

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET STUDY SESSION MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
MAY 5, 2020 – 6:00PM

The special budget study session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Barnett at 6:00pm.

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

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Boyer, Assistant City Manager Mekjian City Clerk Smith, Directors Barr, Gardiner, Mondora, Monico and Randle

Department Directors for the following departments provided an overview of their budgets and they were then reviewed by City Council:

Central Services
Human Recourse
Planning and Community Development
Public Services
Boards and Commissions/City Council/City Administration
Finance

The following were points of discussion:

Central Services

- Department assistance during COVID-19 including IT services required to allow certain staff to work from home including continued support to the City of Farmington and coordination of purchase of PPE equipment city-wide.
- Initiatives in progress including a new phone system and switch over to Outlook 365 for the city-wide e-mail system
- Cooperative purchases with other entities

Human Resources

- Salary survey being conducted next year
- 5 of the union contracts are open this year for wage negotiations only
- Employee Assistance Program
- Incentives for Fit for Life Program
- Succession Planning

Planning and Community Development

- Rental Inspection Program. Council expressed interest in a more aggressive program
- CDBG Grant Funding

Public Services

- Gas/oil prices and Act 51 revenue
- Use of liquid de-icer vs salt

- Building maintenance costs
- Cemetery clean-up and repairs
- Capital Improvement Projects and prioritizing sidewalks where they do not already exist
- Suggested that walkability is included as a goals session item for next year
- Grants and monies received by the city

Boards and Commissions

- Includes Court budget that is weighted by percent between the Cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills (Farmington Hills' share is 83%)

City Council/City Administration

- Repurposing of Harrison High School to the Community Center
- Implementation of the city's road millage
- Membership savings as the city is no longer a member of NLC or the 8 Mile Boulevard Association and change in membership structure for the Chamber of Commerce
- Conference and Workshop budgets were increased due to new City Council members attending training.
- Finance Director Barr explained the purposes of the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and Corridor Improvement Authority and TIF funding.

Finance

- City's AAA bond rating and budget awards received
- His pending retirement and that of Comptroller Shu-Fen Lin
- RFP for banking services that saved the city money
- Property tax values and effect of COVID-19 on property taxes, appeals and consultant fees
- Very stable budget with extremely low debt rate for a city of this size
- Post Employment benefits – the city is 90+% funded in health care costs and pension costs are funded at approximately 74-76% as the city has lowered the rate of return
- Explanation of interfund transfers
- Debt funds and ways to possibly lower; however, probably not much the city can do to lessen the debt as it is already very low

WRAP UP

Finance Director Barr commented that the budget document as prepared is a great tool for the city and credited his staff for all of their hard work and budget preparation.

City Manager Boyer thanked Director Barr for his leadership through the budget process.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Massey, support by Newlin, to adjourn the special budget study session meeting at 8:30pm

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk