



Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, May 4, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on May 4, 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 7:00 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

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:	Schneemann, Councilmember
SECONDER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Bowman, DeLind

3. ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF LARRY KILNER FROM THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Bowman presented Council with the resignation of Larry Kilner from the Farmington Beautification Committee. Kilner had been on the committee for over ten years and had been the committee chair for a large portion of that time.

Schneemann noted that Kilner has been a great friend to Farmington and the City has benefitted from his vision and his artistic eye. The sunflowers popping up here and there can be attributed to Kilner's vision, as well as the eclectic feel to the downtown and the cabbage island project. Schneemann was glad that Kilner planned to stay engaged by continuing his work on the downtown plantings.

Move to accept Larry Kilner's resignation from the Farmington Beautification Committee.**

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

4. PROCLAMATION, PROPOSED BY OAKLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH – MAY 2020

At the request of the Oakland County Health Network, Bowman offered Farmington's support for May, 2020 as Mental Health Awareness Month and read a proclamation to that effect.

5. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR PROPERTY AT 33000 THOMAS STREET AND ADJACENT PARK PROPERTY

City Council considered an amendment to an agreement to purchase the former Maxfield Training Center property that reduced the purchase price by \$60,000; extended the date for closing; required that the City waive any title, survey, and environmental issues; and made the City's \$10,000 deposit non-refundable. The document before the Council confirmed that the City would go ahead with the purchase even though it was now aware of the contaminated area in the parking lot along Thomas Street, with a slight reduction in price, because the purchase still met all of the goals/purposes that initiated the determination to buy the property in the first place.

Bowman noted that the City Council had spent many weeks reviewing this purchase and have had both closed session and open meeting discussion regarding this purchase.

Scheemann commented on the Request for Qualifications process mentioned in the staff report for this item and asked whether Council will get to weigh in on how the property will be developed prior to the RFQ for developers. Murphy answered that administration will be working on the RFQ process immediately, but that nothing would be finalized without Council's input.

Taylor read a statement into the record pertaining to the budget forecast and projected losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She indicated that she would not be in favor of the purchase agreement of the Maxfield Training Center property at this time.

Schneemann said that he was very supportive of this project, indicating that one of the reasons he would be voting for this purchase was because of significant future revenue for the City. Redeveloping the property will bring new residents and new revenue for the City and the DDA, and would put Farmington in a much better fiscal position than it is today.

LaRussa added that this purchase was a very strategic project for Farmington and that there was no reason to wait at this time. He thought that a decade was long enough for a signature parcel of land in the center of Farmington to sit idle and that it was high time to take actions necessary to bring this project into the control of the City. He was also optimistic about the City's ability to secure resources for the parcel of Shiawassee Park that the City does not own, and reminded all that ownership of the entire park was a high priority item. He indicated that he would be supporting the motion.

DeLind said that this purchase was a phenomenal opportunity with the ability to link the downtown to Shiawassee Park as well as provide a development that will increase the tax base and secure a piece of what people already consider to be Shiawassee Park and ensure that it does not get moved to development.

Bowman noted that these were not the circumstances that this vote was intended to be held under because of the quarantine and uncertainty. She said that the budget review from last week made her proud of how Farmington positions itself to weather storms of this type and come out the other side shining. She recalled how the Grand River Streetscape was accomplished while just exiting from the recession and the City has reaped a reward from that project. This project, including the linkage to the park, is critically important for future development and this purchase adds a pivotal piece of property. She indicated that she was very much in favor of moving forward.

Move to approve Second Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [4-1]
MOVER:	DeLind, Councilmember
SECONDER:	LaRussa, Councilmember
AYES:	Bowman, DeLind, LaRussa, Schneemann
NAYS:	Taylor

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Brian Golden shared a new video with Council about the opening of the Farmer's Market and how it would be accomplished with the health and safety of the public and vendors in mind.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

8. COUNCIL COMMENT

Schneemann thanked fellow councilmembers and administration for working so hard for such a long period of time on the MTC project. He reiterated that it was an incredibly important strategic project for the City and would prove to be transformative over the coming years. It will change the way the parks are used, how connectivity is achieved, and bodes very well for our future.

LaRussa wished a Happy Mothers Day to all.

Bowman pointed out that this was Professional Municipal Clerk's week and thanked City Clerk Mullison for everything she does, as well as Deputy Clerk Jennifer Tomlinson and Administrative Assistant Sue Alvey. She noted that this week of appreciation could not have come at a more appropriate time since the Clerk's Department had gone above and beyond these past few weeks. She went on to say that though there might be apprehension about the Farmers Market starting up, she was confident and comfortable that Market Master Walt Gajewski had insured that safety and health guidelines that have been recommended would be exceeded. The Market is integral to downtown and will be an opportunity for people to have healthy choices. With the possibility of ordering online and the new foot traffic pattern the Market will feel different, but with an unbelievable army of volunteers Gajewski will ensure all can use the Market.

9. Adjournment

Move to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: May 18, 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.