

MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
JANUARY 26, 2015 – 7:30PM  
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER

The regular meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Brickner at 7:30p.m.

Council Members Present: Brickner, Bridges, Bruce, Knol, Lerner, Massey and Steckloff

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Brock, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Boyer, Directors Gajda and Lasley, Fire Chief Bartsch, Police Chief Nebus and City Attorney Joppich

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2014 Employee of the Year Robert Bliss, Police Officer of the Year Ken Schooley and Firefighter of the Year David Chrisco led the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

**RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES FOR 2014 AND THE POLICE OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

Mayor Brickner stated that an awards ceremony was held earlier this evening at which several employees were recognized for their outstanding service. He asked Police Chief Nebus and Fire Chief Bartsch to introduce the 2014 Police Officer and Firefighter of the Year.

Police Chief Nebus introduced Police Officer of the Year Ken Schooley and Fire Chief Bartsch introduced Firefighter of the Year Dave Chrisco. Both Chiefs acknowledged their many accomplishments within their Departments.

Officer Schooley and Firefighter Chrisco thanked the City staff and Council for their awards.

City Manager Brock introduced Employee of the Year Robert Bliss and spoke of his accomplishments. Mr. Bliss thanked the City and remarked that this is truly an amazing Farmington Hills Family.

Mayor Brickner recognized the other Outstanding Employees that received awards earlier this evening including Melinda Girard, Jeri Labelle, Karen Mondora and April Heier.

**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SUICIDE SURVIVOR AND MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER JORDAN BURNHAM**

Mr. Burnham stated that he is a suicide survivor and motivational speaker, and he shared his story about his suicide attempt as a senior in high school. He stated that following his suicide attempt, he started public speaking about mental health and suicide prevention and James Etzin of the City's Fire Department saw a show he was on and invited him to the City to speak.

The following proclamation was read by Councilmember Bruce:

**PROCLAMATION**  
**Jordan Burnham**  
*Suicide Attempt Survivor and Motivational Speaker*

**WHEREAS,** Jordan Burnham will be the keynote speaker at the Farmington Area SAFE (Suicide Awareness for Everyone) community forum on January 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills; and

**WHEREAS,** after surviving a suicide attempt and recovering from depression, Jordan Burnham has become an outspoken national advocate and has traveled to 32 states and three different countries over the past five years to push for open dialogue in schools and homes on mental health issues and suicide risks; and

**WHEREAS,** in his role as a mental health mentor, Jordan Burnham will share his story with students at Harrison High School in the hope that it will inspire other young adults affected by mental disorders to seek appropriate help and know that they're not alone; and

**WHEREAS,** Jordan Burnham's presentation is designed to reach out to our community's students, parents, educators, and mental health professionals, just as he has touched audiences by sharing his story in People Magazine, Sports Illustrated, USA Today, CNN, Good Morning America, and others, as well as participating in the White House National Conference on Mental Health; and

**WHEREAS,** Jordan Burnham is now affiliated with the Minding Your Mind Foundation, which supports initiatives that encourage treatment, promote recovery, and sponsor research on early detection and prevention of mental illness.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Barry Brickner, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby recognize and thank **Jordan Burnham** for his courage and his outspoken honesty in bringing the difficult topic of suicide awareness to light, thereby easing the stigma and encouraging young people and their families to seek life-saving help and start on the path toward healing.

Councilmember Bruce presented the proclamation to Mr. Burnham. He thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition.

Mayor Pro-Tem Massey stated that Mr. Burnham is the keynote speaker for the SAFE event scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup> at the William Costick Center at 7pm. He stated that these community conversations allow people to open up a dialogue and talk about these sensitive issues. Dr. Massey also acknowledged members of the audience who work with SAFE on suicide awareness and thanked them for their work.

**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF BOTSFORD HOSPITAL**

The following proclamation was read by Councilmember Lerner:

**PROCLAMATION**  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills**

- WHEREAS,** Botsford Hospital is celebrating 50 years of providing medical excellence to the people of Farmington Hills; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1965, Botsford Hospital opened its doors with 200 beds available to serve the medical needs of the community, and soon after established an affiliation with the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, which continues to the present day; and
- WHEREAS,** Botsford Hospital expanded with new buildings, more hospital beds, and additional surgical suites, while maintaining its vision of being the leader in personalized, quality health care administered by a compassionate and dedicated staff; and
- WHEREAS,** Botsford Hospital continued to enhance its innovative offerings by opening the Botsford Cancer Center, becoming verified as a Level II Trauma Center, receiving Primary Stroke Center certification, and adding the Da Vinci Robotic Surgery System and a leading-edge Technology Imaging Center to expand and strengthen available health resources; and
- WHEREAS,** Botsford Hospital's bright future includes a new affiliation with Beaumont Health System and Oakwood Healthcare, in an alliance that highlights the strengths of each organization, and additional facilities expansion to meet the future needs of our community; and
- WHEREAS,** Botsford Hospital is a significant asset to the City, providing community partnerships and event sponsorships, and serving the health needs of the community for half a century in Farmington Hills.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Barry Brickner, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby honor and recognize the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Botsford Hospital** and encourage our citizens to recognize the contribution that Botsford Hospital has made in enhancing the quality of life in our area.

Councilmember Lerner presented the proclamation to Dr. Paul LaCasse, CEO of Botsford Hospital. Mr. Lerner mentioned that under the merger with Beaumont Health Systems, Botsford will receive a \$160,000,000 expansion to the hospital creating a State of the Art Hospital.

Dr. Paul LaCasse thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition. He confirmed that as part of Beaumont Health System, Botsford has a renewed commitment of \$160,000,000 and construction will start this summer that will include new patient towers with private rooms, an expanded emergency department and many other services. He stated that the benefit of being in Farmington Hills is the great support from the City Administration and City Council.

**SWEARING IN OF THE NEW MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

City Clerk Smith administered the Oath of Office to the new members of the Mayor's Youth Council. The members then each introduced themselves to City Council.

**COMMISSION FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY “TIP OF THE MONTH”**

The following Tip of the Month was read by Councilmember Bruce:

Commission for Energy and Environmental Sustainability  
Tip of the Month  
January 26, 2015  
Read by Randy Bruce

The City of Farmington Hills would like to thank everyone who came out to the Georgetown University Energy Prize (GUEP) Competition Kickoff Event. Also a big thank you to all of the people who volunteered their time to put on the event, to our speakers, and to Ms. Jena Irene for performing.

Attending the event was only one way to support the community and its efforts to win the Energy Prize. During the winter, there are simple steps that you can take to reduce the amount of energy being used in your home.

1. Turn down your thermostat to 68 degrees. For every degree you lower your heat in the 60-degree to 70-degree range, you'll save up to 5 percent on heating costs.
2. Replace or clean furnace filters as recommended. Dirty filters restrict airflow and increase energy use.
3. Reduce hot water temperature. Set your water heater to the "normal" setting or 120 degrees.
4. Seal up the leaks. Caulk leaks around windows and doors. Look for places where you have pipes, vents or electrical conduits that go through the wall, ceiling or floor.
5. Consider replacing your old gas appliances with an ENERGY STAR® water heater or furnace.

Michigan Radio's Jack Lessenberry summarized it best when he spoke at the Energy Prize event, "This is a long-term community effort..." To take home the \$5 million prize, simple lifestyle changes and the engagement of our citizens is essential. With your help, we can do this!

For more information about the community's Energy Prize efforts, visit [www.sustainablefh.com](http://www.sustainablefh.com).

Mayor Brickner invited Dan Irvin, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce to come up and speak.

Mr. Irvin stated that he took over the position of Executive Director in November, 2014. He noted that many changes have been made to member benefits and they have already seen an increase in membership. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their support and for assisting at the ribbon cutting ceremonies.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Councilmember Bridged acknowledged an e-mail from resident Viola Holmes who was opposed to the Independence Commons road improvement project that was to be scheduled for a public hearing next month.

Mayor Brickner thanked city staff for contacting the Oakland County Road Commission to fill the potholes along Twelve Mile Road.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION by Bruce, support by Lerner, to approve items 9 – 12 on the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRICKNER, BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY AND STECKLOFF  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

MOTION by Massey, support by Lerner, to approve item 13 on the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRICKNER, BRIDGES, KNOL, LERNER AND MASSEY  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: BRUCE AND STECKLOFF

MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0-2

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Don Petras, Crompton Circle, expressed concern about the proposed special assessment project for road improvements for Independence Commons. He stated that he has served on the Subdivision Association for approximately 18 years and the streets have been an issue all along. He stated that he was surprised to hear that there was over 50% in favor of the project as the residents have never come close to getting a majority in favor and now they have 50.4 percent in favor, which means there are 49.6% of the residents who are not in favor. He commented that many people in the subdivision will not be able to afford to live in the subdivision if they are assessed between \$16,000 and \$20,000. Mr. Petras also expressed concern about the way that the project may have been presented to homeowners as he knew that one resident was told that the value of his property who go up the same amount that is expended for the project, which he feels is not true. He urged City Council to hear all comments before they vote on this issue and consider that almost half of the neighbors are not in favor. He added that the residents have not seen the petitions submitted. Mr. Petras added that while the streets are not in good shape, there is the reality of the costs involved. He feels that this project could divide the subdivision and perhaps already has and close to half are not in favor of the project.

Mayor Brickner commented that the petitions are available at the City Clerk's Office for viewing.

Mr. Petras inquired if people will have the opportunity to change their vote if they signed the petition in favor. Mayor Brickner confirmed that they could change their vote up and through the hearing on February 23, 2014.

Mayor Brickner explained that the residents initiate the project and further explained the Council policy. He noted that the estimated costs are based on improvements to cement streets.

Councilmember Lerner inquired about asphalt versus cement. City Manager Brock stated staff has reviewed alternatives but all of those details will be presented at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> public hearing meeting.

He added that it may not be quite accurate to say that all of those that did not sign the petitions in favor of the project are opposed to the project. He stated that there are programs available for those that qualify for a hardship.

In response to Dr. Bruce, City Manager Brock stated that the City will pay up to 20% of the costs involved, whether asphalt or cement.

Councilmember Bridges inquired how residents are made aware of the programs available for financial assistance.

City Engineer Jim Cubera stated that this was included as part of their initial presentation to the residents.

There was some discussion on bank-owned properties and if they can vote. Mr. Brock responded that they could vote, but the City typically does not hear from them either way. Councilmember Knol requested information on how many bank-owned properties are involved. Mr. Brock stated that staff will attempt to identify those properties.

Sean Carty, Hopkins, cautioned that this has the potential to be a heated issue. He stated that he also once served on the Association Board and this has been an ongoing issue and also surprised that there is now a majority in favor. He stated that the circulators of the petitions are obviously in favor of the project, so he just wants to make sure that the residents understand the scope of the project and the costs involved. He commented that one of his neighbors was circulating the petitions, and he feels there was full disclosure by her but was concerned that perhaps comments were made by others that were not factual. He expressed concern with the costs involved and asked Council to take all of the comments into consideration.

Emily Lamott, Congress, stated that she feels the integrity of the circulators is being called into question. She was the one who organized the circulators who were going door-to-door and they used social media as well to get the information out. She commented that the subdivision is very different than it was 9 years ago as 112 homes have sold since then so there has been a huge turnover in homeowners. She added that she does not feel that any of the circulators persuaded any resident to sign the petition but provided the information for them to make an informed decision.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following announcements were made:

- SAFE Event – January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Costick Center at 7:00p.m.
- Blood Drive held earlier this month generated 68 pints of blood

City Clerk Smith commented on the recent amendments made to the Freedom of Information Act and stated that she will be working with the City Attorney's Office to review those changes and make sure that the City complies and continues to provide easy access to public documents.

#### **CITY MANAGER UPDATE**

City Manager Brock provided an update on the following:

- Martin Luther King Event held January 20, 2015.
- Announced that the City has a new Economic Development Coordinator, Khalfani Stephens
- Request for Proposal is out for Cable Franchise and the city is open to competition
- Governor comments at the Michigan Municipal League Board Meeting
- Heart and Soul Gala event

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

MOTION by Lerner, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby confirms the Mayor's recommendation to reappoint and appoint the following individuals to various City Boards and Commissions:

**Brownfield Redevelopment Authority**

Christopher McRae Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Building Appeals Board**

Michael R. Brahm Term ending: 2/1/2020

**Commission for Energy and Environmental Sustainability**

Nate Geinzer Term ending: 2/1/2018

Andrew Wolf Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Commission on Children, Youth & Families**

Edward Cherkinsky Term ending: 2/1/2018

Carla Mackey Term ending: 2/1/2018

Judge Marla Parker Term ending: 2/1/2018

Jim Nash Term ending: 2/1/2018

Leana Parker Term ending: 2/1/2018

Michael Peters Term ending: 2/1/2018

Bette Rose Term ending: 2/1/2018

Laura Scott Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Committee to Increase Voter Participation**

Dennis Hubbard Term ending: 2/1/2018

Mitch Seelye Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Corridor Improvement Authority**

Susan Haight Term ending: 2/1/2018

Tony Haight Term ending: 2/1/2018

James Smith Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Emergency Preparedness Commission**

Roger Avie Term ending: 2/1/2018

Ken Massey Term ending: 2/1/2018

Irwin Moyna Term ending: 2/1/2018

Joel Sloan Term ending: 2/1/2018

Norene Yuskowatz Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Farmington Area Arts Commission**

Veena Joshi Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Farmington Area Commission on Aging**

Josephine Hobson Term ending: 2/1/2018  
Norene Yuskowatz Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees**

Camilla Liebold Term ending: 2/1/2019

**Farmington Hills Beautification Commission**

Abe Aon Term ending: 2/1/2018  
Jan Dolan Term ending: 2/1/2018  
Triman Jagdev Term ending: 2/1/2018  
Carol Kurth Term ending: 2/1/2018  
Carol Posby Term ending: 2/1/2018  
Michelle Zerbi Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Historical Commission**

John Scott Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Historical District Commission**

Michael Hegarty, Jr. Term ending: 2/1/2018  
Ken Weikal Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Housing Rehabilitation Loan Board**

John Goshorn Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Millennial Mayor's Congress**

David M. Prentice Term ending: 2/1/2016

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

Larry Hutchinson Term ending: 2/1/2018  
Joseph Miller Term ending: 2/1/2018  
Cheryl Ruffolo Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Planning Commission**

Elizabeth Rae-O'Donnell Term ending: 2/1/2018  
Mara Topper Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Public Access Promotion Committee**

Brian Belesky Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Single-Family Residential Review Board**

Richard Wallis Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

Mark Barringer Term ending: 2/1/2018  
James Stevens Term ending: 2/1/2018  
Daniel Vergun Term ending: 2/1/2018



**Farmington Area Arts Commission**

Ted Hadfield Term ending: 2/1/2018

**Commission for Energy and Environmental Sustainability**

Christopher Manley Term ending: 2/1/2016

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

Azam Masood Term ending: 2/1/2016

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRICKNER, BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY AND STECKLOFF  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AN INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY LOCATED NEXT TO 23512 CANFIELD AVENUE TO JARED J. KEYES AND ESTHER KEYES**

Assistant City Manager Boyer explained that the City currently has 6 properties on the market for sale that the City acquired through tax foreclosure. He noted that the property in question is a landlocked parcel on Canfield and the owner to the south has offered to purchase the property. If approved, the City would combine the parcel with that of the purchaser to make it one parcel.

MOTION by Bridges, support by Massey, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the INTRODUCTION of an Ordinance to Authorize the Conveyance of Property located next to 23512 Canfield Avenue to Jared J. Keyes and Esther Keyes.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRICKNER, BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY AND STECKLOFF  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT FOR INDEPENDENCE COMMONS SUBDIVISION AND ESTABLISHING THE DATE OF FEBRUARY 23, 2015 FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING OF DETERMINATION. CMR 1-15-08**

MOTION by Bruce, support by Lerner, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the adoption of Resolution No.1 establishing the boundary of a special assessment district for hard surface road improvement for Independence Commons Subdivision to include the properties outlined in CMR 1-15-08; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the adoption of Resolution No. 2 establishing the date of February 23, 2015 for the public hearing to proceed.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRICKNER, BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY AND STECKLOFF  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

**RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR THE 2015 AS-NEEDED GUARDRAIL REPAIR PROGRAM TO RMD HOLDINGS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000 PER YEAR. CMR 1-15-09**

MOTION by Bruce, support by Lerner, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager and the City Clerk to sign a contract with RMD Holdings in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000 per year for the 2015 and 2016 As-Needed Guardrail Repair Program.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRICKNER, BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY AND STECKLOFF  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF QUARTERLY INVESTMENT AND QUARTER FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORTS**

MOTION by Bruce, support by Lerner, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby acknowledges the quarterly investment and second quarter financial summary reports.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRICKNER, BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY AND STECKLOFF  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL GOALS STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2015**

MOTION by Bruce, support by Lerner, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the goals study session meeting minutes of January 10, 2015 as submitted.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2015**

MOTION by Massey, support by Lerner, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the regular meeting minutes of January 12, 2015 as submitted.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRICKNER, BRIDGES, KNOL, LERNER AND MASSEY  
Nays: NONE  
Absent: NONE  
Abstentions: BRUCE AND STECKLOFF

MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0-2

**TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Brickner mentioned potential topics for the next regular City Council meeting of February 9, 2015.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Brickner adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk