



**Special Study Meeting**  
**9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 2, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

## **SPECIAL STUDY MEETING MINUTES**

A study session meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on May 2, 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 9:04 am by Mayor Bowman.

### **1. ROLL CALL**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Sara Bowman	Mayor	Present	
David 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

#### **Others Present**

Charlie Fleetham, Project Innovations, Inc., facilitator

### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

### **3. COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND FOLLOW ON DISCUSSION AS DESIRED**

Mayor Bowman ran through housekeeping items and talked about the goals, expectations, and procedure for this meeting. She noted that Council meets once every two years with the help of a moderator to provide input and discussion as to what should be prioritized going forward. While keeping the fears and anxieties over the current pandemic in mind, Council is also the planner of the future of the City. She requested that Council focus on the things that can actually be addressed while still keeping an eye on the unknowns. Bowman hoped the meeting would be positive and encouraging.

#### **4. STRATEGIC PLANNING AND GOAL SETTING**

##### **Vision Statement**

The City of Farmington in 2021 is a family-friendly community well-known for the connectedness and engagement of its citizens, including residents and businesses; the quality of its diverse neighborhoods and interactive public spaces; the economic viability of its thriving commercial districts and its sustainable and reliable city services.

- Intentional boards and commissions are directed toward making Farmington a desirable place to live and own a business
- City Administration and City Council recognize social media has changed the rules of citizen engagement – participants drive the process
- Creating a sense of place: community activities such as festivals, farmers markets, Warner Mansion, ice rink, walkable and multi-modal infrastructure connecting commercial and public space nodes.

##### **Strategy 1: Financially Sustainability**

###### **S-1A: Continue optimization of pension costs long term.**

- City administration to develop gap plan showing hi/low cases
- City administration to provide status update on current situation, including additional tasks to complete
- Council to review above documents and determine future action items

###### **S-1B: Conduct engineering assessment on city infrastructure.**

- Determine scope of work and budget
- Scope should include proposed cycle to renew assets by type
- Critical issues to address: drainage and replacement of dangerous portions of sidewalks
- Review scope/budget for decision as appropriate

##### **Strategy 2: Support Activities and Events that Promote Placemaking**

###### **S-2A: Analyze long-term sustainability strategy for Warner Mansion funding/use**

###### **S-2B: Continue to focus on attracting/recruiting volunteers**

**S-2C: Continue optimization of enforcement of speeding and pedestrian safety**

**Strategy 3: Improve Electronic Communications**

**S-3A: Revisit broadcasting council meetings live on cable**

**S-3B: Develop Project/Program Dashboard on city website**

**S-3C: Investigate development of on-line cemetery search tool**

**Strategy 4: Sustain and Improve Economically and Socially Viable Neighborhoods and Commercial Districts that are Attractive and Well Maintained**

**S-4A: Continue coordination with Farmington Public Schools to ensure that Maxfield Training Center will be sold**

**S-4B: Prepare cost/benefit analysis for relocating City Hall (in another downtown location)**

**S-4C: Complete review of downtown sign regulations and enforcement guidelines**

- City Administration to prepare action plan, including timeframe for completion

**S-4D: Strengthen code enforcement throughout city**

- Continue focus on commercial centers for improved maintenance and enforcement
- Develop reporting process for inclusion on website dashboard
- Add form on website to facilitate community feedback on perceived code infractions

**S-4E: Evaluate development and implementation of rental house ordinance**

**S-4F: Form ad-hoc committee on walkability and bicycling to identify locations lacking in walkability and connectivity and recommend improvements like new crosswalks, flashing beacons, and sidewalk repair (downtown and in outlying neighborhoods.)**

**S-4G: Continue review of potential strategic land banking opportunities throughout the City to promote redevelopment opportunities in keeping with the Master Plan**

**S-4H: City Manager to provide routine updates on Farmington Road Streetscape and other key infrastructure improvements**

**Strategy 5: Sustain our City's Built and Environmental Infrastructure**

**S-5A: Seek partnership with MSU Extension Office for development of a Tree Management Plan**

**Strategy 6: Develop Smart City Technology**

**S-6A: Complete Smart City Feasibility Study and establish go forward plan**

**Strategy 7: Sustain Market Competitiveness**

**S-7A: Evaluate wage and benefits of surrounding communities and communities of comparable size regarding department heads and non-union staff**

**S-7B: Legal Counsel develop report on potential impact of marijuana legalization on housing stock**

**Proposed Study Sessions (order is not indicative of importance)**

**PS-1: Review the Food Truck Ordinance**

**PS-2: Upon Historical Commission completion of house inventory, develop and review proposed set of standards for governing properties in the Historic District**

**PS-3: Explore creation of process to identify potential neighborhood leaders who could create or resurrect organizations that would enable more community and neighborhood activity, and consider providing incentives to encourage such activity**

**PS-4: Study the potential redevelopment of the Village Shoe Inn to gain expanded public parking and new retail & residential development downtown**

**PS-5: Review City's Emergency Plan in light of Covid-19**

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment was heard.

**6. COUNCIL COMMENT ON PLAN COMPLETION**

Bowman thanked administration for making the technology work to have this meeting and her fellow Councilmembers for their valuable time on a Saturday morning. She stated that the meeting had been very beneficial and that it gave an opportunity to get an idea of what everybody thinks and feels and to have meaningful conversation and discussion on how this particular council of five is going to move the City forward.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Move to adjourn the meeting.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Schneemann, Councilmember

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 PM.

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Sara Bowman, Mayor

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Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: May 18, 2020