



Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, May 18, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on May 18, 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 7:01 p.m. by Mayor 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	

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. APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Accept City of Farmington Board and Commission Minutes
- B. City of Farmington Minutes
 - a. April 20, 2020 Special
 - b. April 20, 2020 Regular
 - c. April 27, 2020 Budget
 - d. April 30, 2020 Special
 - e. May 2, 2020 Stidy Session
 - f. May 4, 2020 Regular
- C. Farmington Monthly Payments Report – March & April 2020
- D. Farmington Public Safety Monthly Report
- E. Farmington Quarterly Investment Report – 3/31/20
- F. Farmington Quarterly Financial Report – 3/31/20
- G. Farmington Quarterly Financial Report Court – 3/31/20
- H. Accept Public Safety Annual Report
- I. Boards & Commissions: Library Board Resignation
- J. Proclamation: National Gun Violence Awareness Day (Wear Orange Day), Friday June 5, 2020

Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

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

4. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Move to approve the regular agenda as amended, adding 5B – Update on Farmington Road Streetscape, 5C – Farmers Market video, and 5D – Market Opening Weekend Update.**

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

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Special Event Applications: Swing Farmington

Alexander Steward, President for Swing Farmington, Inc., requested approval for a series of special events. Since 2007, Mr. Steward and a group of about 100 young people assemble in Sundquist Pavilion every Thursday evening for swing dancing. He requested approval for the season so that they have the ability to start up once the Executive Order is lifted, knowing that the season may not even take place.

LaRussa stated that he was more comfortable with the request now, but asked what Steward’s motivation was to have this decision now. Steward said that having the opportunity to make the decision on their own terms would allow better decisions to be made. He also indicated that he would like to have some hope that the events can occur if circumstances warrant it.

In response to questions from Taylor, Steward said he would feel more comfortable holding swing dancing events once the Governor’s Order was completely lifted, or that there was a revision allowing gatherings to take place. He is taking a wait and see stance. As far as what socially distanced swing dancing would look like, he suggested ways to accomplish social distancing through CDC suggested recommendations.

Taylor asked Murphy whether he saw any way that this event would be held in the near future, and he replied with steps that would be taken to allow the dances. She asked Saarela about city liability if someone got sick at an event that the Council had approved. Saarela answered as long as there were no official restrictions in place, there would be no liability. Taylor asked that Council be updated a week before events are allowed to proceed.

Schneemann thanked Steward for keeping at it and coming back to Council with his request. He acknowledged that he supported Swing Farmington and all they do, and that it was an unfortunate time to come to Council with this request. Schneemann said that he knows Steward and city administration are smart and will abide by state and federal guidelines. He indicated that he was more than comfortable supporting Swing Farmington holding an event as long as those guidelines are followed.

Bowman commended Steward for his tenacity, recognizing that he had been hosting these events for years with no profit. She respected why he wanted to have hope, and understood why he wanted pre-approval so as not have to wait to go in front of council for a third time for an event that had been administratively approved for years.

Move to approve the special event request for Swing Farmington, Inc. to holds its swing dancing at Riley Park and the Sundquist Pavilion scheduled on Thursday evenings, from 7:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m., to begin only when the Governor’s Stay at Home Order prohibiting such activities is no longer in effect and the City Manager determines in writing that the activity can safely proceed, and continuing through October 15, 2020, with the following conditions:

1. Waive the City Sound Ordinance to allow Swing Farmington, Inc. to extend operation until 11:30 p.m. through the September 3.
2. Approve charge of \$25/week to defray the cost of maintenance – this is the amount we have charged Swing Farmington for at least five years;
3. Allow set up to begin at 5 p.m. on August 6 for the live band, if Swing is permitted at that time.**

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

B. Update on Farmington Road Streetscape

Kate Knight, Executive Director of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, gave an overview of the streetscape project at this time. She indicated which boxes still need to be checked to go forward, and listed steps still to be completed to apply for grants and assistance. She discussed the present construction cycle, the that the timing of the project could possibly be 2021, though perhaps 2022. The project goal at this time is to move forward with planning and requests. She will bring back plans and more information to Council and the DDA Board for more approvals. Bond market and infrastructure funding is possible.

Schneemann thanked Knight for the update and said it was good to have an exciting project to look forward to. In response to his questions about easements, Knight said nothing in the present design would be held up by one stakeholder. When asked about prices softening in response to the current climate, Matt Parks of OHM said that he had seen prices come down slightly, but it's hard to predict in this climate. Much will be determined by what the next several months will bring.

LaRussa thanked Knight and noted that plans which might get stunted because of COVID-19 seemed to be unfounded for a project that will be transformational for Farmington. He asked about pursuing grants from SEMCOG, and asked Knight to compare those with possible MDOT assistance. Knight explained how the grants might work. LaRussa asked whether Knight saw an increase in funding required from either the City or the DDA to pursue the project, and was answered that for budgeting purposes they would have to go with what they knew now.

C. Video from Farmers Market Opening

Brian Golden presented a video he produced to show how the 2020 opening of the Farmers Market worked and was put together for those that may not have been able to visit. This video will be shared on the City channel, website, and Farmers Market website.

D. Farmer's Market Opening Weekend Update

Walt Gajewski, Farmington Market Master, gave an update about the success of the Farmers Market opening in a pandemic environment. He shared the volunteer and vendor wrap ups: volunteers felt safe downtown and vendors were pleased by having so many volunteers present who knew the script that they felt safe as well. Vendors were also happy with opening day sales. He announced plant and flower sales next weekend.

LaRussa commended Gajewski for plowing ahead and not bowing to pressures to be more conservative. He shared that vendors he had spoken to were shocked with how supportive the community was with the new online ordering procedure. He said he was looking forward to the Market being able to get back to full steam.

Bowman also thanked Gajewski for his work on the Market. She looked forward to how Week 2 was going to go and noted overwhelmingly positive feedback from the community.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration to Approve Resolution Renewing Participation in the Oakland County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for a Three-Year Period (2021-2023)

City Manager Murphy explained that the current CDBG Agreement is in place for fiscal years 2018-2020 and for those that participated in the County’s CDBG program for 2018-2020 there is a Cooperation Agreement in effect that offers automatic renewal. In order to continue to participate in the urban county Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program the City must respond by June 1, 2020.

The City receives approximately \$27,000 each year under the County program which is allocated to Senior Service programs administered by the City of Farmington Hills. This defrays our General Fund contribution to the Senior Programs. Our participation in the Oakland County program also allows eligible City residents to participate in the County’s Housing, Rehab and Assistance programs.

LaRussa asked whether CDBG funds might be a delivery mechanism to funnel additional COVID-19 federal aid to the City and Murphy agreed that, if this happened, it would not involve any other modifications to this agreement.

Move to adopt Resolution renewing participation in the Oakland County CDBG program for a three year period (2021 thru 2023) and authorize the Mayor to sign the Cooperative Agreement on behalf of the City.**

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

B. Consideration to Approve Public Hearing Notice for Proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget and Property Tax Rates and Schedule Public Hearing

In accordance with the City Charter, Public Act 43 of the Extra Session of 1963 and Public Act 2 of 1968 as amended, it is necessary to hold a public hearing on the proposed budget and millage rate prior to their adoption. The City Council must adopt the budget not later than June 21st. Murphy recommended that the public hearing be held on Monday, June 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Director of Finance and Administration Weber added that information on millage rates were included in the Council packet. LaRussa asked about having the hearing for the maximum levy, and Weber agreed that would be a management approach. He did not think raising taxes on the constituency at this time would be necessary, though he understood the logic for doing that.

Schneemann followed up with a question to Weber regarding having the ability to have another hearing and make change in case of need. Weber cited tight budget and notification deadlines, considering that the budget had to be passed by June 21st.

Move to hold public hearing on Monday, June 15 at 7:00 p.m. regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget and property tax rates.**

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

C. Consideration to Amend Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget

Murphy requested that the City Council adopt a year-end budget amendment. In the current year 2020, due to the Covid19 Pandemic, the refunding of the City’s debt, and the change in timing of various Street and Water & Sewer projects, City Administration brought this request to Council in May. Adjusting the budget at this time will make it easier for Administration to track financial activity in comparison to the amended budget in this very unusual year, as we approach our fiscal year end.

This budget amendment adjusts the 2019-20 budget to department head estimates prior to the pandemic. As discussed in the Management Overview and Analysis of this year’s budget document, there are several advantages to this treatment, including highlighting the effects of the pandemic on the City’s finances. Administration will report to Council at each future council meeting on how City finances are tracking to the budget.

Schneemann asked why proceeds from the debt increase for the MTC purchase did not reflect the adjusted purchase price, and Weber answered that rather than convolute the budget amendment any further with several items that had changed since the last consideration, the amendment would reflect exactly what had been given at the last meeting. He said that further amendments would come in the future to clean up specific items.

Move to adopt resolution amending Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget.**

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

D. Consideration to approve the Great Lakes Water Authority Industrial Pretreatment Program and adopt the resolution as defined by GLWA

Superintendent Eudy explained that as the transition from Detroit Water & Sewerage (DWSD) to Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) evolves, the need to adopt the GLWA Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP) is required. DWSD is no longer the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permittee for the regional system, GLWA is. Since the City of Farmington sanitary sewage discharges to the GLWA regional system, Eudy asked that the City of Farmington approve the resolution and update the Code of Ordinances.

The GLWA Rules also includes the new requirements for PFOS/PFOA minimization, a surcharge for high strength discharge, hauled waste and Special Discharge & General Permits. In the end, the new Rules will replace and update 30-40 year old language and requirements.

LaRussa asked what kind of special industrial users we have and Eudy answered that there was just one and that excessive discharges are billed to the customer. LaRussa asked if indicated PFAS rules have any potential impact on the City of Farmington. Eudy explained testing requirements.

Move to adopt resolution implementing the Great Lakes Water Authority Industrial Pretreatment Program.**

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

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Golden, 33230 S Manor Drive, announced Xemplar Club plans to hold a virtual Memorial Day parade for this year.

8. CITY COUNCIL COMMENT

Taylor requested a study session and administrative recommendation at the next scheduled Council meeting regarding safety at outdoor events and what kind of modifications should be made to the Special Events Policy due to COVID-19. She also asked to look at City events that might require alterations such as DDA events and downtown concerts.

LaRussa also commented on his interest in revisiting DDA event platforms and taking a look at potential cancelations. He also commented to Director Demers that the Public Safety report was a pleasure to read, though he missed it being the annual presentation. LaRussa asked about the rise in Part C crimes this year and Demers responded that it was due to an increased number of contacts and miscellaneous runs, not necessarily crimes.

Bowman cited staff, department heads, Walt Gajewski, Brian Golden, for their hard work. She said that all of that is what keeps us moving forward. Life looks different and is not what was expected, but she is happy to hear reports that the community is not experiencing some of the issues others are. She thinks that has a lot to do with how Farmington, as a city, is responding to the pandemic: always staying ahead and putting the health, safety, and welfare of all citizens, staff, and residents at the forefront.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned 8:17 p.m.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: June 15, 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.