

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING (VIA TELECONFERENCE)
AUGUST 24, 2020 – 7:30 PM
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER

The regular session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Barnett via teleconference at 7:30pm.

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

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Boyer, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Mekjian, Directors Monico and Schnackel, Police Chief King and City Attorney Joppich

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barnett led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA

MOTION by Bridges, support by Massey, to approve the agenda as published.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

PROCLAMATION OPPOSING TRANSITIONING TO A CASHLESS SOCIETY

The following Proclamation was read by Councilmember Massey:

**PROCLAMATION
Mayor and City Council Oppose Transitioning to a Cashless Society
August 24, 2020**

WHEREAS, the rise of cashless establishments is giving way to discussions about a future cashless society where the acceptance of cash for payment of goods and services will no longer be allowed; and

WHEREAS, the Farmington Hills Mayor and City Council agree that this trend is a bad idea that should be opposed by those in positions of public influence; and

WHEREAS, since all transactions would be made electronically, a cashless society raises many concerns including decreased personal privacy, increased security risks, and the possibility of technical failures due to natural disasters or organizational errors that could incapacitate the national economy; and

- WHEREAS,** inequities would arise for some low-income communities, people of color, undocumented immigrants, and the homeless as they could be shut out of a cashless society due to a lack of financial stability, official identity documents, a bank account, internet access, a credit card or even a home address, all of which facilitate participation in electronic payment systems; and
- WHEREAS,** a cashless society would create an additional burden on small businesses as they would be forced to pay additional fees to credit card companies in order to participate in exclusively cashless transactions; and
- WHEREAS,** the rise of a cashless society is being fueled by fears that handling cash could spread the coronavirus, but medical experts confirm that cash is safe to use as long as people adhere to hand-washing protocols; and
- WHEREAS,** despite current public health concerns, the Mayor and City Council feel that the risks of identity theft, profiling, privacy invasion, and disenfranchising sectors of society such as the poor, elderly or people of color present too great an exclusionary barrier for this country to transition to a cashless society now or at any time in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Vicki Barnett, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **opposition to the proposed transition to a cashless society** and encourage our community to exercise their options for convenience, anonymity, freedom, and equality, which remain inherent in a society that provides the option to conduct financial transactions with cash.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2020 AS NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

The following Proclamation was read by Councilmember Newlin:

**PROCLAMATION
National Recovery Month
September 2020**

- WHEREAS,** according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in 2018, approximately 20.3 million people in the United States age 12 or older had a substance use disorder; and
- WHEREAS,** currently, an estimated 1.7 million people suffer from opioid use disorders related to prescription opioid pain relievers and 652,000 people suffer from heroin use disorders, which are not mutually exclusive; and
- WHEREAS,** the Centers for Disease Control reported that more than 67,000 Americans died in 2018 from drug overdoses, with synthetic opioids currently being the main driver of drug overdose deaths; and
- WHEREAS,** substance use disorders occur when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes clinically or functionally significant impairment, such as health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school or home; and

WHEREAS, stigma and stereotypes often keep people from seeking treatment that could improve their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorder recovery efforts benefit both individuals and their communities by focusing on the person’s ability to live, work, learn, and fully contribute to society.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Vicki Barnett, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim September 2020 as **National Recovery Month** in the City of Farmington Hills and call upon our citizens, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to increase their awareness and understanding of substance use and the need for appropriate and accessible services to promote recovery.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2020 AS SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

The following Proclamation was read by Councilmember Massey:

**PROCLAMATION
Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
September 2020**

WHEREAS, according to the CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics, there were more than 48,000 recorded suicides in the United States in 2018, and the annual U.S. suicide rate increased 24% between 1999 and 2014; and

WHEREAS, suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion or background; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the second leading cause of death for people ages 10 to 34, the fourth leading cause among people ages 35 to 54, and the eighth leading cause among people ages 55 to 64; and

WHEREAS, we can reduce these disturbing numbers through public awareness, education, and treatment, which are all crucial in preventing this tragic problem that causes loss of life, and terrible suffering for the families and loved ones who are left behind; and

WHEREAS, Farmington SAFE (Suicide Awareness For Everyone) is dedicated to making a difference by empowering community members, bringing the stigmatized topics of depression and suicide out into the open, and connecting those who need mental health assistance to the many resources that are available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Vicki Barnett, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim September 2020 as **Suicide Prevention Awareness Month** in the City of Farmington Hills and encourage community members to “Talk About

It” in order to raise awareness of depression and suicide and work together to prevent this tragic loss, which greatly impacts families and communities.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING AUGUST 23-29, 2020 AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

The following Proclamation was read by Councilmember Boleware:

PROCLAMATION
Emergency Medical Services Week
August 23 – 29, 2020

WHEREAS, we honor all the heroic men and women who are part of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) team at the City of Farmington Hills and express our gratitude for the critical role they play in our community’s health and safety; and

WHEREAS, these dedicated professionals answer the call and provide urgent assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week, responding immediately to any crisis, delivering life-saving care, and showing limitless compassion as they strive to improve the survival and recovery rate of all those who experience an emergency situation while in our City; and

WHEREAS, the Farmington Hills EMS team is made up of first responders including firefighter/paramedics, firefighter/emergency medical technicians, dispatchers, and police officers; and

WHEREAS, our highly trained EMS professionals provide pre-hospital evaluations, medical transport, and data-sharing with partners at local hospitals as they administer advanced life support and save lives in often stressful and high-risk situations; and

WHEREAS, during this unprecedented time, the coronavirus has increased the demands on EMS providers, and they have risen to the challenge, delivering critical care and assistance to all those suffering from the effects of this pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Vicki Barnett, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim August 23 – 29, 2020 to be **Emergency Medical Services Week** and urge everyone to acknowledge the incredible efforts of the EMS providers in our community and to applaud their commitment to duty, service, and the health and well-being of their fellow citizens.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was acknowledged:

Mayor Barnett acknowledged an email received by Suzanne Dengiz expressing her support for Danette Duron-Willner’s appointment to the Library Board, which will be discussed later in the meeting as well as code enforcement issues that were discussed during the Study Session meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Bridges, support by Massey, to approve the Consent Agenda as read.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Mayor Barnett read the following update from County Commissioner Gershenson:

August 24, 2020

Good evening everyone,

I Wanted to promote our “Oakland Together Small Business Recovery Grant” for retail stores, restaurants and personal service businesses such as salons and fitness centers that were impacted by this Covid-19 pandemic.

This grant is geared towards small businesses that have suffered actual or anticipated losses from March 2020 through July 2020. This would include loss of revenue, operating at a reduced level of production, sales, employment or service. Businesses that were fully closed and are now in the process or reopening are also eligible.

The application has been extended until Sept 14. So please help us get the word out to help our grant Oakland County businesses reopen.

*Please contact me if you have any questions
Commissioner Marcia Gershenson*

The following persons expressed concerns with a member(s) and/or current operations of the Library Board:

Jeff Pavlik

Joe O’Connor

Kelly Goldberg – she also wanted to know what the city was doing to help stop the spread of COVID

Eric Bruns

Jim Peterson spoke in favor of the current Board and felt the community should support them.

Mayor Barnett commented that the city monitors COVID cases closely and has weekly discussions on the issue.

COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following Council comments were made:

- Condolences went out to the family of former Royal Oak Commissioner, Kathryn Gibbs, who recently passed.
- Red Cross Blood Drive is being held September 2, 2020 at the Costick Activities Center from 8am-8pm.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

City Manager Boyer provided the following update:

Summer taxes are due August 31, 2020 and drop boxes are located outside of city hall for that purpose.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE RELOCATION OF PRECINCT 26 TO THE TAWHEED CENTER LOCATED AT 29707 W. 10 MILE ROAD.

City Clerk Smith explained that the Farmington Community School was closing so there was a need to move that voting precinct to a new location. Options were discussed by the Election Commission and the recommendation was to move the precinct location to the Tawheed Center on 10 Mile Road. She added that all affected residents would be notified by mail of the change and that both locations would be posted with permission from the facilities.

Discussion was held on absent voter ballots, mail service and city hall drop boxes that are available for voters to return their ballot.

MOTION by Bridges, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby confirms the Election Commission's recommendation to relocate Farmington Hills Precinct 26 from Farmington Community School to the Tawheed Center located at 29707 W. Ten Mile Road.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD.

Councilmembers Boleware, Steckloff and Newlin all spoke in favor of the appointment.

Councilmembers Knol, Bridges and Massey expressed concerns with regard to the recommended appointment and the intention of the potential appointee to serve long-term; however, they determined they would stand by the Mayor's recommendation.

Councilmember Massey also addressed the history of the appointments made to the Library Board under his term as Mayor.

Members of the public, Eugene Greenstein and Richard Lerner, both spoke in favor of appointing another applicant, Joy Montgomery to the Library Board:

Member of the public, Deb Hemmye, spoke in favor of the appointment of Danette Duron-Willner to the Library Board as recommended by the Mayor.

Suzanne Dengiz, resident, sent in the email of support for Danette Duron-Willner's appointment.

Mayor Barnett commented that she takes the decision of this appointment very seriously and she spoke with both candidates at length and assured all that the appointment was not political but was based on the ability of this person to bring both sides together to build relationships with the public.

MOTION by Boleware, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the appointment of Danette Duron-Willner to the Library Board to fill an unexpired term ending February 1, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT GOLF COURSE RANGE NETTING WITH NET CONNECTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,500. CMR 8-20-92

MOTION by Bridges, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes a purchase order to Net Connection in the amount of \$24,500 for golf course range netting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF GOLF COURSE RANGE SERVANT MACHINE WITH RANGE SERVANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,170. CMR 8-20-93

MOTION by Bridges, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes a purchase order to Range Servant in the amount of \$16,170 for golf ball dispensing equipment.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FY 2019/20 FOURTH QUARTER FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT

MOTION by Bridges, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby accepts the FY 2019/20 Fourth Quarter Financial Summary Report.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING
MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2020.**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council regular session meeting minutes of August 10, 2020.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Bridges, support by Massey, to adjourn the regular session City Council meeting at 9:28pm.

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