

MINUTES  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING  
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM  
JULY 24, 2017

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

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

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Boyer, City Clerk Smith, Directors Barr, Gardiner and Randle, Planning Consultant Arroyo and City Attorneys Joppich and Dovre.

**DISCUSSION ON WIRELESS COMMUNICATION ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS**

Director of Planning and Community Development, Ed Gardiner, reviewed the proposed ordinance amendments that would allow for new wireless facilities in a public right-of-way through license agreements. He stated that the amendments would only allow for the attachment of antennae to existing utility poles and/or the replacement of existing utility poles.

Councilmember Rich stated that she likes the idea that the residents will be connected. She inquired about the suggestion she brought up at the last study session with regard to using the poles as displays of public art. She would like to see that included in the ordinance amendments.

Director Gardiner stated that he felt that discussion pertained to new poles.

Councilmember Lerner inquired if the ordinance amendments would allow for colocation on ITC poles. Director Gardiner confirmed the wireless facilities would be allowed on any existing utility pole.

(Councilmember Bridges arrived at 6:10pm)

Councilmember Knol agreed that she thought the discussion regarding art was for new poles and would be hesitant to allow for art on existing poles and that this should be a separate discussion. She liked the proposed ordinance amendments as written.

The consensus was to allow for staff to move forward with discussion on the proposed amendments to bring before Council for consideration at a later date.

**DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED BALLOT LANGUAGE**

Mayor Massey explained that City Council has been discussing the issue of road funding for some time and what changes they could make to help with improving the condition of the roads. Council has heard many times from residents that they do not like the special assessment district (SAD) process or the directed SAD process so Council has discussed a proposed millage and the City Attorney has presented Council with proposed language. He stated that Council wanted to propose something that would be fair and equitable for all residents. They will be discussing two ballot proposals to put before for the voters that include a Charter Amendment to establish the millage rate and a Charter amendment to allow for the expenditure of funds by way of a millage. Council and staff also reviewed options for exempting those residents in an active SAD and a pavement analysis was done, once internally and again by an outside

consultant. The consultant was in attendance to make a presentation at the regular meeting. He added that the two proposals are tie-barred meaning that one could not pass without the other passing.

Mayor Massey further explained that the proposed language for consideration at the regular meeting will be for 2.5 mills that would be approximately \$240/year for the average homeowner. He stated that this would be a dedicated millage to be used for roads only and the resolution includes language that it would be "up to" 2.5 mills so that the city would not have to levy the full 2.5 mills should the city receive additional state revenue for roads.

Attorney Joppich suggested an additional change to paragraph 5 of the resolution to include that the ballot language would be published in a paper of general circulation. He explained that approval of the language would require a 3/5 affirmative vote of Council and if approved would be forwarded to the Attorney General and Governor for review per statute requirements. He noted that the Governor could object to the language and if so, would send a letter to the Clerk to convey to City Council. The City Council would then be required to hold an open meeting to present the reasons offered by the Governor for objecting to the language and Council could then approve the language as is or present new language addressing the objections, both which requires a 2/3 affirmative vote of Council.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steckloff inquired about including language for exempting those special assessments that were 5 years beyond their term.

Attorney Joppich expressed concern with going beyond the SAD expiration term as he feels that would be difficult to justify. He also clarified that the exemption would be up to the amount of the SAD payment per year.

Discussion was held on the possibility of legal action against the City.

Councilmember Bruce commented that if the millage fails, it should be made clear that the city will have to move forward with the directed SAD process.

The consensus of City Council was to move forward with consideration of the resolution at the regular meeting with the proposed changes.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk