

MINUTES  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING  
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM  
FEBRUARY 13, 2017

The Study Session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Massey at 6:00 pm.

Council Members Present: Bruce, Knol, Lerner, Massey, Rich and Steckloff

Council Members Absent: Bridges

Others Present: City Manager Boyer, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Mekjian, Director Mondora and City Attorney Joppich

**MAJOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Director Mondora informed Council that there are 6 miles of major roads proposed to be rehabilitated this year at a total estimated cost of \$8 million and .5 miles of commercial roads, which represents the Country Club Drive special assessment district, at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million.

Mayor Massey commented that some of these improvements will require the removal of trees in natural beauty areas to address site distance issues at intersections and cautioned Council that they could hear some complaints on that, but it is required to make those necessary improvements.

Councilmember Rich inquired the plans to discuss these upcoming improvements with the affected residents.

Mrs. Mondora stated that project open houses have been scheduled and notices either went to individual homeowners or if there were larger subdivisions, the notice was sent to the Homeowners Association and all notices will also be out on the city's website and Facebook page.

Councilmember Knol suggested that the areas where trees are removed should be replaced with tiger lilies or a similar plant that would enhance the natural beauty area.

Mrs. Mondora confirmed that the contract calls for a native seed mix to be planted in those areas.

Director Mondora discussed the proposed work, starting dates and time frames for the following projects that are included in the above figures:

13 Mile Road, Halsted to Drake  
11 Mile Road, Orchard Lake to Middlebelt  
Drake Road, 12 Mile to 13 Mile Road  
12 Mile Road, Haggerty to Farmington Roads (OCRC Project)  
Grand River, Sinacola to Purdue (MDOT Project)

She mentioned that staff has improved specifications for city administered projects that include tightening the schedule, requiring detailed signage specifications and penalties and requiring progress meetings.

Councilmember Lerner suggested approaching Oakland County with regard to improving the intersections under their jurisdiction in these areas at the same time the city is improving the roads.

Assistant City Manager Mekjian stated that staff could bring this up at the strategic meeting to be held with Oakland County.

City Engineer Cubera added that it makes sense to include the intersections and they will make sure that is part of their discussion on the projects.

Councilmember Rich requested a map that showed the minor projects to be done as well and to include projected dates.

City Manager Boyer added that the city is not doing any directed special assessment districts this year; only heavy maintenance and mill and fill on subdivision roads.

### **DISCUSSION ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Attorney Joppich reviewed the 3 remaining boards and commissions included as part of the ordinance that had not yet been discussed. He also indicated that there were other boards and commissions that were created by resolution or statute that he would like to review and get some direction from Council.

#### **Beautification Commission**

Sec 2-213. – Members.

Councilmember Knol expressed a concern with requiring 11 members for this Commission when others only had 7 to 9 members and suggested that the ordinance allow for “up to” 11 members or “between 7 and 11 members”.

Attorney Joppich pointed out that a quorum is defined as the majority of appointed members so language would have to be included in that section of the ordinance to address what a quorum would be if the membership for the Beautification Commission was changed to allow up to a certain membership.

Councilmember Knol suggested lowering the membership to 7 or 9 members with members to be removed as their terms expire.

The consensus was to reflect that the Beautification Commission would consist of nine (9) members.

#### **Farmington Area Arts Commission**

Attorney Joppich stated that under the ordinance this Commission would have 11 members as all other joint commissions. Council agreed with having 11 members.

#### **Commission on Community Health**

Council agreed with how this Commission was outlined in the ordinance.

Attorney Joppich reviewed several other authorities, boards and commission that were established by resolution, other ordinance or statute and his suggestion was to remove those that were not required and include the others in in Division 10 – Other Boards, Commissions, Committees and Councils, Section 2-231 – Established under other ordinances or laws; and to include a cross-reference to the resolution, ordinance or law under which they were created.

Council concurred and reviewed each board or commission. The following changes or actions were agreed upon:

- Eliminating reference to the Building Appeals Board as that is essentially the same as the State Construction Code Board of Appeals that is required by state law.
- Repealing the ordinance establishing the Single Family Residential Review Board.
- Eliminating reference to The Millennial Mayor Council – this was a suggested Council that was never formally established
- Review membership for the Housing Commission required by state statute
- Include guidelines for the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Board in the proposed ordinance
- Review membership and requirements for the Public Access Promotion Committee

Discussion was held on the Library Board and Councilmember Bruce suggested an annual report by the Board before Council. He feels that there should be more oversight by the communities with regard to the Library Board budget as they appoint members and are ultimately responsible for that membership. Dr. Bruce inquired if the city could have a liaison to the Library Board.

Attorney Joppich confirmed that the proposed ordinance is written in a way that an annual report would be required. He did not believe that there was anything to prevent the city from having a liaison.

Dr. Bruce suggested starting with the annual reports and to determine at a later date if a staff or council liaison should be appointed.

Attorney Joppich inquired how Council wished to handle the Multi-Cultural/Multi-Racial Council. He noted that there is not a resolution by Council establishing this group and the members are not appointed by the Mayor and Council.

City Manager Boyer stated that the MCMR recently updated their by-laws and he would provide a copy to council for further review. He noted that this group was established by the communities and school district with 2 representatives from each serving as members. The agreement was for the City of Farmington Hills to oversee the expenditures with the City Manager serving as Treasurer for the group.

Councilmembers Knol and Bruce had some concerns with providing the group with a budget and not appointing members in the same manner as all other boards, commissions or councils.

Councilmember Lerner suggested that there should at least be term limits on the memberships.

It was determined that further discussion would be held once the by-laws were provided to Council.

Councilmember Rich expressed concern with the previous discussion about eliminating the Committee to Increase Voter Participation.

Mayor Massey clarified that this group is not proposed to be eliminated at this time and City Clerk Smith has talked to the group about this new ordinance and expectations to see if the committee could be rejuvenated.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk