

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER
AUGUST 15, 2022 – 7:30 PM

The regular session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Barnett at 7:37pm.

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

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, Deputy City Clerk Lindahl, Assistant City Manager Valentine and City Attorney Joppich

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barnett led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

INNOVATION, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Matt Strickfaden thanked City Council for the opportunity for the IEESC to present this evening and introduced the committee members who presented the report to City Council.

Council had the following comments or inquiries:

- The number of electric vehicles in Farmington Hills so that the city could address the demand and funding for infrastructure as well as any SMART Cities initiatives.
- With regard to a community garden, Council suggested reaching out to the City of Farmington about their community garden that used to be along Farmington Road, just north of 8 Mile Road and to coordinate efforts and to look into the option of city-owned property on Rensselaer that was once earmarked for a community garden but never came to fruition as that might be another possible location.
- The price of a plot in a community garden.
- The city was informed that General Motors was providing a certain number of charging stations to dealerships in order for them to work with communities on placement and perhaps there are other similar programs that should also be considered as part of that discussion.
- Other community centers with solar panels.
- Community gardens at Heritage Park were successful in the past and assuming plumbing still in place that may be another option.

- Funding for solar panels and solar and battery energy credits in the new Bill signed by the President and suggested trying to assist residents and consider ordinance changes to allow for some of these energy efficiency upgrades

Erin Quetell, Chief Environmental Sustainability Officer for Oakland County, responded that she could get information for Council on the number of electric vehicles in Farmington Hills. She discussed some requirements with regard to infrastructure and what that might look like at the state and local levels.

Mr. Strickfaden stated that the committee will continue to develop ideas for Council consideration that will include SMART Cities and SMART travel that will go together with the broadband initiatives. He stated that he believed the city was selling the property on Rensselaer but will discuss that with the City Manager.

Councilmember Knol stated that she serves on the Oakland County Mobility Task Force with Erin Quetell that consists of a variety of different automotive companies and suppliers, public transit and Oakland County and municipal representation and this Task Force is reviewing electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure to coordinate efforts. She mentioned that the Task Force sent out a survey to all communities in Oakland County and urged City Administration to ensure that this survey was received and returned to Oakland County.

Nikolas de Wit, IIESC Member, stated that they certainly would reach out to Farmington to coordinate efforts on a community garden. He also noted that other community gardens in surrounding communities have overwhelming support. In order to be consistent with those surrounding communities, the price per plot per season would be between \$45-\$55.

CORRESPONDENCE

Councilmembers acknowledged the following correspondence received:

- Phone call from resident regarding walk-up drop box at south entrance of City Hall being used for Election Material only.

Deputy Clerk Lindahl stated that there is proposed legislation that would prohibit election material drop boxes being used for any other purpose, therefore, the City has purchased a new silver drop box located in front of the Police Department for tax payments and other city related material.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Bridges, support by Boleware, to approve consent agenda items #4 through #9, as read.

Councilmember Knol requested that the collective bargaining agreements, items #6 through #8, be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

MOTION by Knol, support by Bridges, to amend the motion to remove consent agenda items #6, #7 and #8 for discussion.

MOTION CARRIED 6-1 (Barnett opposed).

MOTION by Bridges, support by Boleware, to approve consent agenda items #4, #5 and #9, 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 Knol, to approve consent agenda items #10 and #11, 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.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The following items were removed from the consent agenda for discussion:

- Recommended approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement with Command Officers Association of Michigan (COAM). CMR 8-22-73
- Recommended approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM). CMR 8-22-74
- Recommended approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Michigan Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (Dispatch). CMR 8-22-75

Councilmember Knol stated that she will not be voting in favor of the collective bargaining agreements, but she wants the public to know that this is in no way a reflection of her not supporting the police. She explained that these contracts expand a defined benefit system and for that to work financially it will need to be expanded to the entire City employee base, not just Police, and she cannot support that. As with many other cities, Farmington Hills employees were moved out of a defined benefit system to a defined contribution system years ago for financial reasons and to eliminate risk and she is not convinced that by doing this they are not setting the City up for problems in 20 years.

Councilmember Bridges stated that currently the city is in good fiscal health, but he is also concerned with the City's long-term fiscal health. He acknowledged inequities in the police department system with some officers being in the defined contribution system while others are in defined benefit, and he feels that this is a problem and this proposal will equalize that. He explained that he does not support a proposal coming before council that would give all City employees a pension, but he reluctantly supports the agreements this evening as they will solve the problem of the 2-tier system in the Police Department.

Mayor Barnett commented that she believes it was a terrible mistake eliminating defined benefit plans to entice employees to the public sector, as it created massive shortages of teachers, fire fighters and police officers, and employees leave for places that offer higher benefit packages. She expressed concern with the current 2-tiered systems which she feels is unequal pay for equal work. Mayor Barnett stated that the city is doing its residents a disservice by not trying to recruit and provide the best employees and a

defined benefit plan would draw new employees in and entice them to stay, get trained and be a part of this community.

Mayor Barnett explained that this option is being offset by other changes in retiree healthcare, which is lowering the city's cost in the future. She feels this plan makes sense for Farmington Hills and every community across the state of Michigan and she will be supporting this for all employees that dedicate their time, energy and efforts to make sure this is the best city not only to live in but to work in and to serve.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH COMMAND OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (COAM). CMR 8-22-73

MOTION by Bruce, support by Boleware, authorizes the City Manager and Assistant City Manager to execute a new Agreement with Command Officers Association of Michigan (COAM), in accordance with the terms and conditions in the Tentative Settlement Agreement and outlined herein, being City Manager's Report dated August 15, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED 6-1

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (POAM). CMR 8-22-74

MOTION by Bruce, support by Boleware, authorizes the City Manager and Assistant City Manager to execute a new Agreement with Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM), in accordance with the terms and conditions in the Tentative Settlement Agreement and outlined herein, being City Manager's Report dated August 15, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED 6-1

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH MICHIGAN FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LABOR COUNCIL (DISPATCH). CMR 8-22-75

MOTION by Bruce, support by Boleware, authorizes the City Manager and Assistant City Manager to execute a new Agreement with Michigan Fraternal order of Police Labor Council, in accordance with the terms and conditions in the Tentative Settlement Agreement and outlined herein, being City Manager's Report dated August 15, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED 6-1

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Pamela Gerald, resident, addressed the issue regarding the Police Department training targets and noted that she feels this should have been brought to the appropriate authorities before being brought to the media. She expressed her support of the Police Department.

Matt Strickfaden, resident, thanked the City for addressing the flooding issue in his neighbor's yard so quickly.

Dr. Wendy Webster Jackson expressed the concerns she has heard from several residents about their water and sewer bills.

City Manager Mekjian stated that his office will follow up with those residents and he plans to have Oakland County Water Resources attend a meeting to discuss assistance programs for residents experiencing hardships.

TR Carr extended his appreciation of the support for innovation and economic development at the Hawk.

COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council made the following comments and announcements:

- Participation in a ride-along with the Police Department and the kindness shown by officers towards the citizens throughout the community. Concerns with the liability of coverage during such activity and the City Attorney was asked to look into that.
- Suggest that the EDC and the City's Economic Director meet with the City of Farmington to see how they can work together on improving the Grand River corridor.
- Asked that discussion on short term rentals be brought to a study session.
- Condolences to Councilmember Bridges for the loss of his brother.
- Farmington SAFE Softball Tournament last Saturday was a success.
- The variety of activities available at the Makerspace at The Hawk and passes are on sale

Mayor Barnett congratulated Mary Cavanaugh on the primary election. She also commented on her experience in Quebec with the Tonga Lumina and thought that would be a great idea for Farmington Hills.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

City Manager Mekjian made the following comments:

- The second phase of the cannabis information gathering plan is underway and asked council to look at dates in October to hold the informal public workshops.
- 14 Mile, Farmington to Orchard Lake Rd, will be open by the end of August
- Orchard Lake Rd from 10 Mile to 11 Mile is closed to northbound traffic for culvert replacement through the fall and residents should sign up for the City's Listserv and check the City's Facebook page for updates.
- City Open House will take place October 8th from noon-3PM
- The Makerspace at The Hawk ribbon cutting will be September 12th

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE VOTING DELEGATE FOR THE MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 19, 2022.

MOTION by Massey, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the appointment of Councilmember Mary Newlin as the voting delegate and Councilmember Randy Bruce as the alternate voting delegate for the Michigan Municipal League Annual Meeting on October 19, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A CONCESSION AGREEMENT WITH REJUVENATION FITNESS FOR THE FARMINGTON HILLS ICE ARENA. CMR 8-22-71

MOTION by Bridges, support by Boleware, approves the Concession Agreement with Rejuvenation Fitness (RF) for the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL TO ADVANCE PLANS FOR AN INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCUBATOR AT THE HAWK. CMR 8-22-72

MOTION by Bridges, support by Boleware, endorses the initial buildout and provide the necessary equipment for one (1) laboratory on the third floor of The Hawk to be paid from funds awarded by the State of Michigan, and *reassign* \$1.5 million of the General Fund as an earmark for maintenance and future building needs of the Innovation Center on the third floor of The Hawk in the current fiscal year, and also to authorize staff to begin a mechanical and structural assessment of the third floor of The Hawk.

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 CONCESSION STAND ATTENDANT.

MOTION by Bridges, support by Boleware, approves the request for employment under Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Joseph Etten as a Hawk Concession Attendant in the Special Services Department. Joseph is the son of Danielle Wilcox, who is a Camp Counselor 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 JULY 25, 2022

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council study session meeting minutes of July 25, 2022.

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 THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING
MINUTES OF JULY 25, 2022.**

MOTION by Massey, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council regular session meeting minutes of July 25, 2022.

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 report was received by Council.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Bridges, support by Newlin, to adjourn the regular session City Council meeting at 9:08pm.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Lindahl, Deputy City Clerk