

MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
NOVEMBER 13, 2017 – 7:30 PM  
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER

The regular meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Massey at 7:30 p.m.

Council Members Present: Bridges, Bruce, Knol, Lerner, Massey, Rich and Steckloff

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Boyer, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Mekjian, Directors Gardiner, Monico and Schnackel, Police Chief Nebus and City Attorney Joppich

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Kathryn Massey led the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION by Lerner, support by Bridges, to approve the agenda as published.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**OATH OF OFFICE TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS ELECTED ON NOVEMBER 7, 2017**

City Clerk Smith provided the Oath of Office to Mayor Massey and Council Members Valeri Knol, Michael Bridges and Samantha Steckloff who were elected to office on November 7, 2017.

Mayor Massey and Councilmembers Knol, Bridges and Steckloff thanked the electors of Farmington Hills for voting them back into office.

**SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM**

MOTION by Bruce, support by Knol, to nominate Richard Lerner as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Councilmember Bruce commented on Mr. Lerner's background on Council and the various activities and commissions on which Mr. Lerner served.

Councilmember Bridges requested to close the nominations. There being no further nominations, Mayor Massey closed nominations and asked if Mr. Lerner accepted.

Councilmember Lerner stated that he would be honored to accept the nomination.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Mayor Massey stated that Mr. Lerner would be sworn in at the Mayor Pro-Tem at the next City Council meeting.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION TIP OF THE MONTH**

The following Tip of the Month was read by Emergency Preparedness Commission Member Moyna:

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION  
TIP OF THE MONTH  
NOVEMBER 2017**

The Emergency Preparedness Commission reminds everyone to prepare for the winter months ahead.

Familiarize yourself with winter weather terminology and know what to do when an Advisory, Watch, or Warning is issued.

At home:

- Make sure your home preparedness kit is current.
- Purchase rock salt or other snow removal materials.
- Prepare your home for winter including checking the chimney for cleanliness, and installing any storm windows or covering windows with plastic.
- Make sure smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly.
- Winterize pet shelters with doors, plastic sheeting, and extra ground cover such as straw and blankets. Change the ground cover regularly. Provide extra food, and make sure drinking water doesn't freeze. *Most animal deaths in wintertime result from dehydration.*

Outside:

- Review the warning signs and first aid treatments for frostbite and hypothermia, as described in your first aid manual.
- The Farmington Hills Senior Division matches senior residents with volunteers who will help them clear snow off sidewalks, porches and driveways in the winter. To volunteer or request help, please call 248-473-1895.

For your automobile:

- Ensure your automobile is prepared for winter driving, including proper maintenance and your auto Winter Survival Kit.
- Know winter driving related safety tips, such as how to steer out of a skid.

The EPC wishes everyone a safe winter season. For more information regarding the Emergency Preparedness Commission, visit the website at [www.fhready.org](http://www.fhready.org). Stay warm, stay safe!!

**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 25, 2017 AS SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY**  
**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION TIP OF THE MONTH**

The following Proclamation was read by Councilmember Rich:

**Small Business Saturday  
November 25, 2017**

**WHEREAS,** the City of Farmington Hills celebrates small businesses and the critical contribution they make to our community, the local economy, and the overall economic health of the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** according to the U.S. Small Business Administration, currently there are over 28 million small businesses in our country and small businesses are responsible for 63 percent of new jobs created over the past 20 years; and

**WHEREAS,** small businesses employ over half of the workers in the private sector in the United States and contribute positively to the local community by supplying jobs and generating tax revenues; and

**WHEREAS,** consumers in the U.S. are strongly encouraged to support the “Buy Local” movement to help create jobs, boost the local economy, and benefit our communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that I, Ken Massey, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim November 25, 2017 as **Small Business Saturday** and urge all residents to support small businesses and merchants annually on the Saturday after Thanksgiving and also throughout the year.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence acknowledged.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, to approve Consent Agenda items #10 and #12-15.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY, RICH AND STECKLOFF  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Consent Agenda item #11 removed for discussion.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR TOWING AND STORAGE SERVICES TO KEFORD NOVI TOWING FOR A THREE (3) YEAR PERIOD; WITH POSSIBLE RENEWAL. CMR 11-17-101**

Rick Cooke, representing Hadley’s Towing, stated that his company was told by the purchasing division earlier today that his company was deemed qualified and met all requirements for the contract however their pricing was higher than Keford Novi Towing and received the same response the last time this was bid. He stated that he has a stack of over 50 receipts in hand from Keford Novi Towing for which the Police Department requested the tow, but were changed to say “private” towing and charges were at least twice the contracted amount and the storage amounts were almost triple. He expressed that this was unfair to Hadleys, the citizens of Farmington Hills and the insurance companies being overcharged.

Mayor Massey commented that for transparency, he wanted to mention that 2 owners of Keford Novi Towing had contributed to his campaign two election cycles ago and he discussed this with the City Attorney who stated that this would not be a conflict of interest at this time in voting on this issue.

Attorney Joppich confirmed that campaign contributions is an exercise of free speech and does not constitute a conflict of interest unless he felt he could not make a fair, unbiased decision.

Councilmember Knol stated she would like to postpone this issue in order to have staff look into the questions raised and provide information to Council.

MOTION by Knol, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby postpones consideration of the award of bid for Towing and Storage Services to Keford Novi Towing to the November 27, 2017 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

John Plonka, Terry Lewis and Alan Buczynski of Quaker Valley commented on the house fire in their neighborhood and expressed the need for water and sewer in this area. Mr. Plonka and Ms. Lewis requested that this issue is placed on a future agenda.

There being no further comments, Mayor Massey closed public comments.

In answer to Mayor Massey, Mr. Plonka stated that the residents did petition for sewer and water and they were unable to obtain a majority in favor of the project on two occasions.

Councilmember Bruce inquired if the firefighters have access to a mapping system to locate the nearest fire hydrant.

City Manager Boyer confirmed the firefighters did have access to hydrant locations from their trucks. He added that staff met this morning with residents to discuss a special assessment district for the 4 homeowners interested and he will continue to meet with them on the process if they wish to move forward.

Mayor Massey suggested that residents pursue that option with the City Manager's Office and staff.

Mr. Plonka commented on the proposed costs for water and sewer for the subdivision and spoke of other communities providing temporary infrastructure.

City Manager Boyer stated that the residents would be provided the proper standards for sewer and water along with their options.

Councilmember Bridges inquired if other areas of the city would have the same concern with lack of water nearby.

City Manager Boyer stated that staff is conducting a review of the infrastructure throughout the city.

Councilmember Bruce inquired if the city has a tanker truck or if there was a way to better evaluate the fire when a call comes in and need for a tanker truck more expeditiously.

City Manager Boyer stated that the city does not have its own tanker truck but that is part of the mutual aid agreements with other communities. He added that there are other facts with regard to the fire that should be shared with Council at a future meeting.

Mayor Massey stated this was a traumatic experience for the family as well as the neighbors and thanked the residents for their concern.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steckloff commented that the number one priority is the safety of the residents and suggested having this issue on a future study session agenda to determine how the city will address areas like this in the city.

**COUNCIL MEMBER’S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following comments and announcements were made:

- Several members of Council and staff attended the Walker–Groves Post Veterans Day program.
- Goodfellows secured a warehouse on Hills Tech Drive for the holiday distribution; food/toys are being collected at various locations throughout the community
- Farmington Youth Assistance Breakfast is tomorrow at 7am at the Longacre House
- This past Friday was the Stars and Stripes celebration to honor veterans and the Mayor was honored to speak on behalf of Council
- Happy Thanksgiving to all!

**CITY MANAGER UPDATE**

City Manager Boyer provided the following update:

- The Twelve Mile Road project is complete and that road is now open
- The Fourteen Mile Road project is near completion and the road should be open by the end of the week
- The Greencastle water main project is scheduled to start this week
- The Holiday Lighting Ceremony is scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup>
- Yard Waste pick up ends the week of November 27<sup>th</sup> on the regular pick-up day

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE C-9-2017 AMENDING THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 34, “ZONING,” ARTICLE 5.0, “SITE STANDARDS,” SECTION 34-5.5, “SIGNS,” TO CLARIFY REGULATIONS RELATING TO PROHIBITED SIGNS, CERTAIN FREE-STANDING SIGNS, FREEWAY SIGNS, AND TEMPORARY SIGNS; AND APPROVAL OF SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION.**

Director of Planning and Community Development Gardiner explained that about a year ago, City Council adopted almost a complete re-write of the sign ordinance and through enforcement efforts staff had some questions and concerns that they brought to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission suggested a few amendments and the introduction of the ordinance was approved by Council at their last meeting. Tonight Council is being asked to approve the enactment of the ordinance, which is the next step.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the ENACTMENT of Ordinance C-9-2017 amending the City of Farmington Hills Code of Ordinances, Chapter 34, “Zoning,” Article 5.0, “Site Standards,” Section 34-5.5, “Signs,” to clarify regulations relating to prohibited signs, certain free-standing signs, freeway signs, and temporary signs; and approval of summary for publication.

Roll Call Vote:

- Yeas: BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY AND RICH
- Nays: NONE
- Absent: NONE
- Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.**

MOTION by Rich, support by Lerner, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby confirms the Mayor's recommendation to reappoint and appoint the following individuals to various City Boards and Commissions:

**Commission on Aging**

Julie McCowan	<b>Length of Term:</b> filling unexpired term	<b>Term ending:</b> February 1, 2020
Karina Weglarz	3 year term - alternate	February 1, 2021

**Grand River Corridor Improvement Authority**

Bill Smith	<b>Length of Term:</b> filling unexpired term	<b>Term ending:</b> February 1, 2021
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**Economic Development Corporation**

Sam Slaughter	<b>Length of Term:</b> filling unexpired term	<b>Term ending:</b> February 1, 2021
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**Board of Trustees-Employee Retirement System**

Eric Gould	<b>Length of Term:</b> 3 year term	<b>Term ending:</b> December 31, 2020
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MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FROM EL PATIO V, LLC TO TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF A 2017 RESORT CLASS C LIQUOR LICENSE WITH VARIOUS PERMITS LOCATED AT 38503 W. 10 MILE ROAD.**

City Clerk Smith explained that this request is for the transfer of a Resort Class C liquor license with various permits to be located at the same location but with a new owner and restaurant, El Patio. She stated that this is not a city quota license. Clerk Smith noted that the owner is present if Council has any questions.

Maria De le Paz, owner, stated that she was moving her restaurant El Patio from Grand River and Haggerty to this location on 10 Mile Road and is requesting approval of the liquor license.

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby recommends approval to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for the request from El Patio V, LLC for the transfer of ownership of a 2017 Resort Class C License issued under MCL 436.1531(4) with Sunday Sales (PM), and Outdoor Service Area Permits, located at 38503 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY AND RICH  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE 2018 OAKLAND COUNTY AUTO THEFT PROGRAM SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS. CMR 11-17-99**

Police Chief Nebus explained that Farmington Hills has a Police Officer assigned to the Oakland County Auto Theft team and the crew is doing very good work with the lowest number of auto thefts in city history reported over the last 3 years. This is a grant from the State of Michigan to the Oakland County Sheriff's Department and Oakland County puts up half the funding with no cost to the City. Chief Nebus mentioned that grant funds can be used to pay up to 50% of the Police Officers salary, overtime reimbursement, and vehicle and cell phone expenses; and also provides for great resources for the city. Chief Nebus noted that City Council approval is required to allow the City Manager to execute the grant on behalf of the city.

MOTION by Knol, support by Lerner, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to execute the Oakland County Auto Theft Program Sub-recipient Agreement and any associated documents or agreements.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDED ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION FOR A SPECIAL ONE-DAY LIQUOR LICENSE FOR THE FARMINGTON AREA ARTS COMMISSION'S ANNUAL ARTS AWARDS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS ON APRIL 13, 2018. CMR 11-17-100**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes application to the Liquor Control Commission for a special one-day liquor license for the Farmington Area Arts Commission Annual Arts Awards in conjunction with the Festival of the Arts on April 13, 2018.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY AND RICH  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR PAINTING THE EXTERIOR OF LONGACRE HOUSE AND COSTICK CENTER TO NAR CONTRACTING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,290.00. CMR 11-17-102**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue a purchase order for painting the exterior of the Longacre House and the William M. Costick Center to NAR Contracting in the amount of \$25,290.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY AND RICH  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR TUCKPOINTING THE EXTERIOR OF THE COSTICK CENTER TO NATIONAL RESTORATION, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,665.00. CMR 11-17-103**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue a purchase order for tuckpointing the William M. Costick Center to National Restoration, Inc. in the amount of \$45,665.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY AND RICH  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 2017.**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the regular meeting minutes of October 23, 2017 as submitted.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY AND RICH  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF ENTERING INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE REGULAR SESSION FOR AN EMPLOYEE REQUESTED REVIEW.**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves entering into an executive session immediately following the regular session for an employee requested review.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY AND RICH  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

The City Attorney's report was received by Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Massey adjourned the regular City Council meeting at 8:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk