

MINUTES  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER  
MAY 8, 2023 – 7:30 PM

The regular session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Barnett at 7:32pm.

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

Council Members Absent: None

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Judge Marla Parker led the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA**

MOTION by Massey, support by Newlin, to approve the agenda as amended to move the Proclamations forward on the agenda as items #2 and #3.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY 14 - 20, 2023 AS NATIONAL POLICE WEEK**

The following Proclamation was read Councilmember Boleware and accepted by Lieutenant Domenic Lauria and Officers Callahan and Ross:

**PROCLAMATION  
National Police Week  
May 14 - 20, 2023**

**WHEREAS,** Congress and the President of the United States have designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week; and

**WHEREAS,** National Police Week honors all law enforcement officers, and Peace Officers Memorial Day pays homage to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community or became disabled in the performance of duty and pays tribute to the survivors of these fallen heroes; and

**WHEREAS,** we honor the men and women of the Farmington Hills Police Department, along with their community partners, and commend them on their impressive accomplishments in reducing crime in our community; and

**WHEREAS,** the Farmington Hills Police Department has achieved reaccreditation from the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, becoming one of only twelve Michigan police agencies to have attained this status and currently the largest agency to achieve this prestigious accomplishment; and

**WHEREAS,** it is vital that our citizens know that Farmington Hills police officers are committed to practicing 21st century policing, encouraging positive community connections, and delivering superior services without prejudice or partiality; and

**WHEREAS,** we are grateful to the members of our Police Department and to the community, whose partnership helps Farmington Hills continue to be rated as one of the safest communities in the state and country each year.

**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 May 14 – 20, 2023 as **National Police Week** and call upon the citizens of Farmington Hills to recognize our Farmington Hills police officers, dispatchers, and civilian support staff, and honor all the dedicated professional law enforcement personnel across our country who preserve the safety and security of our communities.

**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY 2023 AS NATIONAL NURSES MONTH**

The following Proclamation was read Councilmember Newlin and Steven Witkowksi and Neha Desai, representing Corewell Health:

**PROCLAMATION  
National Nurses Month  
May 2023**

**WHEREAS,** the profession of nursing was begun by Florence Nightingale, the Lady with the Lamp, in 1854 when the role was basic caretaking and domestic tasks. The profession was influenced by the accomplishments of Clara Barton, Mary Eliza Mahoney, and Dorothea Dix, all nursing pioneers. Now over four million registered, practical, and advance practice nurses represent the largest health care profession in our nation; and

**WHEREAS,** skills required of the nurse are no longer basic caretaking, advancing from using a second hand of a wristwatch to take a pulse, writing in pencil on a Kardex wearing white dresses and nursing caps, to now wearing scrubs, lab coats or street clothes while recording in electronic medical records, understanding life sustaining technology and science while being the never changing constant at the bedside; and

**WHEREAS,** nurses are leaders in quality healthcare and the health of our nation relies on nurses to deliver primary and preventative care and health education in the acute hospital, chronic care settings, primary care clinics, the public health care agency, doing research, minute clinics, mental health settings, schools, where our military serves, hospices, and our homes or wherever people need care; and

**WHEREAS,** nurses have been the cornerstone in the care of our nation during a pandemic that threatened and took so many lives. A nurse has immense responsibility stepping into people's lives when life begins, when life ends and everything in between. Nurses make a difference on life's journey. Our nurses have given to our nation unending dedication, empathy, courage, endurance, sacrifice, and love; and

**WHEREAS,** the recognition of the profession of nursing began in 1982, and this year the American Nurses Association selected the theme "You Make a Difference" to honor the roles and positive impact nurses make in our lives; and

**WHEREAS,** this quote by Rawsi Williams, an inspiring nurse leader, quantifies the profession of nursing: “To do what nobody else will do, in a way that nobody else can do, in spite of it all; that is to be a nurse.”

**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 May 2023 as **National Nurses Month** and call upon the citizens of Farmington Hills to honor registered nurses and to recognize the indispensable role these dedicated professionals play in keeping our community safe and healthy.

**RECOGNITION OF CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES VOLUNTEER AWARDS PRESENTED BY JUDGE MARLA PARKER**

Sharon Snodgrass, Chair of the Children Youth and Families Commission, congratulated all of the award recipient and introduced Judge Marla Parker to present the awards.

Judge Marla Parker provided a background on the Commission and history and meaning behind the George Romney Volunteer Award and Nancy Bates Distinguished Service Award. She then acknowledged Jim Nash, Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner as recipient of the Nancy Bates Distinguished Service. Judge Parker next acknowledged all of the recipients of the Children, Youth and Families volunteer awards in the categories of youth, family and business and the entire staff at CARES of Farmington Hills as the recipients of the George Romney Volunteer of the Year Award.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Council acknowledged correspondence received on the following:

- Short term rentals
- Concerns with closing the Costick Center and expressing preference for the city to refurbish the Costick Center rather than provide for an annex at the HAWK
- Neighbor dispute over a fence

**CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Newlin, to approve consent agenda items #6-10, as read.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

MOTION by Massey, support by Newlin, to approve consent agenda items #11 and #12, as read.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0-1.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Eugene Greenstein, Olde Franklin, expressed concern with the literacy deficiencies in Farmington Public Schools and the need for the schools to address this issue.

Tammy Luty, Winterset Circle, Commission on Children, Youth and Families, spoke on the mental health crisis and the Kindness Rock Garden project. She also requested a proclamation on mental health for the next regular Council meeting.

Dan Fantore, Commission on Aging, expressed concern over the future of the Costick Center and the need to preserve the services that are offered at the site whether they remain there or at another location. He offered the Commission's assistance on this matter.

Mark Forshee, resident, expressed concern over the roadway between the Library and Post Office that is in dire need of repair.

City Manager Mekjian explained that this roadway is a private road under the jurisdiction of the Post Office and the Post Office has been contacted and a ticket issued. He stated that the back half of the roadway may be under the jurisdiction of the office building behind the Post Office and he can have staff research if there is an agreement between the two owners to maintain that roadway.

Council suggested a letter to the regional office and congressional legislators may be needed.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Council commented on the following events:

- Farmington SAFE Community Conversation held last week and another upcoming SAFE event scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> at City Hall in the council chamber that will focus on PTSD for military veterans
- This evenings event for the volunteer awards and the hard work of the Commission on Children, Youth and Family members
- Career night at the HAWK

**CITY MANAGER UPDATE**

City Manager Mekjian made the following announcements:

- RRRASOC hosted a household hazardous drop off this past weekend at the OCC campus with over 1200 vehicles participating
- City contractors will be out landscaping the Northwestern Highway median at Middlebelt Road
- May 29<sup>th</sup> at 10am is the Memorial Day Parade along Grand River in Farmington
- Thank you to the Beautification Commission for organizing the Litter Walk event and to those employees who participated

Council requested the City Manager's Office to reach out to the City of Southfield regarding the vacant hotel building at Franklin and I-696.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM MOTORCITY JAM JV, LLC FOR A NEW CLASS C QUOTA LIQUOR LICENSE TO BE USED AT 37611 W. 12 MILE ROAD, FARMINGTON HILLS, MI.**

City Clerk Smith explained that this is a request for a Class C city quota liquor license and the city currently has one license available with 3 quota licenses under a moratorium. The restaurant is proposed

to be a breakfast and lunch business and will be located on Twelve Mile Road where the former Panera Bread restaurant was located. The application was routed to all departments and there were no objections to the issuance of the license and the applicant is present this evening if Council has any questions.

Mr. Ansara, applicant, explained that their business will be a breakfast and lunch restaurant and the concept started in Arizona and they are excited to bring this to Michigan. He feels the city could benefit from this style of restaurant and noted the existing building would be modified to incorporate an indoor/outdoor feel.

Council questioned if there was sufficient parking and when the business would open.

Mr. Ansara stated that they have sufficient parking according to their plans and there is parking available behind the building as well. He anticipates that the business would open in late summer/early fall.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby adopts the resolution for approval to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for the request from Motorcity Jam JV, LLC. For a NEW Class C Liquor License to be used at 37611 W. 12 Mile Road, to be issued from the City's quota licenses available.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR PORTABLE BASKETBALL UNITS TO SCHELDE SPORTS NORTH AMERICA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,980. CMR 5-23-57**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue a purchase order for four (4) SAM School 3x3 1626140 Portable Basketball Units to Schelde Sports North America in the amount of \$15,980.00.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR REMOVAL AND REPAIR OF ROOFS FOR SPECIAL SERVICES BUILDINGS TO WEATHERSEAL HOME IMPROVEMENTS CO. INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000. CMR 5-23-58**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to approve the required contracts and purchase orders to Weatherseal Home Improvements Co. Inc., for the removal and replacement of the roofs for Founders Park North and South Concessions, Pioneer Park Concessions, and Heritage Park North Shelter, in the

amount of \$60,000.00 (\$46,900 plus an estimated \$13,100 for additional replacement costs which will not be known until the roofs are removed).

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF A RIDE ON TURF SPRAYER WITH REVELS TURF AND TRACTOR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$47,423.33.**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the purchase of a ride on turf sprayer with Revels Turf and Tractor in the amount of \$47,423.33.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR A HAWK'S NEST AIDE.**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the request for employment under Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Julia Nothstine as a Hawk's Nest Aide in the Special Services Department. Julia is the daughter of Jacob Nothstine, who works in the Video Division in the Special Services Department.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR A DRIVING RANGE ATTENDANT.**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the request for employment under Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Joseph Oleksak as a Driving Range Attendant in the Special Services Department. Joseph is the son of Joseph Oleksak Sr., who works as a Small Engine Mechanic in the Special Services Department.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, MASSEY AND NEWLIN  
Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2023.**

MOTION by Massey, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council study session meeting minutes of April 24, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0-1.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2023.**

MOTION by Massey, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council regular session meeting minutes of April 24, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0-1.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**ATTORNEY REPORT**

The attorney's report was received.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Massey, to adjourn the regular session City Council meeting at 8:54pm.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk