

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
MARCH 26, 2018

The Study Session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Massey at 6:05pm

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, Mondora and Schnackel and City Attorney Joppich

NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY LANDSCAPING

City Manager Boyer stated that staff has been discussing this area of Northwestern Highway for some time and improving landscaping and opening up the sight lines. He introduced Charmaine Kettler-Schmult of the Planning Department and Karen Mondora, Director of Public Services, who have been working on a design concept for this area.

Ms. Kettler-Schmult explained the proposed design concept, noting plantings to be used for specific focus areas. The project would include the removal of evasive weeds in the tall grass areas.

Councilmember Knol suggested including additional city signage at 8 Mile and Haggerty Road and on Grand River near Botsford Hospital. City Manager Boyer indicated that additional signage was included in the capital improvement plan for next year.

It was suggested that the city consider community groups to sponsor specific areas for landscaping in order to expand upon these efforts.

Staff noted that the intent was to start the improvements in late April of this year.

SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT & MILLAGE DISCUSSION

Ellen Schnackel, Director of Special Services, presented the Special Service Department 2017 Annual Report.

It was mentioned that there have been requests to keep the dog park open later in the evening. Staff explained that when the dog park was established part of the agreement with the surrounding residents was that no lighting would be installed but the hours are extended during daylight savings time.

Millage

Director Schnackel explained that the Parks and Recreation millage expires June 30, 2019. From the time the millage was approved, taxable values have decreased and millage funding was reduced by about 32 percent. She discussed the accomplishments made through millage funding over the last 10 years and the focus areas proposed for the next ten years if a millage renewal is approved by the voters.

Discussion was held on expanding social media and the city's on-line presence. This is being reviewed as part of the city's IT policy and it was also noted that the Special Services Department now has a full time

employee to handle marketing who has been very active in preparing and improving the city newsletter and handles social media for the Special Services Department.

In response to Council, staff confirmed plans for playground equipment replacement.

Discussion was held on proposed millage wording and whether the city should ask for a straight renewal (approximately .5 mill) or request additional funding up to 1 mill upon expiration of the current millage. Council requested information on costs to the residents for both scenarios.

It was determined that the City Attorney would draft millage proposal language for a straight renewal as well as language that would include a renewal and additional funding for City Council consideration at their next meeting of April 9, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT:

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:19pm

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk