

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL - COMMUNITY ROOM
FEBRUARY 27, 2023 – 6:00PM

The study session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Barnett at 6:05pm

Council Members Present: Barnett, Bridges, Bruce, Knol, Massey and Newlin

Council Members Absent: Boleware

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Valentine, Directors Brown, Harvey and Winn and City Attorney Joppich

REVIEW OF LIQUOR LICENSE POLICY

City Clerk Smith explained that the policy was being brought to City Council for review as requested by Council, specifically as it relates to time frame within the policy that applications are reviewed, which currently states, “City Council shall conduct hearings on applications, if any are pending or available, three times each year, this being during the months of January, May and September at regularly scheduled Council meetings.”

Mayor Pro-Tem Bruce stated that he requested review of the current policy as he was not sure why Council only reviews applications for new quota liquor licenses 3 times a year and that they should be reviewed as they are submitted to the city. He suggested the following changes to the policy:

- **Page 1, Item #3** – Removal of this item and following language: “The proximity of the proposed use to similar existing operations and establishments already serving alcohol will be taken into consideration.”
- **Page 2, Item #4** – Add language to indicate that food service menus shall be provided **if food is served** to address potential future changes to eliminate the need for a bona fide restaurant.
- **Page 3, second to last paragraph** - Eliminate the language that applications are reviewed only 3 times a year and allow them to be reviewed as submitted.

Considerable discussion was held on the need to review redevelopment liquor license requirements as well as the need to encourage redevelopment and improvements along the Grand River Corridor. It was suggested that Council consider establishing another redevelopment district, if necessary, once the master plan is complete.

Mayor Barnett suggested having discussion on redevelopment liquor license requirements at the study session meeting of March 13th and asked the City Attorney to review the following:

- Required investment to obtain a liquor license
- What constitutes an investment of real and person property and can road projects be included as part of that investment

- Current statutes and Liquor Control Commission Administrative Rules on redevelopment liquor licenses
- If the City could be an applicant for a license

It was also suggested that Economic Development Director Brockway compile a list of real and personal property investment in the current redevelopment district within the last 3 years.

City Council concurred with the proposed changes by Mayor Pro-Tem Bruce to the current liquor license policy and review of this policy and the liquor license ordinance once again following completion of the master plan.

Staff noted that the liquor license policy amendments discussed this evening would be brought back to City Council at their next regular meeting on March 13, 2023 for consideration.

UPDATE ON THE CITY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Vickie Winn, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, reviewed plans for the City's 50th Anniversary celebration on July 6, 2023 and budget for the event.

Suggestions of City Council included:

- Changing to the date to early August as they felt many residents would be out of town that first week of July
- Reaching out to a seed company that was one of the first in businesses in township days and potential for having wildflower seeds as a give-a-way for the event
- Reach out to Children, Youth and Families to involve youth events
- Engage community businesses to help sponsor the event

Director Winn stated that she will take this feedback to the committee to see about the possibility of changing the date and incorporating some of the events or sponsorships.

ADJOURNMENT

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk