

MINUTES  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING  
JULY 12, 2021 – 6:00PM

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

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, Directors Gardiner and Schnackel, Police Chief King and City Attorney Joppich

**PUBLIC SAFETY/BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE**

City Attorney Joppich reviewed the changes made to the three business license ordinances that were discussed at the previous study session meeting. The changes included:

Chapter 8 of the City Code, General Licensing Provisions:

- Adding language to clarify the term “moral turpitude” within the ordinance.

Ordinance to regulate smoking lounges:

- Included language to allow for a permit for dance/entertainment.
- Changing the hours of operation from closing at 12pm to closing at 1am.

Attorney Joppich explained that a resolution to establish fees is typically brought back to City Council for consideration at the same meeting at which the Enactment of the Ordinance is before Council.

Councilmember Bridges asked for a study session to discuss fees and particularly fees proposed for these ordinances.

Ordinance to regulate go-kart, miniature golf and arcades:

- Removed the prohibition on live entertainment for these establishments.

Mayor Barnett stated that the ordinances would come before Council at their next regular meeting for consideration and she suggested a study session prior to that meeting to review the fees as requested.

Attorney Joppich explained that the ordinances would become effective 21 days after enactment of the ordinances but that existing facilities per the ordinances would have a 90-day grace period in which to obtain a license.

**PUBLIC ART/SIGNS**

Celeste McDermott, Vice Chair of the Farmington Area Arts Commission, introduced Cindy Carleton, Commission Secretary and Commission member Cheryl Blau. She stated that the goal of the Commission is to ensure that arts and cultural history is a component of our everyday lives. She stated that the topic is relevant to the commission as they recently had a request for a mural in the community and the discussion was whether the mural was art or considered a sign under current city ordinances. She commented on the

importance of murals and how they are used to publish what is happening in society and bring a message forth to tell a story and they make art accessible to the general public.

Cindy Carleton, Commission Secretary, discussed the following project goals:

- To more clearly define a mural (or art) vs. a sign
- To encourage more murals and other public art in Farmington Hills.
- To develop a simplified application and review process for owners wishing to fund and install murals on their property.
- To ensure that the process is legal and similar to neighboring communities

She read their proposed definition of a mural.

It was suggested that the city focus on the Grand River Corridor area to include art since this area has been identified for improvements and suggested that city grant funding or captured TIF funds could be used for this purpose.

City Attorney Joppich stated that he would need to review the option of utilizing those funding sources for this purpose.

Discussion was held on the proposed definition of a mural. Some felt it was too narrow by not allowing businesses to include the name or a logo and by limiting it to a product from a “skilled” artist.

It was clarified that if the mural included a name or logo, it would be considered a sign under current city ordinances.

Ms. Carleton discussed peer city programs and proposed guidelines for approving/allowing murals in the city as public art.

The general consensus of Council was that they liked the idea of allowing public art and agreed the Grand River Corridor was a good place to start with such a program.

It was suggested that the Planning and Special Services staff, City Attorney and members of the Arts Commission and Corridor Improvement Authority meet to further discuss how a program could be implemented and to bring information back to City Council at their August 22<sup>nd</sup> study session meeting.

Mayor Barnett suggested the commission also consider incorporating other forms of art.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:24pm

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk