

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

The regular session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Bruce at 7:30pm.

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

Council Members Absent: Barnett and Massey

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Directors Brockway, Kettler-Schmult and Sullen-Winn, and City Attorney Joppich

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Bruce led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA

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

MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

PRESENTATION BY NORTH FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ON REDUCING THE STIGMA AROUND STRESS MANAGEMENT

Tejaswini Sivalokanathan and Mehar Khanna, Seniors at North Farmington High School, provided their presentation on Reducing the Stigma around Stress Management.

Council thanked the students for their very informative presentation and wished them well in their futures following high school.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 2023 AS FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH

The following proclamation was read by Councilmember Bridges and accepted by GERALYN MORRIS of Protective Parents Michigan:

**PROCLAMATION
Family Court Awareness Month
November 2023**

WHEREAS, the mission of the Family Court Awareness Month Committee (FCAMC) is to increase awareness on the importance of a family court system that prioritizes child safety and acts in the best interest of children, and;

WHEREAS, the mission of the FCAMC is fueled by the desire to create awareness and change in the family court system for the estimated 58,000 children ordered into unsupervised contact with physically or sexually abusive parents each year, while honoring the hundreds of children who have been reported as murdered during visitation with a dangerous parent, and;

WHEREAS, the mission of the FCAMC is to increase awareness on the importance of empirically-based education and training on domestic violence, child emotional and psychological abuse, childhood trauma, child sexual abuse, coercive control, and post-separation abuse for all professionals working on cases within the family court system, and;

WHEREAS, the mission of the FCAMC is to increase awareness on the importance of using scientifically valid, evidence-based, treatment programs and services that are proven in terms of safety, effectiveness and therapeutic value, and;

WHEREAS, the mission of the FCAMC is to educate judges and other family court professionals on evidence-based, peer-reviewed research, that is a critical component to making decisions that are truly in the best interest of children,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Barnett, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby proclaim November 2023 to be **Family Court Awareness Month**. I encourage all residents to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the harm of children in the hands of family members, and to honor and value the lives of children.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 2023 AS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The following proclamation was read by Councilmember Boleware and accepted by Rachel Timlin, Cultural Arts Supervisor:

**PROCLAMATION
Native American Heritage Month
November 2023**

WHEREAS, Native Americans are a diverse group of people with a rich and multifaceted system of governments, languages, religions, values and traditions; and

WHEREAS, Michigan is home to 12 federally recognized Indian tribes, which are sovereign governments that exercise their own direct jurisdiction over their members and their territory; and

WHEREAS, Michigan has several significant Native American cultural sites, including the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways in Mount Pleasant, the Besser Museum for Northwest Michigan in Alpena, the Andrew J. Blackbird Museum in Harbor Springs, and the Potawatomi Heritage Center in Wilson; and

WHEREAS, we have a rich past and a bright future thanks to the varied contributions of the many tribes who have lived in Michigan, including our state's three largest tribes – the Ojibwe (also called Chippewa), the Odawa (also called Ottawa), and the Potawatomi (also called the Bodéwadmi); and

WHEREAS, Native Americans continue to be influential in all areas of life in Michigan, including government, business, the arts, medicine, education, law enforcement and the military; and

WHEREAS, Farmington Hills represents a place where diverse people from all backgrounds live and work together, giving us opportunities to honor our differences and celebrate our similarities.

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 November 2023 as **Native American Heritage Month** in Farmington Hills and urge all citizens to learn about Native American heritage and culture and to celebrate the vast contributions of the first Americans.

PROCLAMATION HONORING AMERICA’S VETERANS IN NOVEMBER 2023

The following proclamation was read by Councilmember Knol and accepted by Farmington Hills Police Officer and U.S. Army Reserve Staff Sergeant Michael Rybinski:

**PROCLAMATION
Honoring America’s Veterans
November 2023**

WHEREAS, throughout the course of history, courageous men and women have taken up arms to secure, defend and maintain the core principles upon which our nation’s freedoms depend; and,

WHEREAS, since our nation’s founding, more than 41 million men and women have stepped forward to serve their country during times of peace, and times of war and conflict; and,

WHEREAS, the veterans who served in the military have protected the American way of life and have dedicated themselves to achieving lasting peace throughout the world; and,

WHEREAS, the spirit of freedom remains strong with over 1.3 million men and women currently on active duty and more than 800 thousand in the reserve forces, with many in harm’s way fighting overseas; and,

WHEREAS, as a nation, we are eternally grateful for the noble sacrifices made by our veterans, and we honor and respect them for their service.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Barnett, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby recognize our esteemed veterans in acknowledgment of **Veterans Day 2023**, and urge all residents to pause and reflect, this November and throughout the year, on the sacrifices of those who have served their country.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 20, 2023 AS WORLD CHILDREN’S DAY

The following proclamation was read by Councilmember Newlin and accepted by Jordan Scrimger, Children, Youth & Families Commission Vice Chairperson:

**PROCLAMATION
World Children's Day
November 20, 2023**

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly recommended in 1954 that all countries institute a universal Children's Day, adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child on Nov. 20, 1959, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Nov. 20, 1989; and,

WHEREAS, the Convention, which is the most widely ratified international human rights treaty, sets out several children's rights, including the rights to life, health, education and play, as well as the rights to family life, to be protected from violence, to not be discriminated against and to have their views heard; and,

WHEREAS, UNICEF has promoted World Children's Day annually to demand and secure a future where every child across races, places and genders has the freedom to thrive and fulfill their potential; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth and Families is to encourage a supportive environment where children, youth and families are happy, healthy, educated and safe, and have the opportunity to reach their full potential, with a goal to make recommendations to the Farmington Hills City Council concerning the needs of children, youth and families in their jurisdiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Barnett, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, do hereby proclaim Monday, Nov. 20 as **World Children's Day** in Farmington Hills, and urge our community and City to honor the contributions of young people, to continue to seek new ways to incorporate youth input into planning and policy-making, to affirm that children have rights and our city has a responsibility to promote their wellbeing, and to urge governments to take action to demonstrate their commitment to children.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 25, 2023 AS SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

The following proclamation was read by Councilmember Bridges and accepted by T.R. Carr, Economic Development Corporation Chair:

**PROCLAMATION
Small Business Saturday®
November 25, 2023**

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington Hills celebrates local small businesses and recognizes that they create jobs, boost the economy and help to preserve our community; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington Hills is home to more than 5 thousand small businesses that are owned and operated by hard-working people of all kinds. Of each dollar spent at local businesses, 70 cents stay local and recirculate to other area businesses. Shopping small means you support your community and a fellow resident's dream; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan has more than 900 thousand small businesses that amount to 99.6% of Michigan businesses, defined as small businesses with fewer than 500 employees, accounting for nearly 2 million employees that represent nearly half of Michigan workers; and,

WHEREAS, small business sales have reached 80% of pre-pandemic levels, but as our lives have largely returned to normal, the economic effects among the smallest of small businesses still linger; and,

WHEREAS, consumers who shop on Small Business Saturday® are making a conscious commitment to support small, independently owned businesses and make purchases with a positive impact; and,

WHEREAS, Small Business Saturday® is an important part of small businesses' busiest shopping season, consumers are encouraged to shop or eat at independently owned businesses and purchase gift cards from local businesses, not just during the holidays, but year-round.

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 November 25, 2023, as **Small Business Saturday®** and urge our residents to support small businesses annually on the Saturday after Thanksgiving and throughout the entire year.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ANNUAL UPDATE

T.R. Carr, Economic Development Corporation Chair provided the annual update for the Economic Development Corporation outlining their purpose, activities and goals going forward.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Vickie Sullen-Winn, Communications and Community Engagement Director, introduced her staff and explained how the department was restructured to capitalize on new and existing talents of her staff. She stated that the Council approved a request for paid media to enhance the city's efforts and outreach and she introduced Dawn Crowley from Emerald Media LLC who has been assisting the city in these efforts. Director Winn provided various samples of the videos created and how the media buying has been used.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence acknowledged.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

A resident of Woodstream inquired about the council's position on the sale of cannabis in the city. Mayor Pro-Tem Bruce asked City Attorney Joppich to address where the city is in that process.

Attorney Joppich explained that Council adopted an opt-out ordinance; however, the City Council has since been receiving updates and studying the progress made with regard to cannabis laws. He noted that last year the Council conducted several sessions with persons in the industry and the public to gain more knowledge and receive input and all reports for those sessions are complete. He added that the issue could potentially be revisited in the future.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bruce added that the Council also wanted to discuss and review the city's master plan updates and agreed there could be further discussion on this topic in the future.

COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council recognized Councilmember Newlin for her service on Council the past 4 years and congratulated the incoming Mayor and Councilmembers.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

City Manager Mekjian also thanked Mayor Barnett and Councilmembers Massey and Newlin for their service and congratulated the new Mayor and Councilmembers elect.

He noted that yard waste pickup will be ending the week of December 11, 2023.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

ATTORNEY REPORT

The attorney's report was received.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Newlin, support by Boleware, to adjourn the regular session City Council meeting at 8:57pm.

MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk