

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
COMMUNITY ROOM
AUGUST 23, 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, Knol, Massey, Newlin and Strickfaden

Council Members Absent: Bridges

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Valentine, Directors Gardiner and Monico and City Attorney Joppich

UPDATE ON PUBLIC ART

City Manager Mekjian stated that the direction from Council at their meeting when this topic was last discussed was for staff to meet and provide an update at this meeting. Staff met last week and discussed public art on public vs. private property and areas where a private property owner wants to work with an artist to fund art on a private building and use of grant money in specific areas such as the Grand River Corridor.

City Attorney Joppich added that discussion of staff also included the following:

- Using the CIA district as a test or starting site and potential permanent site for public art displays and use of grant funding for that district
- Advertising vs. art and potential amendments to ordinances, specifically special exceptions for murals with a definition and size limitations
- Reviewing other community ordinances to review more options, which they are in the process of gathering and will review at the next meeting of the group

Discussion was held on the possibility of businesses requesting a variance through the Zoning Board of Appeals. Staff commented that it would be preferred this is handled administratively, potentially through requesting ordinance amendments.

It was mentioned that Sterling Heights uses public grants for placing public art on private property and that this is one ordinance that staff mentioned and planned to review.

Other forms of art were discussed such as sculptures and projection mapping. Director Gardiner confirmed current ordinances allow for sculptures.

Mayor Barnett mentioned that member appointments are needed for the Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) so that staff can include this committee in on conversations for that area.

City Attorney Joppich summarized that staff has identified ordinances from other cities and will meet to review those ordinances and will also review use of projection mapping based on discussions this evening. Once staff meets to review these ordinances, they will work on options to bring forth to City Council.

DISCUSSION ON RECONSTITUTING THE COMMISSION ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (CEES)

Mayor Barnett stated that she wants to make sure the city is doing all it can to encourage sustainability and to include business members as part of any new committee. The thought is to discuss sustainability and innovation with input from businesses such as Beaumont Farmington Hills, Bosch, etc. and to start with a 2 to 3 year commitment.

City Attorney Joppich stated that if this would not be a permanent committee, he would suggest establishing a committee or task force by resolution and not by ordinance.

The following suggestions were made by Council members:

- Forming a committee or task force for a 2-3 year period
- Membership to include 11 members to be consistent with all other boards/commissions and to include business members of the community, members of the Broadband Task Force and a liaison from the EDC
- For this to be a joint committee with the City of Farmington if they are interested
- The purpose to include innovation (technology and funding) but to narrow the purpose to 2-3 specific topics

It was determined that Attorney Joppich would draft the resolution forming the committee as discussed this evening and bring that back to City Council at a future study session.

ADJOURNMENT

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk