



Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, June 1, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on June 1, 2020, as a Virtual Meeting via Zoom, an electronic meeting platform. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976 and electronically as authorized by Executive Order 2020-48 signed by Governor Whitmer on April 14, 2020, in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, protect the public health, and provide essential protections to vulnerable Michiganders by limiting in-person contact and the number of people interacting at public gatherings.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Mayor Bowman.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Sara Bowman	Mayor	Present	
Dave DeLind	Councilmember	Present	
Joe LaRussa	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Steve Schneemann	Councilmember	Present	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present

Superintendent Eudy
City Clerk Mullison
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Saarela
Director Weber

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Move to approve the regular meeting agenda as presented.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Schneemann, Councilmember
AYES:	LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Bowman, DeLind

3. UPDATE ON DDA EVENTS

Kate Knight, Executive Director of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, gave a report on the recent cancellation of two summer concert series, Rhythms in Riley Park and Lunch Beats.

LaRussa asked Knight which DDA events already approved by Council are still pending a decision. Knight said that it was just too early to call off the Harvest Moon Celebration, but that the DDA Board will evaluate later events in the summer per public health decisions made at that time.

Bowman noted the great cost of loss of sponsorship and all the hard work by volunteers and the DDA Board that goes into these events. She stated that, as disappointing as it was, the DDA had made the right decision for the health, safety, and well-being of everyone as the State slowly reopens.

4. DISCUSSION ON PERMITTING SPECIAL EVENTS AND PUBLIC GATHERINGS

City Manager Murphy reported on the planned process for return of employees to City Hall, considerations for city-owned property, when the County or State might allow park equipment and restrooms open. He does not think facilities ought to be rented out until later in the year because of public social distancing requirements and requested feedback from Council about when to revisit the topic. Taylor requested administration send a memo or press release to the public about the decisions made and the reasons behind the decisions.

Schneemann asked about the specifics of keeping the parks closed. Murphy stated that we cannot monitor social distancing and that there might be a false security about rentals. Murphy said the City can take precautions, but a third party rental cannot be regulated. The City doesn't have the manpower or ability to monitor compliance or sanitize facilities to the degree needed. Discussion followed about the differences between City sponsored facility usage and rental of those facilities to the public. City Attorney Saarela weighed in with information about Executive Orders that might be referred to for this topic. Schneemann requested that Council revisit this issue in 6-8 weeks and make a further decision when more information is known.

LaRussa agreed with Schneemann and suggested not taking rentals until June 30th and reassess then. He also asked administration to revisit events that had already been approved by Council for the summer such as the VegFest.

DeLind asked what the cost would be to revisit the topic in 6-8 weeks. Murphy indicated that the next scheduled meeting after the end of June would be July 20th which would be the first time to look at this after the June 30th date. He suggested postponing a decision until then with no rentals or permissions given until Council can revisit the situation.

Bowman pointed out that things have been changing minute to minute, and Farmington is doing their best to keep up with that with the health, safety, and well-being of residents at the front of the decision-making process. She noted that municipalities have the right to go above and beyond the Governor's decisions if they want to keep them through the pandemic. Bowman directed administration to bring back any events still not cancelled for review at the July 20th meeting.

5. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION REGARDING RELAXATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR REOPENING RETAIL AND RESTAURANT/BAR BUSINESSES IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Knight and Director of Economic & Community Development Kevin Christiansen presented ideas on how to find a vehicle for temporary relief from certain restrictions to make greater use of outdoor spaces, both because it can help reduce the impact of distancing and occupancy limitations and because outdoor activities might actually be preferable in some cases, due to social distancing concerns during the pandemic. They introduced a draft of a resolution that would use the City's existing "outdoor gathering" ordinance as a vehicle for a general relaxation of listed ordinance requirements without the need for filing individual Zoning Board of Appeals applications for relief on this topic. Christiansen summarized the application process along with administration response expectations.

Schneemann gave kudos to the staff for working on this and helping the business community. He stated that he was very much in favor of the resolution and asked questions pertaining to numbers of tables and specifics for delineating outdoor spaces.

LaRussa also commended city administration, saying that this resolution was a positive step signaling that Farmington is open. He thought the idea was very resourceful and asked about specifics of the graphics that had been provided in the packet. Knight indicated that the DDA will alleviate additional costs to the extent that they can by helping with barriers, roping, liquor licensing, and bulk expedition of requests sponsored by DDA. Specifics will come together with exact measurements and the DDA will work with Farmington merchants, taking social distancing requirements into consideration. Christiansen said staff might need to utilize OHM, Farmington's engineering consultants, to advise per the resolution on use. LaRussa asked what the "social district" intent was, and Knight pointed to the schematic for clarification.

Council showed support for the resolution and thanked both Knight and Christiansen for their work on this. Enhanced flexibility for Farmington's businesses and restaurants, research on other cities plans, considerations about liabilities and specifics of DDA plans for assistance, risk limitation, and case by case considerations were discussed.

LaRussa requested that the updated draft of the resolution that Council had received on that day be included in the packet that had already been posted on the website and Murphy said that it would be done.

Bowman expressed concern about what bearing this would have on restaurants and clarified that this will not impact carryout activities that might still be going on. She appreciated that retail businesses, not just restaurants, were included in the planning and also noted that this resolution and process was for businesses in the entire city, not just the downtown district.

Move to adopt Resolution Regarding Relaxation of Certain Requirements for Reopening Retail and Restaurant/Bar Businesses in Light of Covid-19 Pandemic.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	DeLind, Councilmember
AYES:	Schneemann, Taylor, Bowman, DeLind, LaRussa

6. CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT AND FILE THE FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE CITY OF FARMINGTON BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE TCF PROJECT

City Manager Murphy submitted financial reports for the period ending June 30, 2020 and asked that Council authorize them to be filed with the State Tax Commission.

Move to accept the Financial Reports for the City of Farmington Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for the Project for the year ending June 30, 2020 and authorize that they be filed with the State Tax Commission.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember
AYES:	Taylor, Bowman, DeLind, LaRussa, Schneemann

7. CONSIDERATION TO CERTIFY DELINQUENT FALSE ALARM FEES, WATER AND SEWER BILLS, AND CITY INVOICES

Director Weber requested approval to place delinquent fees, bills, and invoices on the City of Farmington tax roll in accordance with Farmington City Code. The total amount to be placed on the tax roll is \$111,984.63. Of that amount, \$110,144.63 represents delinquent water and sewer bills. The remaining \$1,840.00 represents delinquent payments for false alarm fees, grass cutting, sidewalk snow removal, and other services provided by the City.

In response to a question by Schneemann, Weber indicated that the payments that were considered late past the deadline extended by the pandemic are still considered delinquent past May 15th but will not roll to taxes until next year.

Move to approve the attached lists of delinquent false alarm fees, water and sewer bills, and invoices for placement on the Farmington Tax Roll pursuant to City Code.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Bowman, DeLind, LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor

8. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT TO FINANCE PURCHASE OF MAXFIELD TRAINING CENTER

Weber reported that City Administration issued an RFP for an installment purchase agreement. The City received 2 bids and has selected Independent Bank as the winning bid. Independent Bank's bid provided the lowest interest rate of the bidders.

Move to adopt Resolution Authorizing Installment Purchase Agreement for Maxfield Training Center.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [4-1]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Schneemann, Councilmember
AYES:	DeLind, LaRussa, Schneemann, Bowman
NAYS:	Taylor

9. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE EXPANSION OF HARTWELL CEMENT COMPANY CONTRACT FOR CEMENT REPLACEMENT ON SAXONY

Murphy reported that the City has planned \$300,000 in the Roads budget for concrete repair and crack sealing and he recommended that it be used for concrete slab replacement on Saxony between Tree Hill and Smithfield. He explained that Hartwell will be replacing the curb near 33115 Shiawassee and will already be in the area. Earlier in the year, Hartwell agreed to hold the cost of additional concrete replacement at 2018 prices. Per discussion with City Engineers, the 2018 prices remain very competitive.

LaRussa clarified the total amount of the project. Schneemann asked how likely it would be to get a grant to help with costs, and Eudy laid out his plan to submit a grant application. He expected that it was very likely to get a grant again and that it would be applied about a year from now.

Matt Parks of OHM said there should be enough funds to complete the project as they had made a conservative estimate.

Move to direct administration to expand the contract with Hartwell Cement Company of Oak Park for approximately \$300,000 of cement replacement on Saxony between Tree Hill and Smithfield in the Chatham Hills subdivision. Also, authorize the City Manager to sign the change order.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember
AYES:	LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Bowman, DeLind

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Murphy asked council if they could add an extra meeting on June 8 to have a discussion with CIB Planning concerning the Maxfield Training Center Project.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Scherle, co-owner of Browndog Barlor and Restaurant, thanked administration and Council for their unanimous support for the relaxation of requirements resolution that will help local businesses in this difficult time.

12. COUNCIL COMMENT

No Council comment was heard.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	DeLind, Councilmember

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: June 15, 2020

******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.