



Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, December 16, 2019
City Council Chambers
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on December 16, 2019, in Farmington City Hall, 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 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Bowman.

1. ROLL CALL

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

City Administration Present

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Davies, 23120 Violet Street, thanked Councilmember Galvin for his efforts on behalf of the community and asked Council to address the process of filling a Council vacancy.

Joy Montgomery, 22750 Maple, Library Board, also thanked Galvin for his service and announced that the Library has hired a new director. She also said that a fundraising gala is planned for the end of February and that Council should expect invitations.

Chris Halas, 33660 Hillcrest, thanked Galvin for a municipal finance presentation he gave and for his time put in for the community. He commended Galvin's volunteer spirit.

4. APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Board and Commission Minutes
- B. City Council Minutes
 - a. November 18, 2019 Special
 - b. November 18, 2019 Regular
 - c. December 2, 2019 Regular
- C. Farmington Quarterly Investment Report - 06/30/19
- D. Farmington Quarterly Financial Report - 06/30/19
- E. Farmington Quarterly Financial Report Court - 06/30/19
- F. Farmington Monthly Payments Report
- G. Farmington Public Safety Monthly Report
- H. Board of Review Vacancy
- I. Consideration to approve 1-year extension of Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and the DDA
- J. DDA Board resignation

Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Schneemann, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Galvin, Councilmember

5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Move to approve the regular agenda as presented.**

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

6. PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. **Special Event Application: Optimist Run/Walk for Childhood Health & Wellness**

Pamela Batcho and Roxanne Fitzpatrick described the proposed event and plans for the routes. They also explained the goals of the group.

Bowman noted that last year's event was great and she hoped that local merchants would still support the event. She also expressed concern about closing roads for a timed run and the possible need for more involvement by Farmington Public Safety.

Move to approve the Farmington Hills Optimist Club special event application for a Childhood Wellness/Cancer Run/Walk on Saturday, May 16, 2020 through City of Farmington neighborhoods as proposed in the submitted map.**

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

B. Plante & Moran Annual City Audit

Justin Kolbow of Plante & Moran gave a summary of the presentation from the 6:00 pm Study Session about the City's annual audit.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve the introduction of an Ordinance to Amend the City of Farmington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14, "Fire Prevention and Protection," Article II, "Fire Prevention Code," in Order to Adopt and Incorporate the 2015 International Fire Code

Director Demers explained proposed changes to the Farmington Code of Ordinances. He described what the International Fire Code is and why the City should adopt the newest code. Galvin asked whether the Building Department had been consulted, and Demers explained that Public Safety was working closely with the Code Enforcement Officer and he believed that the update would assist both departments. Taylor asked what changes the public would see with this amendment and Director Christiansen clarified building code requirements and how and why they change. Schneemann asked about State mandated building code which references fire code within it and questioned why the City needs to adopt the latest fire code. City Attorney Saarela answered that because we have specific fire code, it must be brought current. LaRussa asked about address identification specifics in the new ordinance being considered and Christiansen responded that it filled compliance requirements.

Move to approve the introduction of (first reading) an Ordinance to amend the City of Farmington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14, "Fire Prevention and Protection," Article II, "Fire Prevention Code," in order to adopt and incorporate the 2015 International Fire Code.**

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

B. Consideration to adopt Notice of Intent and Reimbursement Resolution for 2020 Capital Improvement Bonds to Finance Sewer and Road Improvement Projects

City Manager Murphy recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution which provides notice of intent to issue bonds. In consultation with the City's Bond Council and Financial Advisor, a capital improvement bond issue was recommended for several sewer and road projects. The resolution instructs the City Clerk to publish a notice that initiates a 45-day period, during which registered voters can circulate petitions requiring the debt issue to be approved by voters. The 45-day period would conclude in early February 2020. The source of repayment for the bonds will be water and sewer revenues and Act 51 revenue.

LaRussa asked about allocations already made for specific projects from Major Street Funds and wanted to know why a bond issue was needed. Weber answered that moving money from one pot to another would allow the Freedom Road work to be covered by Bond proceeds, while neighborhood road projects would be paid for with monies already saved up through local millage funds.

Move to adopt Notice of Intent and Reimbursement resolution for 2020 Capital Improvement Bonds to finance sewer and road improvement projects.**

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

C. Consideration to adopt resolution authorizing acceptance of payment by Financial Transaction Devices for all payments

Weber explained that the City presently accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. City Administration would like to expand the types of credit cards accepted to include American Express, as well as allow for the acceptance of other commonly used financial transaction devices in the future as the need arises, such as Paypal, Venmo, etc., if and to the extent authorized by state law.

Taylor asked whether the City had received requests to use alternative payment methods and Weber replied that his department had one or two inquiries. He also commented on the need for more research as to what payment methods are permissible for a municipality to use. Schneemann asked about the higher fees associated with American Express and Weber said that the City currently passes fees through to those using credit cards with no change to that charge. The Farmington Civic Theater will incur those costs as a cost of doing business and will not be passing them through. Bowman asked whether this expansion would also apply to paying water bill online and Weber indicated more investigation would be needed.

Move to adopt resolution authorizing acceptance of payment by financial transaction devices for all payments.**

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

D. Consideration to approve at-large special assessment for improvements to the US-16 Drain

Murphy addressed the need for a one time City at-large special assessment for improvements to the US-16 Drain to pay Farmington’s share of a joint project with MDOT and Farmington Hills.

Galvin pointed out that he was glad to see this was already a budgeted item.

Move to approve a one-time City at-large special assessment for improvements to the US-16 Drain in the amount of \$113,755.85.**

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

E. Consideration to adopt resolution recommending approval of a Redevelopment Liquor License for La Masa

Executive Director DDA Kate Knight requested approval for a redevelopment liquor license for a planned restaurant in the space formerly occupied by Tina’s Coney Island. La Masa plans to be a fast-casual Mexican restaurant specializing in tacos and burritos and will have seating for 45 patrons.

LaRussa asked whether this request impacted the limit of liquor licenses available in Farmington and Saarela replied that it was a redevelopment license and would not impact any other quotas the City might have. Galvin thanked the owners of La Masa for their commitment to Farmington. In response to a question by Taylor, Knight indicated that the anticipated opening date would be in early spring.

Move to approve resolution authorizing a new Quota Class C Redevelopment Liquor License with Sunday Sales Permit, Dance Permit and Entertainment Permit for La Masa, LLC. (DBA La Masa), 23310 Farmington Road.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Galvin, Councilmember

F. Consideration to authorize submittal of documentation for Redevelopment Liquor License for La Masa, LLC

Knight indicated that this approval was merely procedural and authorized the submittal of documentation.

Move to authorize city staff to submit documentation for a Redevelopment Liquor License for La Masa, LLC. (DBA "La Masa"), 23310 Farmington Road.**

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

G. Consideration to approve Payment for Meter Replacement Program

Superintendent Eudy reviewed the current status of the Water Meter Replacement project. SLC Meter Service has conducted residential meter replacements at all homes north of Grand River, Floral Park, Chatham Hills, east of Gill Road, and Warner Farms. Approximately 2350 meters have been replaced in the five projects. SLC staff installed 95 meters in November alone. The start of the program was delayed due to a manufacturing slowdown of the Badger E Series Water Meters, so SLC will provide invoices for meters installed the months of December and January, which will complete the program. Eudy stated that it was fiscally vital to conduct meter replacements to accurately record water sales and that the new meters will also reduce wages and equipment fees in future water meter reading cycles.

Galvin complimented the professionalism of the technicians installing the meters.

Move to approve payment to SLC Meter in the amount of \$6,080.00 for meter installation work completed November 30, 2019.**

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

H. Consideration to approve sale of retired sewer cleaning equipment (Vactor)

Eudy requested City Council authorization to accept an offer from Bricco Excavating Co., LLC for the purchase of the 1995 Ford L-8000 equipped with the Vactor 2100 combination sewer cleaning equipment. LaRussa asked about relative appraised value and was advised by Eudy that there was no equivalent of Blue Book available for this type of vehicle.

Move to authorize sale of 1995 Ford L-8000 equipped with combination sewer cleaning equipment in the amount of \$35,000.**

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

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joy Montgomery, 22750 Maple, followed up her previous comment with an announcement that the Library Board is still working on recording their meetings.

9. DEPARTMENT COMMENT

Christiansen answered LaRussa's question about how long planning documents remain on the Economic and Community Development web page. Christiansen requested more specifics and discussion ensued about keeping planning documents updated as projects progress. LaRussa also inquired about progress on a code enforcement summary that had been requested from Christiansen at a previous meeting. Christiansen thanked Galvin for his service to the community and wished him well.

Weber thanked Galvin for serving on council, and said that he always appreciated Galvin's positive comments and efforts to keep the City on the right path.

Demers also thanked Galvin for his service, citing his support of Public Safety. Demers went on to introduce and play an updated holiday safety video featuring new Fire Marshall James Wren that is on the City's cable access channel.

Eudy stated that the last six weeks were the most challenging leaf season in his 25 year tenure. Crews were working 24 days straight before a break at Thanksgiving, and then ten days straight after. He thanked Galvin for his service. Bowman gave Eudy and his department a huge thank you for being able to set up the ice rink at Riley Park after dealing with all the leaves and snow.

Murphy thanked Weber and Norgard for their fantastic work on the audit and stated that every year they do a fantastic job on it. He announced that on the next meeting agenda there will be an item about replacing a council member. Murphy commended Eudy by saying the DPW had done a fantastic job this fall with the leaves and snow, and he thanked Galvin for helping him get acclimated to the City when he first arrived.

Mullison had no specific comment, but said that she would be sure to have many comments in 2020 with the Census and three major elections on the schedule.

10. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

LaRussa spoke to residents about the year with progress on Oakland Street, Farmington Road Streetscape, the Maxfield Training Center; healthy community events such as Harvest Moon Celebration, Holly Days and Lighted Parade, and the Farmers Market; good governance in the skill of the administration and the spirit of collaboration throughout Farmington. He wished the community a Happy Holiday and said thanks to Galvin for being a mentor when LaRussa was a new councilmember.

Galvin read a statement on the difficult decision to submit his resignation as a member of City Council. He emphasized that this would be a great opportunity for new engagement with a new citizen to serve. He gave a thank you to department heads and employees for their dedication to providing a high level of service to the community and recalled his appointment to Council in 2011 with the highlight of four years as Mayor. During his tenure, Council found ways to support and stimulate growth, encouraged new developments and new places to live, grew events with new activities with both the Civic Theater and the Farmers Market named as top ranked destinations in Metro Detroit, supported job creation through filling business vacancies and welcoming a new grocer in downtown Farmington and encouraging redevelopment. These results were achieved through proactive highly engaged placemaking.

Galvin said he worked to prioritize the support of private equity in Farmington, an approach that resulted in real economic development. His proudest accomplishment was declaring that a merger with Farmington Hills was officially part of Farmington's past at the 2014 State of Cities speech. Galvin thanked his fellow City Council members past and present and all Boards and Commissions members for their dedicated service. He stated that Farmington was better off today than when he became a councilmember in 2011.

Bowman said that Galvin would be greatly missed, and that she was grateful for having him as a mentor in her early days. She commented that though she didn't willingly accept Galvin's resignation, she thanked him for his years of dedicated service and wished Galvin and his family well.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: January 21, 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.