

MINUTES  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER  
MARCH 13, 2023 – 7:30 PM

The regular session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Barnett at 7:38pm.

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

Council Members Absent: Boleware

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Valentine, Directors Mondora and Skrobola, Police Chief King, Fire Chief Unruh and City Attorney Joppich

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Barnett led the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA**

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MARCH 2023 AS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH**

The following Proclamation was read Councilmember Newlin and accepted by Police Sargent Virginia Larsen and Firefighters Kayla Geffert, Madison Gardenhire and Jennifer Chesney:

**PROCLAMATION  
Women’s History Month  
March 2023**

**WHEREAS,** throughout history, extraordinary women of every race, class, ethnicity, and socioeconomic background have made significant contributions to our nation in countless ways, both recorded and unrecorded; and

**WHEREAS,** through leadership, ingenuity, and hard work, generations of women have made significant contributions in science, medicine, technology, business, politics, entrepreneurship, arts and culture, and the military; and

**WHEREAS,** women worked to secure their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, and played vital roles in the abolitionist, emancipation, civil rights, and industrial labor movements, as they worked to create a more just and fair society for all; and

**WHEREAS,** women play critical economic, cultural, and social roles in our society and constitute a significant portion of the labor force working both inside and outside the home; and

**WHEREAS,** as we venture into the future, gender will be no obstacle to what women can accomplish as they open new doors, embrace innovative ideas, and continue to create a profound and positive impact on our 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 March 2023 as **Women's History Month** and call upon our citizens, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to celebrate the history and achievements of the countless women who have helped to promote a more equitable society and created possibilities for generations of women to come.

**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MARCH 19-25, 2023 AS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK**

The following Proclamation was read Councilmember Knol and accepted by Fire Lieutenant Jamie Neufeld:

**PROCLAMATION  
Severe Weather Awareness Week  
March 19 – 25, 2023**

**WHEREAS,** Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Oakland County Executive David Coulter have declared the week of March 19 – 25, 2023 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Michigan; and

**WHEREAS,** the Oakland County Homeland Security Division will engage in public education efforts during Severe Weather Awareness Week to help minimize the loss of life, destruction of property, and disruption of daily activities that can result from severe weather including tornadoes, flooding, high winds, and other weather patterns; and

**WHEREAS,** to further raise the awareness level of severe weather safety and to promote tornado safety preparedness, Oakland County will conduct a special test of its Outdoor Warning System sirens on **Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**

**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 March 19 – 25, 2023 as **Severe Weather Awareness Week** in Farmington Hills and encourage all residents, schools, and businesses to test their severe weather action plans to ensure the safety of everyone in our community.

**OAKLAND COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE FORECLOSURE PREVENTION INFORMATION**

The following letter from Oakland County Treasurer, Robert Wittenberg was read by Mayor Barnett:



1200 N. Telegraph Road, Dept. 479  
Pontiac, MI 48341-0479  
(248) 858-0611  
oakgov.com/treasurer

Robert Wittenberg, Treasurer

Jody Weissler DeFoe, Chief Deputy Treasurer

### Oakland County Treasurer's Office Foreclosure Prevention

The Oakland County Treasurer's Office is in the final stretch of our Foreclosure Prevention efforts. The tax foreclosure deadline for the 2020 or prior year taxes is on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. That means if these taxes aren't paid off by March 31<sup>st</sup> or any interested party hasn't entered into a repayment schedule with the Treasurer's office by then, the property will be foreclosed.

Since December of 2022, the Treasurer's office has conducted over a thousand Taxpayer Assistance Meetings to assist taxpayers with keeping their properties by working with them to get on a repayment schedule and/or by identifying resources that may be beneficial to them and their situation. We are here to help and strongly encourage taxpayers to contact us before the tax foreclosure deadline if they have delinquent taxes for 2020 or prior tax years. Taxpayers interested in scheduling a Taxpayer Assistance Meeting may call us at 248-858-0611 or they may visit [www.oakgov.com/treasurer](http://www.oakgov.com/treasurer)

Some of the resources available to assist taxpayers include:

- **Michigan Homeowners Assistance Fund (MIHAF)** which is a state grant that will cover up to \$25K for delinquent taxes (2019 and forward), mortgage payments, and utility bills. Must be a primary residence, make <150% AMI, and prove covid hardship in order to qualify. Apply at [mihaf.michigan.gov](http://mihaf.michigan.gov).
- **Financial Empowerment Center** in the Treasurer's Office which provides one-on-one financial coaching and services to help taxpayers achieve their financial goals. Contact Reda at [nafsor@oakgov.com](mailto:nafsor@oakgov.com) or 248-807-5287.
- **Lakeshore Legal Aid** provides free legal services to people who are low income and seniors. 1-888-783-8190 is the number for new clients.

Again, we are here to help and strongly encourage taxpayers to contact the Treasurer's office if they have delinquent taxes for 2020 or prior tax years. If taxpayers are interested in scheduling a Taxpayer Assistance Meeting, they may call us at 248-858-0611 or they may visit [www.oakgov.com/treasurer](http://www.oakgov.com/treasurer).

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Rob Wittenberg".

Robert Wittenberg  
Oakland County Treasurer

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Council acknowledged the following correspondence received:

- Letter from City of Wyandotte complimenting the city's Dangerous Animal Ordinance and indicating that they were using it as a reference to draft their own policy.
- Emails received regarding the recent power outages.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION by Massey, support by Newlin, to approve consent agenda as read.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, MASSEY AND NEWLIN

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Pam Gerald, resident, spoke of the power outages and encouraged residents, if they were able, to get a whole house generator with automatic surge protection and indicated that residents could also request from DTE a voltage monitor for their meters. She expressed concern with DTE and the job they have done in trimming trees in the area and she does not feel a rate increase is warranted and she urged Council to stand behind the residents in dealing with DTE.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Council made the following comments:

- Expressed the need to hold DTE accountable for infrastructure upgrades and reliable service
- Suggested the Planning Department and Planning Commission review placement of tree when reviewing and approving site plan and landscape plans to avoid areas where there are power lines
- Requested staff review the staff hours spent sitting on down power lines in the last two months and send a bill to DTE

### **CITY MANAGER UPDATE**

City Manager Mekjian provided the following update:

- Referenced daylight saving time and reminded residents to make sure their smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors were working in the home
- Thanked firefighters and police officers for their response to a large condominium fire
- Police Department is opening up unsolved cases and encouraged residents to visit the cold case website and provide any information if possible
- The city is hiring seasonal employees and two job fairs are being held; March 12<sup>th</sup> at 11am at the Nature Center and another on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 11am at the HAWK Community Center
- Yard waste collection will commence the week of April 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE C-4-2023 TO AMEND THE FARMINGTON HILLS CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 33, "WATER AND SEWERS," TO ADD DIVISION 2, "STORMWATER ENGINEERING DESIGN STANDARDS" TO ARTICLE IX, "STORMWATER MANAGEMENT," TO ADOPT AND ENACT ENGINEERING DESIGN STANDARDS DEVELOPED BY THE OAKLAND COUNTY WATER**

**RESOURCE COMMISSIONERS OFFICE, AND APPROVAL OF SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION CMR 3-23-35**

Karen Mondora, Director of Public Services, stated that the request is for the enactment of an ordinance that was introduced by City Council at their last regular meeting. She reported that as a requirement of the Federal Clean Water Act, the city operates its stormwater management system under a permit from the State of Michigan and United States EPA. This permit requires the city to do what it can to mitigate potential sources of pollution to rivers, lakes and streams. One permit requirement is to provide for a regulatory mechanism to address stormwater runoff from private and public developments; therefore, recent changes to the State rules requires the city to make updates to the city's stormwater engineering design standards.

MOTION by Bridges, support by Bruce, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the ENACTMENT of Ordinance C-4-2023 to amend the Farmington Hills Code of Ordinances Chapter 33, "Water and Sewers," to add Division 2, "Stormwater Engineering Design Standards" to Article IX, "Stormwater Management," to adopt and enact Engineering Design Standards developed by the Oakland County Water Resource Commissioners Office, and approval of summary for publication.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARNETT, BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, MASSEY AND NEWLIN

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S LIQUOR LICENSE POLICY.**

City Clerk Smith noted that the policy amendments before Council were the result of a request by Council at their last study session meeting. She reviewed the amendments that included eliminating the requirement that hearings on applications for license are only taken to Council in January, May and September. She noted that the additional formatting and changes to update language were also recommended by the City Attorney.

Attorney Joppich added that the policy amendments did not affect the current moratorium on three (3) of the city's quota license as previously approved by City Council.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the amendment to the City's Liquor License Policy.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF SETTING THE BUDGET STUDY SESSION MEETING DATES OF MAY 15 AND 16, 2023.**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby establishes the budget study session meetings dates of May 15 and 16, 2023 at 6pm in the Community Room.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF SETTING A SPECIAL JOINT STUDY SESSION MEETING WITH THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL FOR APRIL 20, 2023.**

MOTION by Newlin, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby establishes April 20, 2023 at 6pm as a Special Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission to be held in the Council Chamber.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**  
**RECOMMENDED ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR THE TUCK ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT. CMR 3-23-36**

**CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS**  
**RESOLUTION FOR MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM GRANT FOR TUCK ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

**RESOLUTION NO. R-52-23**

At a session of the City Council of the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, State of Michigan, from the City Council Chambers on March 13, 2023, at 7:30 o'clock P.M, with those present and absent being:

PRESENT: BARNETT, BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, MASSEY AND NEWLIN  
ABSENT: BOLEWARE

The following resolution was offered by Councilmember Massey and supported by Councilmember Newlin:

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington Hills is preparing a Local Bridge Program Grant for replacement of the Tuck Road Bridge over the Rouge River,

WHEREAS, Michigan Department of Transportation, Local Bridge funds are available to offset up to 95 percent of the direct construction cost for local agencies bridges,

WHEREAS, the condition of the Tuck Road bridge warrants replacement,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Farmington Hills City Council is hereby in support of the Local Bridge application submittal by the City of Farmington Hills for the purpose of obtaining a Michigan Department of Transportation, Local Bridge Program grant for replacement of the Tuck Road Bridge over the Rouge River for the year 2026.

AYES: BARNETT, BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, MASSEY AND NEWLIN  
NAYS: NONE  
ABSTENTIONS: NONE

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ANOTHER WAY PREGNANCY CENTER AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN THE COMMUNITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING A CHARITABLE GAMING LICENSE.**



**LOCAL GOVERNING BODY RESOLUTION FOR CHARITABLE GAMING LICENSES**  
(Required by MCL 432.103(K)(II))

At a regular meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council  
REGULAR OR SPECIAL TOWNSHIP, CITY, OR VILLAGE COUNCIL/BOARD

called to order by Mayor Barnett on March 13, 2023  
DATE

at 7:30 p.m. a.m./p.m. the following resolution was offered:  
TIME

Moved by Councilmember Massey and supported by Councilmember Newlin

that the request from Another Way Pregnancy Center of Farmington Hills  
NAME OF ORGANIZATION CITY

county of Oakland, asking that they be recognized as a  
COUNTY NAME

nonprofit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining charitable

gaming licenses, be considered for APPROVAL  
APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL

	APPROVAL	DISAPPROVAL
Yeas:	<u>6</u>	Yeas: _____
Nays:	<u>0</u>	Nays: _____
Absent:	<u>1</u>	Absent: _____

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution offered and adopted by the Farmington Hills City Council at a regular  
TOWNSHIP, CITY, OR VILLAGE COUNCIL/BOARD REGULAR OR SPECIAL

meeting held on March 13, 2023  
DATE

SIGNED: [Signature]  
TOWNSHIP, CITY, OR VILLAGE CLERK

Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk

PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

31555 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

ADDRESS

COMPLETION: Required.  
PENALTY: Possible denial of application.  
BSL-CG-1153(R6/09)

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR DPW GARAGE PAINTING PROJECT TO NORTHSTAR PAINTING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$151,509. CMR 3-23-37**

MOTION by Massey, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to sign a contract with Northstar Painting (a minority owned company) in an amount not to exceed \$151,509, which includes a 10% contingency for the cleaning, restoration and painting of the walls and ceiling of the DPW's garage area.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE NORMANDY HILLS SUBDIVISION ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO F.H. PASCHEN, S.N. NIELSON & ASSOCIATES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,578,636.00. CMR 3-23-38**

MOTION by Massey, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the award of Normandy Hills Subdivision Road Rehabilitation Program to F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielson & Associates, Detroit, MI in the amount of \$4,578,636, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR POLICE AND FIRE UNIFORMS AND RELATED ACCESSORIES TO ALLIE BROTHERS IN AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$128,000 FOR A TWO YEAR PERIOD, WITH POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS. CMR 3-23-39**

MOTION by Massey, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to sign a contract with Allie Brothers and issue budgeted purchase orders for Police & Fire Uniforms and Related Accessories for a two (2) year period in an estimated amount of \$128,000. Pricing will remain firm for the initial two (2) year period with a fixed increase for each of four (4) one-year periods to account for cost of living increases upon mutual agreement between the City and awarded vendor.

Roll Call Vote:

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



MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR THE 2023 AS-NEEDED GUARDRAIL REPAIR PROGRAM TO RDM HOLDINGS IN THE AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$50,000 PER YEAR, WITH POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS. CMR 3-23-40**

MOTION by Massey, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue a purchase order to RDM Holdings (minority owned) in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000 per year with one or more administration approved extensions not-to-exceed a total of four (4) additional years, under the same terms and conditions, through mutual consent by the City of Farmington Hills and the vendor for as-needed guardrail repair program.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR THE SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM TO OLSON CEMENT WORK, INC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$202,150.00, WITH POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS. CMR 3-23-41**

MOTION by Massey, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager and the City Clerk to sign the contract with Olson Cement Work, Inc in the amount of \$202,150.00 (\$160,650.00 Major Roads, \$41,500.00 Local Roads) with possible unit price extension not to exceed the approved fiscal year's budget amount annually, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes the City Manager to extend said contract administratively for an additional four one-year periods under the same terms and conditions at a not-to-exceed 3.5% increase over the unit prices stated in their bid should it be in the best interest of the City.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2023.**

MOTION by Massey, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the study session meeting minutes of February 27, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Absent: BOLEWARE  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2023.**

MOTION by Massey, support by Newlin, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the regular session meeting minutes of February 27, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**ATTORNEY REPORT**

The attorney's report was received.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS  
PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF *HURLEY V. CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS ET  
AL, CASE #22-12408. (NOTE: COUNCIL WILL RETURN TO OPEN SESSION IMMEDIATELY  
FOLLOWING THE CLOSED SESSION TO TAKE ACTION IF NEEDED AND TO CLOSE THE  
MEETING)***

Mayor Barnett announced that City Council will return to open session immediately following the closed session to take action if needed, and to close the regular meeting.

MOTION by Knol, support by Bruce, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves entering into a closed session to discuss pending litigation in the matter of *Hurley v. City of Farmington Hills et al, Case #22-12408*.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**Council entered back into regular session immediately following the closed session at 8:57pm.**

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Attorney and City Manager to proceed in the manner discussed and

recommended in the closed session relative to the case of *Hurley v City of Farmington Hills, et al.*

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Massey, support by Bruce, to adjourn the regular session City Council meeting at 9:00pm.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk