



**Special City Council Meeting
6:00 PM, MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015
Conference Room
Farmington City Hall
23600 Liberty St
Farmington, MI 48335**

FINAL

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A Special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on May 18, 2015, in Conference Room, 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 6:00 PM by Mayor William Galvin.

1. ROLL CALL

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

City Administration Present

City Clerk Halberstadt
City Manager Pastue
Attorney Schultz

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

4. DISCUSSION

A. City Manager's Recommendation to Consider Charter Amendment to Increase City Council Compensation

Pastue stated that it has been sixteen years since City Council's compensation

has been increased and on review of other like communities he believed Farmington was on the light side. He recommended Council place on the November 2015 ballot a charter amendment to increase the compensation from \$1800 to \$3000 per year. He believed the level of community engagement of Farmington City Council members is dramatically more than that of other communities.

Pastue suggested Council consider an ad hoc committee to review the increase amount and instruct the City Attorney to prepare the necessary draft ballot language.

Schneemann stated it sounded logical to review City Council compensation. He pointed out some pros and cons about pursuing a possible increase, including broadening interest in serving on Council.

Scott indicated he is on Council to serve the community, not for financial benefit. He did not see a need for an increase except possibly for the position of Mayor, which serves as the face of Farmington and is called on to do more than other Council members.

McShane stated her belief that serving on Council was more of a volunteer position. She did not see a need to increase compensation, but would go along with Council if they deemed an increase for the Mayor was appropriate.

Cowley asked if the increase was in the budget. Pastue responded it would not happen this year, but could be incorporated into the next fiscal year budget. Cowley noted he puts in approximately 40 hours a month on Council related issues. He speculated that an increase could attract more interest in serving.

Galvin asked regarding the composition of the ad hoc committee. Pastue responded that in the past the committee included the City attorney, City Clerk, and a former Mayor. Schneemann added a Councilmember should be included in the mix.

Galvin expressed support for looking into this issue, especially in light of the information provided regarding compensation provided in other communities. He noted additional obligations of the Mayor. He pointed out that it would be the voters who would determine whether or not Council should receive an increase.

He then queried Council as to any opposition in referring this issue to the ad hoc committee.

There was Council consensus to refer this issue to the committee.

B. Addition of a Tuesday Farmers Market

Pastue presented a proposal to add a Tuesday Farmers Market in the Riley Park Pavilion from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. for ten to twelve weeks beginning in July.

Scott asked if Fresh Thyme's approval was required and Pastue responded in the

negative. He inquired about parking of the trailers and further discussion was held.

Responding to a question from McShane, Pastue stated about ten to twelve vendors selling fruits and vegetables is planned. McShane expressed support for the Tuesday market stating it would be good for the community.

Cowley expressed his support as well.

Responding to a question from Schneemann, Pastue stated there would be only minimal use of the grassy area of the park.

Schneemann also expressed his support for the market.

Scott drew a comparison of the proposed Tuesday Farmers Market's impact on local businesses and that of food trucks.

Further discussion was held and it was agreed to move forward with this project on a trial basis starting in July.

5. REVIEW OF ITEMS ON THE REGULAR AGENDA

A. Consideration to Approve Amendment to Planning and Zoning Fees

Pastue discussed the proposed increase to Planning and Zoning fees, noting they have not been updated since the 1990's. He stated the proposed rates are reasonable relative to those of other communities and what has been historically provided. He reviewed the proposed fee structure, noting that with the increase in economic activity the time is right to make these changes.

McShane asked how these rates compare with other like communities. Christiansen responded the proposed fee schedule was a result of a comparison with other communities and input and recommendations from City consultants.

McShane asked if the new rates might deter prospective developers. Christiansen responded that the fees are consistent with industry standards.

Cowley expressed support for the increase to the fee schedule.

Schneemann asked what impact the new fee structure would have on Farmington's redevelopment readiness. Christiansen responded it would put the City's fees in line with what is being charged in other similar type communities.

Christiansen discussed the incentive program that was approved by Council in August of 2013 to promote development in the City. He stated with the upward trend in economic development, the fee increases should not be a deterrent.

Schneemann asked if incentives could be re-established in the future and Christiansen responded in the affirmative.

Scott stated he liked the idea of the pre-application meeting, but was concerned with the charges associated with it. He would prefer that the increase in fees be applied to the regular application. He does not want to deter consultants from coming in early on their project for advice and consult. He was also concerned with consulting fees drawing down from the escrowed funds and further discussion was held.

Schneemann requested clarification on the fee Scott was addressing in his comments. Scott replied that he would like to see the preliminary review fee set at \$1,000, combining the final and preliminary fee into one.

Christiansen explained the reasoning behind the fee schedule and Pastue expounded on it.

Galvin advised this issue requires further review and discussion. He recommended placing it on the next study session agenda.

6. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Greg Cowley, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Jeff Scott, Councilmember
AYES:	Cowley, Galvin, McShane, Schneemann, Scott

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

William E. Galvin, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Approval Date: _____