

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
COMMUNITY ROOM
SEPTEMBER 13, 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 Monico and Randle and City Attorney Joppich

PRESENTATION BY DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION CONSULTANT DARLENE KING

Darlene King, Consultant with Life’s Journey, explained that the process to establish Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, develop a strategy and then see that through to execution is a 3-to-5-year journey and will not happen overnight. She presented a power point explaining what Diversity, Equity and Inclusion was and why it was important to organizations. She discussed various components of DEI and the evolution of understanding and acceptance. She also provided a timeline for the city to go through this journey from establishing guidelines to execution of an approved plan. Ms. King recommended based on best practices that the leadership for such a journey is an internal employee.

It was mentioned that Ms. King would be meeting with the city department heads as leaders of the organization regularly to begin the process.

Several members of Council expressed that they had not wanted to wait several years to hire a director but now have a better understanding of the need for a comprehensive approach. They also agreed with the recommendation to hire an internal person as Director.

ESTABLISHING AN INNOVATION, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

It was determined that Council would bring back this item to a future study session due to time constraints and fact that the next item was on the regular session agenda as well as the study session and required discussion.

RESOLUTION FOR TEMPORARY OUTDOOR SALES EVENT LICENSE AUTHORIZATION AND REQUIREMENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Attorney Joppich explained that due to the continued concerns with the pandemic and delta variant, it was suggested that the city consider a resolution to continue the temporary outdoor sales event licensing allowing restaurants to maintain their outdoor seating while people are still uneasy about dining indoors.

After discussion, suggestions were made to eliminate the words “and deadly” from the 6th “whereas” paragraph and to extend the licensing through December 31, 2021.

A suggestion was made for a study session to further discuss allowing permanent outdoor seating for restaurants.

It was noted that this resolution was on the regular session agenda for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Smith', written in a cursive style.

Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk