

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
COMMUNITY ROOM
NOVEMBER 8, 2021 – 6:00PM

The study session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Barnett at 6:04pm.

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

Council Members Absent: Bruce

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Valentine, Director Mondora, Police Chief King and City Attorney Young

ARPA FUNDING/EXPENDITURES

Tom Skrobola explained the American Rescue Plan Act that was passed into law to provide needed relief to state, local and Tribal governments to enable them to continue to support the public health response and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable economic recovery. He noted that the U.S. Treasury adopted an “Interim Final Rule”, which governs the eligibility for the reception of ARPA funds and the amount of funds allocated to specific state and local governments. He noted that Farmington Hills received \$8.9 million to be distributed in two equal installments; the first received June, 2021 and the next should be received in June, 2022. Mr. Skrobola spoke to reporting requirements by the City and strategy for utilizing the funding under the current Interim Final Rule. He explained that the city intends to utilize the funding similar to other funding received to pay for already-budgeted public safety payroll costs, which will free up the money originally intended for that purpose to be used for identified capital needs and pay for annual debt service on existing capital improvements. He added that pending legislation may provide the opportunity to leverage ARPA funding for enhanced community goals, including economic development. Mr. Skrobola stated that should anything change once the “Final Rule” is issued, the city would adjust accordingly and come back to Council with any proposed changes.

Council expressed the desire to have input on the expenditure of these funds going forward.

Potential projects were identified by Council to be considered for ARPA funding, including:

- Sidewalk Replacement – expediting and particularly in close proximity to schools
- City Hall parking lot improvements
- Replacement tree planting throughout the city
- Culvert repair or replacement
- Storm drainage system repairs
- Installing fire hydrants throughout the city where needed
- Updating City facilities – Spicer House, Costick Center, etc.

City Manager Mekjian suggested that during budget discussion, Council and staff discuss best options for the ARPA funding. He agreed with Director Skrobola that it would not be wise to use the funding to create programs that would not have an on-going funding mechanism in place.

Mayor Pro-Tem Boleware suggested discussing this again prior to the budget sessions and to obtain some background information so they have a clear understanding of identified priorities and can make informed decisions.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY3 PROGRAM

Mark Saksewski reviewed the city's SAFE TE3 Program that stands for Safety Awareness for Everyone through Education, Enforcement and Engineering. He discussed the history and development of the program, the location within the city where the program has been used and the types of issues that the program can address such as speeding, pedestrian safety, cut-through traffic, sight distance and collisions. Mr. Saksewski explained that there are three phases and it begins with an informational meeting and problem identification and data collection in Phase I and then Phase II consists of the development of an education and enforcement plan based on the data collected from Phase I and then Phase III would include engineering and installation of speed control devices in the roadway if the education and enforcement efforts prove ineffective.

In response to Council, staff noted that the last time they implemented the program was pre-Covid but they have 2-3 subdivisions interested in starting this process. Mr. Saksewski noted they typically conduct 2-3 programs per year.

Councilmember Bridges requested that the city is assertive in advertising the program.

Public Services Director Mondora mentioned that the department recently created a video focusing on the program, which she presented to Council.

Council suggested posting the video on the city website and sending it out through a press release and to homeowners associations.

ADJOURNMENT

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk