



**Budget Meeting**  
**6:00 p.m., Monday, April 22, 2019**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**23600 Liberty Street**  
**Farmington, MI 48335**

## **FINAL**

### **BUDGET MEETING MINUTES**

A special budget meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on April 22, 2019, in Farmington City Hall, Farmington, MI. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Steve Schneemann.

#### **1. ROLL CALL**

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

#### **City Administration Present**

City Clerk Mullison  
City Manager Murphy  
City Controller Norgard  
City Attorney Schultz  
City Treasurer Weber

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

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

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

#### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was heard.

#### **4. CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET**

City Manager Murphy presented the proposed FY2019/20 budget.

LaRussa asked about net impact of increases in GLWA fees versus Farmington water and sewer fee increases. Weber responded by saying that the City moderates the rates that residents pay, taking into consideration the fees GLWA sets and looking at City costs. LaRussa asked Weber to research and bring back information about the impact of allowing a second water meter for irrigation, including legislation that would be needed to change ordinances. LaRussa wanted to know why City phone replacement was not on the budget, and Weber responded that research needed to be done and it would probably not be budgeted until next year. LaRussa also asked about the Parks and Recreation budget increase, Farmington streetscape matching funds, and the Governor Warner Mansion budgeted expenses. He requested activity toward making the Mansion solvent before budget is passed.

Galvin commented on the importance of the City budgeting meeting and process. He thanked Murphy, City Treasurer Weber, City Controller Norgard and City department heads for all of their efforts. He asked if Norgard could comment on how citizens know their taxes are being well used. She described aspects of her job and the level of detail needed to be sure that City administration process is well documented and accounted for, how internal controls have not changed, and she noted good investment income and continually trying to streamline activities as positive aspects. She cited the yearly Plante and Moran audit as a check and balance for Farmington. Galvin asked about processes within the departments to make sure added expenditures do not exceed approval limits. He liked increased spending for sidewalks, that the Capital Improvement Fund is close to policy minimum, and the 80% recommendation on pension funding. He has concerns about what we don't know about spending on long term projects. He said Farmington's needs will increase, so our wants need to be curbed.

Bowman said that nothing on this year's budget was a surprise and thanked administration for keeping Council in the loop of the budget plans all along. She thought roads spending and park bathrooms were important. She commented that Warner Mansion Director Shay is always looking for ways to increase revenue, but agreed with LaRussa that the Mansion budget needs to be a priority. Bowman praised Shay for keeping Mansion needs so low by doing so much herself, and said she values the historical significance of the Mansion. She was also glad to see the City Hall HVAC included in the budget, as she values city staff as well.

Taylor thanked City staff but had no questions. She made clear that she believed that there was no way the City should sell the Warner Mansion, though she agreed with LaRussa in feeling that it needs to sustain itself. She said that it could be as self-sustaining as the Civic Theater and that it should be something the City and the Community uses on a daily basis. She requested that Council have further discussion on the topic.

Schneemann echoed Bowman in giving kudos to administration for bringing a budget to Council with no surprises. He appreciated that projects are planned to be completed all over the city and that the community should see improvements throughout. He was optimistic about the City's financial health, and feels that it is important that the City continue to invest in both repairing old infrastructure and creating new projects. He was excited about the study planned to connect Shiawassee Park with the downtown.

Murphy said adjustments would be made and answers will be prepared for questions raised at this meeting.

LaRussa asked to have a meeting between Council and the Joint Broadband Committee before this budget is approved to add a line item for a study this year.

Weber reminded that Council should consider the proposed budget as having two purposes: to describe the budget for 2019-20, and to update the budget for 2018-19.

## 5. OTHER BUSINESS

Murphy asked if Council would extend the bid deadline for the Oakland Street project for another two weeks. Council agreed.

## 6. COUNCIL COMMENT

Galvin thanked Murphy and Schneemann for delivering the Letter of Intent to Farmington Public Schools about the possibility of purchasing the Maxfield building. He commented on the path to creating a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the property. He wants to get the word out to the public about giving their opinions to the school board on how the sale should be considered.

Taylor commented about how glad she was to see the Farmington Streetscape study in the budget. She wants the city to be proactive about using staff resources to let residents know how the millage increase is being used.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

**Move to adjourn the meeting.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

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Steven Schneemann, Mayor

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Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: May 20, 2019