



**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m., Monday, January 7, 2019**  
**Conference Room**  
**23600 Liberty Street**  
**Farmington, MI 48335**

**FINAL**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on January 7, 2019, 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 7:00 pm by Mayor Steve Schneemann.

**1. Roll Call**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Sara Bowman	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
William Galvin	Councilmember	Present	
Joe LaRussa	Councilmember	Present	
Steve Schneemann	Mayor	Present	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

**City Administration Present**

- Director Demers
- City Clerk Mullison
- City Manager Murphy
- City Attorney Saarela
- City Treasurer Weber

**2. Approval of Agenda**

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	LaRussa, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bowman, Mayor Pro Tem

**3. Public Comment**

Sarah Davies, 23120 Violet, spoke about upcoming events and goals for her group, Keep Farmington Beautiful.

Tom Bogos, 32276 Valley View Circle, voiced his worries about parking, noise, and littering during the Farmington Founders Festival.

Karen Butler, 32328 Valley View Circle, expressed concern about parking congestion and the state of the park and ball fields after Festival use.

Mary Martin, Executive Director of the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, reminded Council that the Chamber is already redefining and reinventing the Festival and is fully responsible for the Festival. She asked that concerns about this year's Festival be directed to the Chamber of Commerce.

#### **4. Planning Commission Reappointment Interviews**

##### **a. Miriam Kmetzo – Planning Commission Reappointment Interview**

Council questioned Ms. Kmetzo about her history serving the City on both the Zoning Board and the Planning Commission. Ms. Kmetzo spoke about her interests in planning for Farmington's future. When asked about what Council could do to help the Planning Commission she requested that Council collect public comments and feedback about plans and issues so that those issues could be approached as a whole. She noted the construction by the old Kmart and the Samurai Steakhouse plans are things she is happy that the Planning Commission has helped come to fruition. Disappointments are approved projects not being realized and the focus on downtown Farmington. Kmetzo pointed to the diversity of the Planning Commission and the extensive preparation of the study packets that they get before meetings as strengths. She would like to have more opportunities to get together to discuss projects with other members of the Commission. A policy recommendation that Kmetzo would support would be to streamline City Master Plans and only have one. Council commended the Commission's work on recent projects. She commended Director Christiansen for his patience with the Commission and for all the help he provides them in their work.

##### **b. Steven Majoros – Planning Commission Reappointment Interview**

Mr. Majoros said that his position on the Planning Commission helps him understand how the City works and allows him to do something not related to his daily work that matters to his community. He stated that the City and Director Christiansen do a great job preparing the Commission for all the work they do. His only request for the Council was to give context to projects that might come before the Commission to distill all of the information. He stated that he is for action and development and hoped that residents, businesses, and those looking into coming into our community will consider Farmington progressive. Majoros cited both continuity within the Commission and maturity of the group as they assess all plans and projects before them as strengths of the Commission. He sees the Commission not having the opportunity to "huddle" to decide on plans as a weakness of the process. As far as policy, Majoros did not see barriers to developers and cited interest in our area. He believes that present zoning ordinance is performing relatively well. He commended Kevin Christiansen for well organized meetings and for informing and educating the Commission well.

**Move to reappoint Miriam Kmetzo to the Farmington Planning Commission for a term ending June 30, 2021.**

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Bowman, Mayor Pro Tem  
**SECONDER:** LaRussa, Councilmember  
**AYES:** Galvin, LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Bowman

**Move to reappoint Steven Majoros to the Farmington Planning Commission for a term ending June 30, 2021.**

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Bowman, Mayor Pro Tem  
**SECONDER:** LaRussa, Councilmember  
**AYES:** LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Bowman, Galvin

**5. Discussion of professional services agreement with Plante Moran for Unified Communication services including replacement of the City's phone systems**

City Manager Murphy presented a plan to replace the obsolete city-wide phone system to turn it into a unified communication system. He asked that the Council approve hiring a representative to purchase phone and other communications services for the City. He suggested that the City join with Farmington Hills on the existing Farmington Hills consulting services agreement. Treasurer Weber explained the decision between simply replacing the basic phone system and upgrading to a unified communication system. An upgrade would allow staff to work remotely, would help the City departments to be well informed and efficient, and would help the City serve the public better. He stated that different segments of the proposal could be considered separately and that use of a service like Plante Moran would allow all facets of the project to be completed correctly.

LaRussa asked if Farmington could use the services that Farmington Hills has already contracted for, and Weber indicated that our City operation is different enough to warrant a consultant to find what works best for Farmington. LaRussa expressed concern about capital improvement plans being brought to Council without sufficient project planning.

Taylor asked the cost difference between the phone service only and the unified communication system and echoed LaRussa's concern about capital improvement spending.

Bowman stated that the needs of Farmington were different than the needs of Farmington Hills and questioned whether we really needed a unified system. She suggested that individual cell phone use could be a possible solution to the phone system problem.

Galvin asked about what would happen if the DPW phones went down and Weber replied that the current system was pretty much unsupported. Farmington's agreement with Farmington Hill's IT department specifically excludes the current phone service. Galvin suggested that we should have a needs assessment. Weber described the process with Plante Moran as necessary for that assessment. Murphy suggested that if Council wanted to only approve a

phone system we could do our own assessment. He stated that we at least need a phone system that works.

Discussion ensued about the best way to assess the City's needs and how a cost could be estimated. Schneemann talked about coming out of the process with more than we need. Galvin suggested that the City just needs to learn about how to buy a phone service. Schneemann requested that Murphy and Weber educate themselves about buying a phone system and recommend a decision.

#### **6. Discussion on how Farmington Public Safety is enforcing the recreational marijuana law**

Director Demers gave a presentation about Farmington Public Safety response to the recent enactment of the Recreational Marijuana law. Schneemann requested that Demers update Council in six to nine months with a fuller understanding of the details of the law.

#### **7. Discussion on Founders Festival**

City Manager Murphy outlined his plan for two meetings: one with merchants and one with organizations that are stakeholders in any large city-wide event. He is attempting to get ahead of the curve for future need. The Downtown Development Authority and Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce should host a meeting for businesses, perhaps forming a business association to plan and implement participation in future Festivals.

Bowman cited Farmington residents' passion about the Festival, and supported the idea of engaging downtown businesses in decision making. She brought up the fact that many of the downtown businesses were not currently Chamber members. A lot of thought and conversation has gone into her opinion about the Festival. She suggested that Council wait to discuss future Festivals until the 2019 Festival has occurred.

LaRussa agreed that the current plan needs to proceed and be supported, but is in favor of activities being planned concurrent with the Founders Festival to bring Festival attendance to the downtown area. He suggested that the City should be an active participant in future planning.

Galvin repeated his comments from previous meetings and suggested that the DDA Board handle merchant involvement. He does not believe that City staff should be involved with planning events such as this. He again suggested that the Economic and Community Development Director should gauge the value of the Festival to businesses.

Taylor was supportive of the meeting suggested for owners to support their own business for the Festival. She is not in favor of the City getting involved in telling a non-profit how to run their event. She suggested that future change should be a grassroots endeavor, not a municipal one.

Schneemann spoke about history and community and asked when the last time the Festival was not held in the downtown or at least had a downtown presence. He stated that having the bulk of the festival not be in the downtown is too much of a change and upsetting to people. Schneemann suggested that the DDA Board represent their constituents and address problems themselves.

Discussion followed about who should spearhead the suggested meeting and when and how it should be held. Mary Martin, Executive Director of the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, requested the opportunity to comment on the proposal on the table. She reminded Council that the Chamber Board would be the final deciders on how and if a meeting was held because it is a Chamber of Commerce event.

#### 8. Other Business

Murphy requested a topographical survey for the upcoming 2020 Freedom Road project and introduced the idea that the budget would need to be amended soon to support this. He also informed Council about an opportunity for an FAC Grant that might be available for the 2025 project improving Shiawassee and Power Roads which must be applied for by January 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### 9. Council Comment

Taylor announced that she had attended a Michigan Municipal League workshop about Recreational Marijuana on December 13<sup>th</sup>. She recently joined the advisory board for the upcoming Oakland County Bicentennial in 2020. She described some of the ideas and plans that are evolving to celebrate this event.

#### 10. Adjournment

**Move to adjourn the meeting.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bowman, Mayor Pro Tem

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

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Steve Schneemann, Mayor

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Mary Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: January 22, 2019

\*\*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.