Hills Emergency Preparedness Commission, discussed steps that need to be taken in response to natural disasters. He announced that September is designated as National Preparedness month.

Bill Largent, Farmington Hills resident, discussed his concerns regarding a Farmington Public Library Board meeting held on August 17, 2017. He was concerned they did not adhere to the Open Meetings Act, especially as it relates to closed sessions. He believed the decision to close the café at the Twelve Mile Library was improperly made at that meeting. He requested Council review governance of that board. He noted Farmington Hills has scheduled a study session regarding this issue.

Sarah Davies, Farmington resident, requested the City discontinue parking enforcement in the downtown. She stated we should be encouraging people to come to our community. She invited everyone to the Flanders Park grand opening on September 30th.

Sue McKercher, 29072 Oak Point, Farmington Hills, concurred with the concerns expressed earlier by Mr. Largent regarding the closing of Chapters Café at the Farmington Hills Library.

Jim Bezy, owner of Chapters Café, stated he would like justification from the Library Board for why they are closing the cafe. He discussed his petition drive and the community feedback that they want to keep the café open. He stated the Library Board needs to listen to the voice of the people.

Jerry Bosler, Library Boardmember, stated all of the board members bring extensive knowledge and experience to their positions. He advised the issue of closing the café has been discussed over a long period of time. He stated that discussion was not included in the Board meeting minutes because it was minor in nature. He discussed the space the café takes up in the front of the Library. He advised they are now in the process of repurposing the Library. He noted the café contract expired in November and the Board had the right to terminate. He expressed concern that the cafe owners are conducting a smear campaign. He noted this was strictly a business decision. He further noted that the meeting mentioned by Largent was to discuss the Library Director's job performance.

Mike Degan, Farmington Hills resident, was present to support the café owners. He believed the Board has not listened to the community and their desires for the Library.

Galvin requested the City Administration look into this issue and provide Council with a future update.

4. APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Farmington Monthly Payments Report**
- B. Farmington Public Safety Monthly Report**
- C. City Council Meeting Minutes**
Special – July 24, 2017
Joint Meeting – August 15, 2017
Special – August 21, 2017
Regular – August 21, 2017
Special – September 5, 2017
- D. Accept Minutes from City's Boards and Commissions: Planning Commission, Downtown Development Authority, Emergency Preparedness Commission, Historical Commission, and Public Parking Committee**

Move to approve items on the Consent Agenda as Presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Schneemann, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Bowman, Councilmember
AYES:	Bowman, Cowley, Galvin, Schneemann, Scott

5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Move to approve the regular agenda as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Cowley, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Schneemann, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Bowman, Cowley, Galvin, Schneemann, Scott

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration to approve liquor license permit – Sri Sai Foods LLC, 37025 Grand River Ave.

Present: Linda Mayer, Attorney; Venkateswara Gutta, Business Owner

Demers advised Sri Sai Foods, LLC has applied for a Class C liquor license with Sunday Sales permit, dance permit and outdoor service with the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC). He stated as part of the approval process, the MLCC will consider the opinions of local residents, local legislative body, or local law enforcement agency with regard to the proposed business when determining whether an applicant may be issued a license or permit. He stated City Administration is recommending approval of this license.

Venkateswara Gutta spoke about bringing his Indian cuisine restaurant, Aahwana M, to the Farmington Community.

Move to approve Sri Sai Foods, LLC (DBA: Aahwana M) Michigan Liquor Control Commission request for a Class C license with Sunday sales permit, dance permit and outdoor service at 37025 Grand River Avenue.

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

B. First Reading of proposed amendment to Section 31-60 of the City of Farmington Code Of Ordinances, Prohibited Parking

Present: Todd Huffman, Chair of the Farmington Parking Advisory Committee

Huffman presented a video of traffic movement in the north parking lot and the parking availability in untimed lots. He provided data on the number of parking citations and to whom they were issued.

Responding to Schneemann, Huffman stated the ordinance does not pertain to re-parking from one parking lot to another, noting it would be a logistical nightmare.

Schneemann expressed support for not allowing re-parking within the same lot. He expressed appreciation to the Parking Committee for the amount of time and effort that went into the study.

Cowley provided background on the parking problem in the downtown. He stated most of the re-parkers are employees and employers. He stated there is a daytime parking problem where employees are eating up parking that should be reserved for customers. He spoke about the availability of untimed parking in the downtown. He stated the parking lot behind Page's Restaurant should also be part of timed parking. He commented that enforcement should be provided in all the downtown parking lots. He expressed support for the proposed ordinance.

Responding to Cowley, Demers stated a similar ordinance has implemented in the City of Rochester and it fixed their problem.

Cowley expressed support for a step increase strategy for parking violations. He would like to see a re-parking ticket that is significantly more than the current fee.

Bowman thanked the Parking Committee for the study and related data. She does not believe the ordinance clarifies that re-parking from one timed lot to another would be allowed. She noted the City is up to sixteen different ways a driver can get a parking ticket in the downtown. She asked about the number of spaces on eastbound Grand River.

Discussion followed regarding the number of spaces on eastbound Grand River, but no clear number was available.

Bowman asked about parking signage and how the City can direct people to available parking. She would like to see signage included in the conversation.

Huffman advised the Committee is working with the DDA to get more signage on untimed parking lots.

Responding to Scott, Demers stated the preponderance of offenders are employees. Scott expressed dismay that businesses think it is acceptable to allow their employees to take up parking that should be reserved for customers. He pointed out that 14(a) of the ordinance should read "Warner Street" instead of "Thomas Street". He confirmed with Huffman that drivers can re-park in the parking lot behind Page's Restaurant.

Demers discussed the background on the parking lot behind Page's Restaurant. He noted that lot was not included in the 3-hour timed parking experiment.

Scott expressed agreement with Bowman on the need for additional signage.

Galvin discussed the challenge of funding additional wayfinding signs. He stated the DDA will need to wait for the next budget cycle to add more to the downtown. He noted the "cat and mouse" parking is an ongoing issue and one that is experienced by other downtowns. He questioned why people are unwilling to walk in a walkable downtown. He expressed appreciation for the data provided by the Parking Committee which allows them to make informed decisions. He commented the owners of private lots control parking in the downtown. They own the majority whereas the City owns and manages only the minority of parking spaces.

Galvin requested the Parking Committee continue to gather data and identify more public/private relationships for parking.

Cowley asked about increasing the fee for repeat offenders

Demers – Parking violation is \$25

Responding to Cowley, Schultz stated it would take a direction from Council to City Administration to change the fee schedule to incorporate an incremental strategy.

Discussion followed regarding the number of tickets issued and receipt of payments. Demers commented that less than a third of the tickets go unpaid.

Schneemann expressed support for graduated ticket fees.

Galvin did not support changing the fee schedule, noting it would be too arbitrary and based on opinion.

Move to approve the first reading of an ordinance to amend Section 31-60 “Prohibited Parking” to add regulations prohibiting re-parking of vehicles in time-limited public parking lots and the removal of tire markings made by parking enforcement office, as amended.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Scott, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Schneemann, Mayor Protem
AYES:	Cowley, Galvin, Schneemann, Scott
NAYS:	Bowman

B. Consideration to approve construction estimate No.1 for the 2018 Smithfield Street entrance maintenance project

Eudy presented the background on this construction estimate for the Smithfield Street maintenance project.

Responding to Scott, Eudy stated there are no extras added to this project.

Galvin praised the project, noting the intersection is safer, pedestrian friendlier, and more attractive. He stated the orange cones need to be removed.

Move to approve Construction Estimate No. 1 for the US Smithfield Street Entrance Maintenance Project and authorize payment to Goretski Construction Company in the amount of \$201,488.05.

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

C. Consideration to Approve Construction Estimate No.1, for the US-16 Drain Disconnect

Eudy presented the background on this construction estimate for the US-16 Drain Disconnect.

Move to approve Construction Estimate No. 1 for the US Drain Disconnect and authorize payment to Bidigare Contractors in the amount of \$65,912.55.

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

E. Consideration to Authorize Bidigare Contractors Repair Sewer Segment 26

Eudy advised that Administrative staff and Orchard Hiltz and McCliment (OHM) recommended to proceed with the Segment 26 open cut repair using the remaining balance of funding allocated for the US-16 drain disconnects.

Move to authorize Bidigare Contractors to open cut repair Segment 26 identified in Division I of the Bel-Aire, Shiawassee, Mooney Street Sewer Rehabilitation and Improvement contract.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Schneeman, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Scott, Councilmember
AYES:	Schneemann, Scott, Bowman, Cowley, Galvin

7. DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Eudy spoke about the upcoming leaf collection program beginning on October 23rd.

Demers announced 20% of residents have signed up for NIXLE. He encouraged residents to text their zip code to 888777 to sign up.

Christiansen reviewed the courthouse proposals presented to Council at the earlier special meeting.

Murphy passed out a letter from Superintendent Heitsch concerning the Farmington Public School proposal on the November ballot.

8. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Scott spoke about Michigan Municipal League (MML) conference he recently attended. He thought the conference was informative and offered ideas for Farmington.

Bowman also stated the MML conference was beneficial. She commented on the benefits of networking. She commented that the City has an amazing hardworking staff.

Schneemann noted the number of excellent breakout sessions at the MML conference. He spoke about one of the sessions that presented the negative results of legalizing marijuana.

Cowley stated he was shocked regarding the negative results of legalizing marijuana. He spoke about his conversation with the Mayor of Birmingham regarding their parking issues in spite of having multiple parking decks. He noted Birmingham plans to change the pricing of each parking deck based on proximity to the downtown. He commented that he and his children stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, referring to a recent issue in one of the Farmington Public Schools.

Galvin read a letter from U.S. Senator Gary Peters congratulating the City of Farmington for being named one of the best downtowns in the country by the National Main Street Center.

9. CLOSED SESSION – LAND ACQUISITION

Move to enter closed session to discuss land acquisition.

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

Council took a 5 minute recess.

Council entered closed session at 8:45 p.m.

Move to exit closed session.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Cowley, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Schneemann, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Bowman, Cowley, Galvin, Schneemann, Scott

Council exited closed session at 10:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

William E. Galvin, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Approval Date: October 16, 2017