



Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, March 1, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on March 1, 2021, 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 under the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.261, et seq., as amended by HB 1108, 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

Superintendent Eudy
DDA Director Knight
City Clerk Mullison
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Schultz

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Move to approve the regular meeting agenda adding Item 2a. Public Comment.**

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

4. PRESENTATION: OAKLAND COUNTY WATER RESOURCE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Superintendent Eudy introduced Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash who shared what his organization does and highlighted issues they are addressing. Tim Prince and Brian Colburn of the Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner's office presented the Evergreen-Farmington Corrective Action Plan and outlined the next steps to Council.

5. BOARD AND COMMISSION INTERVIEWS

a. DDA: Claire Perko

Council interviewed Claire Perko for an open seat on the Downtown Development Authority Board. Councilmembers focused on her ideas for improvements in the downtown area and asked how Council can better support the DDA.

b. DDA: Linda Deskins

Linda Deskins was also interviewed for a position on the Downtown Development Authority Board. Council discussed her qualifications and how she envisions moving the DDA forward.

Move to appoint Claire Perko and Linda Deskins to the Farmington Downtown Development Authority; both to 4-year terms ending Feb. 28, 2025.**

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

6. ADOPTION OF ADDENDUM OF COUNCIL RULE – REMOTE MEETINGS

City Attorney Schultz described an addendum to Council rules that addresses remote meetings and three specific time periods and the rules applying to each. This addendum is intended to satisfy the City Council's obligation to have rules of procedure in place for the situations described.

LaRussa questioned part of the addendum asking if roll call votes for every item was a State requirement or just Farmington's, and whether Farmington was still operating under a local State of Emergency at this time. Schultz said that the roll call vote was a State rule and that he believed the local State of Emergency that had been previously declared had run out. He said he would take a look at that. LaRussa asked whether City staff could find a way to include a hybrid type of meeting that would allow the public to continue to attend meetings remotely once Council returns to in-person meetings. Taylor requested that administration look into what it would take to allow remote participation for public comment and report back to Council before March 31. Bowman pointed out the full effort the request would make, and Taylor amended her request to report options available to Council in the near future.

Move to adopt the Addendum to Council Rules relating to Temporary Open Meetings Act Procedures.**

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

7. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE STATE TRUNKLINE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Eudy requested approval of a five-year contract renewal for the maintenance of Grand River Road. The contract covers full surface and winter maintenance from the east intersection with M-5 (Farmington Hills) to Gill Road. The City would also be responsible for winter maintenance from Gill Road to Halsted. The term of this contract would be through September 30, 2024.

LaRussa asked about enlarging the scope past maintenance and whether delegating more than maintenance responsibilities has ever been broached with the State. Eudy explained that MDOT is very conservative with permitting any activity on the Grand River right-of-way, mainly due to it being a jumpoff if anything happens on 696. Eudy believes that any service work Farmington does on Grand River provides better and more timely maintenance work than work provided by someone else.

Move to approve a five-year State Trunkline maintenance contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation and authorize the City Manager or other City of Farmington Administrators who have access to MDOT required "DocuSign" program to execute the contract on behalf of the City.**

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

8. MOVE TO ADOPT A POLICY RELATIVE TO THE REVIEW AND GRANTING OF POVERTY EXEMPTIONS BY THE CITY OF FARMINGTON BOARD OF REVIEW

City Manager Murphy explained that Public Act 206 of 1893 provides for an exemption from taxation for the principal residence of persons who, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute toward the public charges, and that Public Act 253 of 2020 requires changes to the City's policy for granting poverty exemptions. Significant changes include the requirement to use the State issued application forms, elimination of an asset-based test, elimination of the ability to limit the number of years a person can receive a reduction, and elimination of the ability of the Board to deviate from the established guidelines for significant and compelling reasons.

Move to adopt a policy as presented relative to the review and granting of Poverty Exemptions by the City Of Farmington Board Of Review.**

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

9. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was heard.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

11. COUNCIL COMMENT

Bowman thanked former DDA Board members Sean Murphy and Agnes Skrzycki for their dedicated years of service. She recalled past opportunities she had to work together with both of the term-limited volunteers and said that the work they have done will continue and live on through the board. Bowman also noted how exciting it was to welcome two new residents to the Board and to watch the transition.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: March 15, 2021

**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.