

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
MARCH 8, 2021 – 6:00PM

The Study Session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was held electronically and called to order by Mayor Barnett at 6:08pm. 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
Michael Bridges, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Valerie Knol, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Ken Massey, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Mary Newlin, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Matt Strickfaden, Farmington Hills, Michigan

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: Acting City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Directors Gardiner and Mondora, Police Chief King, Planning Consultant Arroyo and City Attorney Joppich

BID RECOMMENDATION FOR HERITAGE HILLS AND WEDGWOOD COMMONS PHASE 1

Acting City Manager Mekjian introduced Chuck Hart and Angie Pike from Hubbell, Roth and Clark and Jim Cubera, City Engineer and Kevin McCarthy, Department of Public Works Director who were present this evening to answer any questions. He explained that the decision made on this project is important as the project will be done in several phases and whatever materials is chosen for the first phase, staff is recommending that the same material is used throughout the subdivision.

Karen Mondora, Director of Public Services, reviewed a power point presentation outlining the bids that were received by the city, material options that included both asphalt and concrete, pros and cons and pricing for each option and recommendation by city staff and Hubbell, Roth and Clark, city engineering consultants.

Discussion was held on the existing material and costs involved for each option presented.

In response to inquiries on project warranties and details of the road construction, Director Mondora explained that staff conducts material testing and has on-site inspectors throughout the project and each project contains a 2-year warranty and guarantee per the contract. Chuck Hart, HRC, added that with a total reconstruction project, any flaws are typically experienced during the project testing or before the project is closed out and still under the warranty period and corrected at that time. He explained in detail how the road is constructed to eliminate moisture from under the roadway that could potentially freeze and cause cracking or lifting.

Council members expressed a preference for the concrete option as the existing roads were concrete and it was proposed to cost less over the life of the road.

It was noted that while concrete had been chosen for the last several projects based on the bids received, that the City would keep its options open and determine each project on a case-by-case basis.

In response to concerns about completing the project in a timely manner, Director Mondora explained that the expectations are discussed with the contractor in advance and there is a penalty if the job is not completed on schedule with no good cause. She added there is no bonus for early completion.

Acting City Manager Mekjian added that the city has a great in-house construction inspection process with existing staff for these projects.

It was noted that the award of bid would come to Council for consideration at their meeting on March 22, 2021 and that this was Phase 1 of 4 for this project.

PROPOSED MARIJUANA INDUSTRY INFORMATION GATHERING & PUBLIC OUTREACH PLAN

Acting City Manager Mekjian explained that at the direction of City Council, City Attorney Joppich reached out to several members of staff to develop a draft plan for gathering information and getting public input regarding the marijuana industry.

Attorney Joppich stated that several educational study sessions were held with City Council outlining the laws and licenses in place and this next step was to develop a plan to gather information from industry people and eventually obtain public input. He reviewed the draft plan provided to City Council that proposed three sessions with representatives of various parts of the commercial marijuana industry, information gathering from other municipalities and public outreach. Staff was seeking Council input.

Discussion was held regarding the number of participants permitted from each category of the industry and how participants would be selected. Council suggested allowing for more industry participants and having a diverse group of participants as well as more public input.

Attorney Joppich explained that as proposed the participants would be asked to submit a paragraph about their expertise in the field and then staff would select the first 10 participants most qualified from each category.

It was pointed out that there should be a limit on the number of participants so that the meetings would be most productive, but it was suggested allowing for up to 12 participants from each category of the industry to ensure more participation.

Attorney Joppich stated that the plan could allow for public input to be sent to staff via email prior to the industry sessions to allow for more public input during that time but the public outreach portion of the plan was proposed to follow these sessions. He added that the sessions would be taped and then could be posted to the website for the public or even live streamed if desired.

ADJOURNMENT

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk