

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
COMMUNITY ROOM
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 – 6:45PM

The study session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Barnett at 6:48pm.

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

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Valentine, Director Schnackel and City Attorney Joppich

ESTABLISHING AN INNOVATION, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

City Attorney Joppich explained that the resolution before Council would establish a temporary committee as suggested by Council at a previous meeting. The resolution actually walks through the history of committees formed with similar goals (Green Efforts, Commission on Energy and Environmental Sustainability – CEES) and the CEES was ultimately made a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission. This year, City Council decided to re-establish a committee with similar goals but to also include innovation. He added that a title had not yet been discussed; he proposed Innovation, Energy and Environmental Sustainability; but that is up to City Council. He explained that based on Council direction, the resolution proposes the following:

- Establishes the committee as a temporary committee of 1 to 2 years and if necessary, extend the term beyond that time frame - *staff is seeking Council input on the time frame*
- Outlines the purpose and goals
- Requires a report go be issued to Council
- Establishes this as an 11-member committee to be consistent with other boards and commissions
- Identifies the types of members – businesses, residents, members from the Broadband Task Force and EDC, a student and City of Farmington members
- Includes information about reaching out to Farmington to offer them to also make appointments to the committee – *input is needed from Council on the # of Farmington v Farmington Hills representatives if this is a joint committee as well as on when the committee should hold its first meeting (after appointing 5 members? 7 members?)*

Assistant City Manager Mekjian pointed out that the resolution also requires the committee to identify 2-3 attainable goals.

Mayor Barnett stated that this is also an opportunity to develop public/private partnerships and discuss Smart City initiatives.

Council reviewed the resolution and had the following suggestions:

- Including a representative from DTE and environmentalist on the committee
- Establish the committee for at least 2 years with possibility of making it a permanent committee
- Establishing attainable goals after 4 months from start date of the committee with a **preliminary** report to Council at that time
- The committee to include 11 members
- The committee to include 9 members appointed by the City of Farmington Hills; 2 members appointed by the City of Farmington with 3 alternates (1 from the business community, 1 from Farmington Hills and 1 from Farmington) – *subject to City of Farmington's participation*
- First meeting to start upon the appointment of 5 members

In response to council, City Manager Mekjian explained that the new city-wide broadband would allow the city to be open to smart initiatives such as infrastructure for autonomous vehicles and that the committee would certainly be discussing these options.

It was determined that City Manager Mekjian would reach out to the City of Farmington now to determine if they are interest in appointing anyone to the committee.

The resolution was proposed to be on the next meeting agenda for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk