

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2021 – 7:30 PM

The regular session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was held electronically and called to order by Mayor Barnett at 7:32pm.

During roll call, Council members were asked to state their location from where they are attending the meeting remotely.

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
Matthew Strickfaden, Farmington Hills, Michigan

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: Acting City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Directors Mondora, Monico and Schnackel, Fire Chief Unruh, Police Chief King and City Attorney Joppich

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barnett led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA

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

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

PRESENTATION OF HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Angeline Lawrence, Staff Planner and Ken Klemmer, Historic District Commission (HDC) Chair presented the 2020 Annual Report to City Council.

Councilmember Knol, HDC Council Liaison, commented on the work that the Commission has been doing particularly on the headstone renovations and on the Spicer House. She stated that the City of Farmington Hills has an obligation to maintain the integrity of the historic district sites and there are updates needed to the Spicer House and to the cemetery headstones that should be included in future capital improvement budgets by the appropriate department.

In response to Council, Chair Klemmer noted that there were approximately 76 historic properties in the city and that the North Farmington Cemetery on Farmington Road is privately owned and not part of the city's historic district.

MOTION by Knol, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby accepts transmittal of the Historic District Commission 2020 Annual Report.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was acknowledged:

- From a resident on a matter that was not under the jurisdiction of City Council so the inquiry was sent on to State Representative Steckloff who responded that she would follow up on the matter.
- From Leland Bassett who wanted to thank first responders for the excellent services provided by the Farmington Hills Fire Department and EMS members particularly Sean and Brian from Station #5.
- Two e-mails from Mr. DeWard that were sent on to the City Manager and City Attorney and would be handled as a FOIA request for records.
- From Tom Callahan that was received following a response to him and staff will continue to follow up on his concerns.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Barnett mentioned that there were a few minor corrections suggested to the February 6, 2021 special meeting minutes including showing that Council member Strickfaden was present.

MOTION by Massey, support by Strickfaden, to approve the Consent Agenda with the amendments to the special City Council meeting minutes of February 6, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

There were no public questions or comments.

COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following comments and announcements were made:

- Council member Bridges commented that the City Council goals session minutes of January 16, 2021 did not reflect his comments made at the time on hiring a Diversity and Inclusion Equity Director. He had provided information to Council from the MML, ICMA and Michigan Civil Rights Division for that meeting. He wanted to outline what he proposed at that time and requested the following statement to be included in the current meeting minutes verbatim:

“This person will direct evaluation, development and implementation of policies and procedures and programs through the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion. He or she will report to the City Manager and work directly with all city departments within the city and with community stakeholders to ensure that these shared values of diversity, equity and inclusion are evident in the city’s service delivery and collaboration”

- State of the Cities will be held Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 7:30am
- COVID-19 vaccination appointment information
- Councilmember Knol mentioned Mr. Callahan’s correspondence and offered to provide some history on this issue during the budget discussions for other members that were not on Council at the time. She noted this relates to a resolution that she had requested regarding the road millages and how they were structured

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

City Manager Mekjian provided the following update:

- He mentioned several construction projects in the city and encouraged residents to sign up for the construction list serve to get information on upcoming projects.
- Oakland County will be testing outdoor warning sirens the first Saturday of each month beginning March 6, 2021

Mayor Pro-Tem Boleware requested an update on the Diversity and Inclusion Officer and website updates that were brought up at the City Council goals session. She was hoping the website search engine capabilities would be improved.

Acting City Manager Mekjian stated that he is currently working with the Human Resource Director to gather information on a Diversity and Inclusion Officer position. He plans to budget for the position in the event Council makes the decision to hire a staff person. He discussed website improvements already in place and that they could look at ways to improve search capabilities.

Councilmember Strickfaden suggested challenging area students to develop an improved home page for the website.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A TEMPORARY ACTING CITY MANAGER.

City Attorney explained that Mr. Mekjian had a pre-planned, one-week vacation and since he is currently serving as the Acting City Manager until his contract is finalized as City Manager, it was suggested that in his absence an Acting City Manager is appointed. The proposed resolution would appoint City Clerk Smith and she has agreed to fill that role while Mr. Mekjian is on vacation.

Councilmember Bridges inquired if a salary increase for Clerk Smith is required by Council for that week. Clerk Smith responded that she did not request an increase in salary for that week.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
RESOLUTION NO. R-34-21

At a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Farmington Hills, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, held in the Farmington Hills City Hall on the 22nd day of February 2021, at 7:30 p.m., with those present and absent being,

PRESENT: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN
ABSENT: NONE

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Councilperson Bridges and supported by Councilperson Newlin:

WHEREAS, former City Manager Dave Boyer has retired and the current Acting City Manager, Gary Mekjian, is scheduled to be out-of-state for a previously scheduled vacation during the week of February 28, 2021 through March 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Farmington Hills City Charter authorizes City Council to designate a City employee to serve as the Acting City Manager during periods of absence or disability of the City Manager; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that, from February 28, 2021 through March 8, 2021, or Gary Mekjian's return to the State of Michigan, whichever is later, Pam Smith is designated to serve as the Acting City Manager, and thereafter Mr. Mekjian shall resume as the Council-appointed Acting City Manager until further action of this City Council.

AYES: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTENTIONS: NONE

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss.
COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

CONSENT AGENDA
RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING DATE OF MARCH 22, 2021 FOR THE VACATION OF A PUBLIC ALLEY LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE NORTH LOT LINE OF LOTS 1-13 IN THE B.H. WARK'S AVIATION SUBDIVISION IN SECTION 35. CMR 2-21-20

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA) AND RELATED EQUIPMENT TO APOLLO FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$573,992.03 AND ADDITIONAL BUDGETED PURCHASES FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS. CMR 2-21-21

MOTION by Massey, support by Strickfaden, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue a purchase order to Apollo Fire Equipment Company for SCBA and related equipment in the amount of \$573,992.03 (\$349,499 Base bid + additional items \$224,493.03). It is additionally recommended that City Council authorize the City Manager to approve any budgeted purchases of SCBA and related equipment to Apollo Fire Equipment Company for a period of four (4) years.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF AGREEMENT FOR TOWING, STORAGE & IMPOUND SERVICES WITH ROSS TOWING FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD; WITH POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS. CMR 2-21-22

MOTION by Massey, support by Strickfaden, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager and City Clerk to sign a contract for towing, storage & impoundment services with Ross Towing for a three (3) year period with an option to renew for three (3) additional one-year terms at a 5% increase per year: with all other terms and conditions remaining the same.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS FOR THE FARMINGTON HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER (THE HAWK) TO NICHOLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,517.92. CMR 2-21-23

MOTION by Massey, support by Strickfaden, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue a purchase orders for the Maintenance Equipment & Tools for the Farmington Hills Community Center (HAWK) to Nichols for \$32,517.92.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2021.

MOTION by Massey, support by Strickfaden, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the special City Council meeting minutes of February 6, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2021.

MOTION by Massey, support by Strickfaden, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council study session meeting minutes of February 8, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2021.

MOTION by Massey, support by Strickfaden, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council regular session meeting minutes of February 8, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, to adjourn the regular session City Council meeting at 8:22pm.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND
STRICKFADEN

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk