



Special City Council Meeting
 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 19, 2019
 Conference Room
 23600 Liberty Street
 Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on February 19, 2019, in 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 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Steve Schneemann.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Sara Bowman	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
William Galvin	Councilmember	Present	
Joe LaRussa	Councilmember	Absent	6:06 p.m.
Steve Schneemann	Mayor	Present	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present

City Clerk Mullison
 City Manager Murphy
 City Attorney Schultz (arrived at 6:20 p.m.)

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Move to approve the agenda as amended, adding Item 6 to review a resolution for the DDA to use video services.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED [3-1]
MOVER:	Galvin, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember
AYES:	Bowman, Galvin, Taylor
NAYS:	Schneemann
ABSENT:	LaRussa

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kate Knight, DDA Executive Director, informed Council that the DDA Board had already discussed the subject of the agenda addition at their February 6th meeting and had indicated unanimously that DDA Board meetings are already open and that there wouldn't be much benefit in broadcasting their meetings.

4. Board and Commission Interviews

a. Karlee Hamilton, Planning Commission or Community Health

Council interviewed Ms. Hamilton about her interest in serving on a board or commission. She indicated that her main interests were the Commission on Children Youth and Families and the Commission on Aging, as her background is in health care. City Manager Murphy was asked whether there were available openings in those two groups and he indicated that there were not any at this time. Ms. Hamilton indicated that she would be willing to serve on other committees if asked.

b. Eric Gensheimer, Planning Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Gensheimer was interviewed for his interest in serving on the Planning Commission or ZBA. He spoke about his interest in integrating technology in a municipality, and indicated that he is interested in knowing about and being part of what is happening in his community. Council suggested that his interest and qualifications could benefit several different areas.

5. Discussion and Consideration to Approve South Farmington Little League to Place a Sponsorship Board in Shiawassee Park

Dan Irvin, representative of South Farmington Little League, presented a proposal to put a sponsor board at Shiawassee Park to raise funds for field maintenance and improvement. He indicated that he was not asking Council for funds to redo fencing but would like support in their fundraising efforts, including the approval of a permanent donor board. LaRussa inquired about the League's present fundraising plan and Irvin detailed the next events and why the sponsor board was designed as it was. Bowman indicated that this idea would be much like the Riley Park rink and high school athletic sponsor displays and that she approves of the idea. Discussion followed about possible sign modifications.

Move to approve South Farmington Little League to put an approximate 4-foot by 8-foot sponsor board in Shiawassee Park for the purpose of supporting sponsors in order to raise funds to be used to maintain the ball fields in Shiawassee Park. This approval is subject to the city's authority to require removal of the sign at any time at its discretion and also to include that the city has final approval of the design and construction.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bowman, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	LaRussa, Councilmember

6. Introduction and Discussion of DDA Video Resolution

Galvin responded to Knight's public comment on the subject of broadcasting DDA Board meetings. He indicated that he was unaware that the issue had been addressed at a Board meeting and suggested that miscommunication and information delay by administration was to blame. He had expected that he would be notified if there was discussion planned on the topic for the DDA meeting.

He touched on many issues including the changing context of having money to spend due to the millage approval, transparency in governance, lack of communication, that the public had not been surveyed for this decision, and that many people cannot attend their meetings, including their business members. He concluded by reminding Council that he had changed aspects of Council meetings and implemented the creation of the City Manager Facebook page, and that Council can't be afraid of change and communication.

Bowman stated that she did not see this as a conversation about being afraid of change but saw this as micromanaging an independent board. She believes that a Council member does not have the authority to put items on another Board's agenda and the now available millage funds do not have anything to do with the DDA budget. She did not see the need for this and did not support it.

LaRussa was not clear on how a Council resolution would solve a communication problem with the administration. He agreed with Bowman that if one taxing authority is required to broadcast meetings, then we should require all to. He said that this resolution should not be made just to fix a singular event and suggested having a larger dialog about the immediate availability of deliberation among different taxing authorities if this was really the issue.

Taylor reminded Council that she had been calling for live video recording of meetings since before she was elected. She stated that this is not in any way a critique of the transparency of the DDA Board or their communications, but that she merely wanted to encourage them or any other boards to broadcast their meetings. She would support either this resolution or a larger discussion.

Schneemann said that the DDA had already looked at this issue and unanimously decided not to do what this resolution is asking them to do. For that reason alone, he believes that it does not make sense to move this forward. He also acknowledged that pushing this request does make some implication of wrong doing and was concerned about that. He talked about the negative value of City Council pressuring an autonomous group. He believes that this issue is coming from one source as there has been no public outcry for this.

Galvin responded that he had initiated this resolution and said that it looks like there is no support to pursue this further.

7. Other Business

Murphy asked if Council would like to push back the Board and Commission appointments planned for the following Regular meeting to the March 4th meeting and replace it on the agenda with a request for approval of an MIDC grant. Schneemann agreed.

8. Council Comment

Taylor requested a discussion or study session in the future on the topic of video communications of city-related boards.

LaRussa indicated his approval of projects such as the aforementioned Little League effort where community based ownership can help to improve the city overall.

9. Adjournment

Move to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Bowman, Mayor Pro Tem

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Steven Schneemann, Mayor

Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: March 18, 2019