



**Special Joint City Council and DDA Board Meeting
6:30 p.m., Monday, August 24, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

FINAL

SPECIAL JOINT CITY COUNCIL AND DDA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council and Downtown Development Authority Board was held on August 24, 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 2020-129 signed by Governor Whitmer on June 18, 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 6:31 p.m. by Mayor Sara Bowman.

1. ROLL CALL

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

DDA Board Members Present

Chris Halas
 Thomas Pascaris
 Todd Craft
 Agnes Skrzycki
 Sean Murphy
 Miguel Williams

DDA Board Members Absent

Tom Buck
 Rachel Gallagher

Others Present

Director Christiansen
 DDA Executive Director Knight
 City Clerk Mullison
 City Manager Murphy
 City Attorney Saarela
 City Attorney Schultz
 Director Weber

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Move to approve the agenda as presented.

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

3. DISCUSS FARMINGTON ROAD STREETScape

DDA Executive Director Knight gave an overview of the project in its early stages. She summarized what needed to be done in the near term and what had yet to be done for grants and TAP projects for planning. She requested discussion on what the best path forward would be.

Councilmember Schneemann asked if there was anything needing attention in order to meet State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) deadlines. Knight indicated that there was enough time to get the approvals needed, though committing to a construction year was important. City Manager Murphy said the pandemic might make SHPO's slow response even slower, though he indicated that the project was already in their queue. Schneemann asked administration to continue to monitor progress so that the project would not get pushed back.

Councilmember LaRussa asked whether having SHPO approval in the front of the proposed timeline might throw off the whole timeline, as MDOT approvals are contingent on SHPO approval. Matt Parks, OHM, suggested that all that has been done so far is already approved, but that he would feel better with SHPO approval.

Councilmember DeLind and Parks discussed how much float was available in the proposed schedule, concluding that there would be an optimal path but that contingencies have been included in the current timing of the project.

DDA Boardmember Murphy asked what issues were from SHPO the last time this project had been planned. Jessica Howard, OHM, replied that the current project has scaled back on some of the elements like trees to revise and improve the submitted plan. She said that past concerns shouldn't be a showstopper this time around.

Discussion ensued about specific revisions to plans made for grant funding, confirmation of expectations, easement concerns, and options moving forward. Legal opinions were obtained about getting title for the easements in question and using eminent domain for access, as well as options in payment for access.

Knight requested approval for funding to go forward. After discussion about expenditures for professional services and cost sharing between the City and the DDA, Knight clarified that this request was meant to move forward on planning now, with more specific decisions on drawings and expenditures made at a future date. City Attorney Schultz advised that expenditures for both bodies would need approval by both bodies. Director Weber reminded all that final plans would still need to come back to City Council and the DDA Board.

Move to authorize the city administration and attorney to order appraisals and title work and prepare good faith offer documents for easement holders as necessary, up to \$10,000 with the cost to be split 50/50 between the DDA and the City.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Schneemann, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember
AYES:	Bowman, DeLind, LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor

Move to authorize the city administration and attorney to order appraisals and title work and prepare good faith offer documents for easement holders as necessary, up to \$10,000 with the cost to be split 50/50 between the DDA and the City.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Murphy, DDA Boardmember
SECONDER:	Skrzycki, DDA Boardmember
AYES:	Halas, Pascaris, Craft, Skrzycki, Murphy, Williams
ABSENT:	Buck, Gallagher

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Murphy reported that a tour of RRRASOC was available as Council previously requested and that the tour would take approximately an hour. He requested that any interested Councilmembers contact the Assistant to the City Manager, Melissa Andrade.

Bowman requested a Special Meeting be called on September 2, 2020 at 7:00 pm for Community Image Builders to brief Council on their prepared Request For Qualifications for Maxfield Training Center. Also on the agenda would be a discussion to move forward with Founders Festival planning.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

6. BOARD & COUNCIL COMMENT

LaRussa thanked all involved for the opportunity to collaborate, stating that he believed a joint meeting was more than warranted and that he would like to see it happen again.

Halas supported LaRussa's comment. He then raised a question about whether Chase Bank would have to close off their drive through area with the present plans. Parks answered that the

drive approach would be changed, requiring a recirculation of their traffic but that the modification would make the intersection safer in the long run.

DDA Board President Craft agreed that the two entities should meet on a more regular basis, perhaps twice a year, and could cover other topics as well.

Bowman commented that she was ecstatic about moving forward with the Farmington Streetscape project. She said that the opportunities available to increase mobility and safety as well as to add parking and business access are incredible, and the same benefits Farmington has seen from the Grand River streetscape project will now be available on Farmington Road.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: September 21, 2020