

MINUTES  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBER  
AUGUST 9, 2021 – 6:00PM

The study session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Barnett at 6:07pm.

Council Members Present: Barnett, Boleware, Bridges, Knol, Massey, Newlin and Strickfaden

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Valentine, Director Gardiner, Planning Consultant Arroyo and City Attorney Joppich

Councilmember Bridges left the meeting at 6:10pm for a family emergency.

**CANNABIS INDUSTRY INFORMATION GATHERING & PUBLIC OUTREACH PLAN**

City Manager Mekjian explained that this plan was a working document that has been revised over several study sessions with City Council and the red lined language was included from the last study session and there were highlighted areas where staff was seeking additional input from City Council.

Attorney Joppich reviewed the draft plan with City Council.

City Council suggested the following revisions/additions to the plan:

- Page 2, *Public Invitation to Attend Sessions* - include Chamber of Commerce as another avenue to invite the public to the industry sessions and for all invitation or postings to be provided at least one month prior to the first session and to include all session dates/times.
- Page 4, III. Public Outreach – note that the city will hold two (2) public workshop sessions and add Chamber of Commerce to this section as well under *Outreach Effort*
- Page 5, Session Format (1) – Council consensus was to hold sessions on days other than normal meeting nights and consider a Saturday session and to consider the HAWK auditorium for the venue to allow for maximum space
- Page 5, Session Format (3) – revise to allow three minutes for each member of the public to speak
- With regard to the public sessions, two options were provided: 1) Regular meeting sessions allowing each person to address all Council members for up to three minutes: or 2) Facilitated public input sessions with Council. **Council consensus was for Option 1**

Attorney Joppich stated that he would incorporate the changes discussed this evening and distribute the revised plan to City Council for a final review. He stated that it did not require formal approval of Council.

**DISCUSSION ON SMOKING LOUNGE LICENSE FEES**

City Clerk Smith reviewed the proposed fees for smoking lounge licenses as well licenses for miniature golf/go-kart tracks or arcades as required per the ordinances just approved by City Council. She reviewed fees required of other communities and noted that she discussed the time and cost of required inspections with the other departments. Staff is proposing \$300 initial fee and \$200 renewal fee for licenses issued under both ordinances as this would cover staff costs and is consistent with other communities.

In response to Council inquiry on what other communities charge for miniature golf/go-kart tracks or arcades, Clerk Smith responded that this was more difficult to compare to other communities as they did

not have a separate ordinance as the city has approved and that often the arcades in particular are more as communities charge a license fee and then also charge a fee per arcade game.

Some concern was expressed with charging \$300 for miniature golf/go-kart tracks or arcades. Clerk Smith noted that both ordinances require the same inspection process so the fees would still only cover staff costs but that the decision is certainly up to City Council.

Clerk Smith noted that resolutions for these fees are on the regular session agenda for consideration.

Since there was time before the regular sessions, the Mayor inquired if there was any public comment at this time:

The following comments/questions were raised by the public:

**The definition of a smoking lounge and what type of ventilation would be required?**

Attorney Joppich reviewed the definition and Clerk Smith noted that the ventilation of the building is most likely handled through the inspection process for the building.

**How can a person obtain a copy of the draft plan?**

Mayor Barnett answered that the draft plan is available on the city website as part of the City Council meeting material.

**Comment that if the city is in a position of opting in to allow any of the licenses to not seek public input but rather input from other communities. It was mentioned that both Madison Heights and Westland have very comprehensive ordinances.**

Mayor Barnett commented that reaching out to other communities is part of the plan being discussed and that the city has put together a very comprehensive approach.

**Request that as the city contemplates allowing cannabis licenses to keep in mind that there are three different sets of laws that govern different uses and to consider how all of those would be affected and fit in with other ordinances.**

Mayor Barnett assured the public that the City Attorney has extensively reviewed the laws with Council.

**Would there be a set number of dispensaries allowed?**

Mayor Barnett stated that this is not yet known until the city goes through the process as outlined.

**Reminder to Council that there is still a stigma with regard to marijuana use and kudos to council for inviting industry leaders to help alleviate the fears of the unknown.**

**Who will decide which industry persons will participate?**

Attorney Joppich briefly reviewed that process as outlined in the plan

**ADJOURNMENT**

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:14pm

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk