

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 23, 2020 – 6:00PM

The Study Session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was held electronically and called to order by Mayor Barnett at 6:00pm. Members were asked to state their name and location (city and state) as to where they were attending the electronic meeting.

Council Members Present: Vicki Barnett, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Jackie Boleware, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Michael Bridges, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Valerie Knol, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Ken Massey, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Mary Newlin, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Samantha Steckloff, Farmington Hills, Michigan

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: Acting City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Directors Schnackel and Skrobola, Police Chief King, Planning Consultant Arroyo and City Attorney Joppich

CITY COUNCIL GOALS SESSION MEETING DATE

Acting City Manager Mekjian suggested January 16 or January 23, 2021 as possible dates for the City Council goals session. Council members were open to either date. Acting City Manager Mekjian suggested January 16th and noted that this was on the regular session agenda for consideration.

CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

Council members discussed the process for filling the City Council vacancy due to the resignation of Councilmember Steckloff who was elected to the House of Representatives. It was agreed that Council wanted an open process with letters of interest and resumes submitted and open interviews. They discussed further details of the process that would be formalized at their December 14, 2020 regular session meeting.

BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE

Police Chief Jeff King explained that he has been speaking with Attorney Joppich about a possible ordinance that would address public safety issues the Department is experiencing at several business establishments and that has also caused a significant burden on staff resources. He outlined the issues that the Department was experiencing that included some violent crimes.

Attorney Steve Joppich explained that they had discussed a possible business license ordinance that would contain certain requirements geared towards maintaining public health, safety and welfare and if those requirements were not met, the city could potentially shut the business down or revoke their license. He added that before drafting such an ordinance, the Chief was seeking input from City Council.

The consensus of City Council was that they would consider an ordinance.

Attorney Joppich stated that the idea would be to provide a licensing structure for certain businesses to address public safety and to provide for a revocation process with a fair hearing, etc. and City Council would have control over any licensing fees assessed.

Chief King added that an ordinance would assist the Department in addressing the behaviors at the establishments and public safety issues. In response to City Council, Chief King mentioned that the Department has seen a decrease in this type of activity where business owners have taken their own measures to shut their doors if needed or hire additional security.

SECRET SERVICE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Police Chief King explained that the Police Department is seeking to participate in the United States Secret Service Task Force that would provide the Department significant technical resources to assist in the investigations of cyber and fraud related crimes. He noted that per the proposed agreement, the Secret Service would provide the Farmington Hills Police Department up to \$15,000 in overtime pay per year reimbursement for travel, a vehicle, fuel and extensive training in the field of digital forensics.

He wanted to provide some background information on this agreement as this item was on the City Council's regular agenda this evening for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Bridges, support by Massey, to adjourn the study session meeting at 7:06pm.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND
 STECKLOFF
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk