

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2020 – 6:00PM

The Study Session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was held electronically and called to order by Mayor Barnett at 6:03pm. Members were asked to state their name and location (city and state) as to where they were attending the electronic meeting.

Council Members Present: Vicki Barnett, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Jackie Boleware, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Michael Bridges, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Valerie Knol, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Ken Massey, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Mary Newlin, Farmington Hills, Michigan

Council Members Absent: None (one vacancy)

Others Present: Acting City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Director Gardiner,
Police Chief King and City Attorney Joppich

MARIJUANA REGULATIONS

Attorney Joppich continued his presentation on marijuana regulations that he had started at the November 9, 2020 City Council study session meeting. He discussed the Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act (MMFLA) and outlined the 5 types of medical marijuana facilities/businesses allowed under the Act, including: Grower Facility Licenses, Processing Facility Licenses, Secure Transporter Licenses, Provisioning Center Licenses and Safety Compliance Facility Licenses.

Attorney Joppich indicated that while the City Council has discussed whether to adopt ordinances to allow for medical marijuana businesses, they have not done so to date and medical marijuana facilities are not currently permitted in the City. He mentioned that he is currently working with city staff on a draft ordinance and that could be ready to present to City Council early next year.

Attorney Joppich next discussed the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act (MRTMA) passed in 2018, which essentially made adult use or recreational use of marijuana legal. He added that there is a new Bill being prepared to merge medical and recreational marijuana into a single legalized marijuana & licensing law. He discussed the personal conduct-related rights and business-related rights under this Act and things to consider when deciding whether or not to opt in to allow business related recreational marijuana establishments.

Discussion was held on limiting the number of each type of license allowed under the Acts and how the City might establish criteria for reviewing applications.

Attorney Joppich suggested that City Council may want to have a representative of the Michigan Regulatory Agency (MRA) come to a future study session to discuss this topic as well as they have come a long way in adopting administrative rules for the industry or to hear from people involved in the industry, although he would caution that these people are also likely to be applying for future licenses if permitted by the City.

In response to City Council, Attorney Joppich noted that the statute is not entirely clear on if a community could only allow for certain categories of licenses and he suggested allowing for a certain number of all

categories of licenses. He also stated there is no time frame to opt in; however, if the city were to do nothing, a resident could bring forth a petition to place the issue on a ballot.

Mayor Barnett suggested that City Council receive information on other communities that had ordinances in place that were not being challenged and to also review those issues that were being challenged and have that info available for Q & A during the City Council goals session. She also suggested reaching out to MRA to see if a representative would be willing to speak to City Council at a future study session meeting in February 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Massey, support by Bridges, to adjourn the study session meeting at 7:25pm.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk