

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
JUNE 28, 2021 – 6:00PM

The study session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was held electronically and called to order by Mayor Barnett at 6:03pm. Members were asked to state their name and location (city and state) as to where they were attending the electronic meeting.

Council Members Present: Vicki Barnett, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Jackie Boleware, Farmington Hills, Michigan (arrived at 6:33pm)
Valerie Knol, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Ken Massey, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Mary Newlin, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Matt Strickfaden, Farmington Hills, Michigan

Council Members Absent: Michael Bridges

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Valentine. Directors Gardiner, Randle, Schnackel and Skrobola, Police Chief King and City Attorney Joppich

PUBLIC SAFETY/BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE

Attorney Joppich reviewed with Council the proposed changes to three business license ordinances relating to smoking lounges, miniature golf courses, go-kart tracks and arcades and another for general business licensing regulations to revise outdated language. He noted that based on Council feedback, revisions were made to the ordinance on smoking lounges to include language requiring an indemnification agreement and proof of insurance, that there shall be no gambling and to clarify the type of live entertainment that is prohibited under the ordinance. The hours of operation were not changed based on the recommendation of the Police Chief King and remain from 8am until 12am.

Questions by Council included the amount of insurance required and whether “moral turpitude” was outdated language that should be revised. There was also concern by some members of focusing on certain businesses and why the city would not license all businesses.

Attorney Joppich responded that the insurance amount and any fees would be established by resolution of Council and that resolution would come before Council for approval at the time the ordinance is brought forth. He displayed a list for Council of the businesses that currently require a license.

Mayor Barnett gave a brief history on why the city does not license all businesses.

Police Chief Jeff King stated that after reviewing various ordinances from other surrounding communities, he found the hours of operation to vary with some closing at midnight and others closing at 2am. In response to Council, he reported that the majority of incidents occur between 11pm and 2am.

There was further discussion regarding the hours of operation and impact it could have on the businesses.

Council and staff discussed live entertainment and how that should be addressed for the smoking lounges versus the miniature golf, go-kart or arcade establishments where often birthday parties are held.

(Mayor Pro-Tem Boleware arrived at 6:33pm.)

Chief King confirmed that at least one of the hookah lounges currently has a dance floor and live entertainment, which has at times contributed to the issues at that establishment with limited space causing persons to bump into one another resulting in verbal confrontations.

It was suggested that the ordinance include limiting the size of the dance floor or base live entertainment space on occupancy requirements.

After reviewing the hours of operation for various smoking lounges in the city, the consensus of Council was to allow the smoking lounges to remain open until 1am.

Further discussion was held on live entertainment at smoking lounges. It was suggested the city require an annual permit for the dance and entertainment so that if there were issues, the permit could be revoked.

Attorney Joppich mentioned that the state issues dance and entertainment permits for liquor-licensed establishments and he could review those regulations to potentially include similar language in the ordinance.

Council discussed the ordinance for miniature golf, go-karts and arcades that contained the same language changes mentioned for the smoking lounges.

Council consensus/direction was to bring the ordinances back to a future study session and include the following changes:

- Revise the smoking lounge ordinance to allow establishments to be open until 1am and options for allowing live entertainment as discussed
- Maintain the 12am closing time for miniature golf, go-kart and arcade establishments but remove the prohibition of live entertainment from that ordinance
- Review the use of language “moral turpitude”

REVIEW OF CHARTER SECTION 10.01A

This item was postponed so that Councilmember Bridges could be present for the discussion as the item was included on the agenda at his request.

ADJOURNMENT

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk