



Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, December 7, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on December 7, 2020, as a Virtual Meeting via Zoom, an electronic meeting platform. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976 and electronically as authorized under the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.261, et seq., as amended by HB 1108, in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, protect the public health, and provide essential protections to vulnerable Michiganders by limiting in-person contact and the number of people interacting at public gatherings.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Bowman.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Sara Bowman	Mayor	Present	
Dave DeLind	Councilmember	Present	
Joe LaRussa	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Steve Schneemann	Councilmember	Present	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present

Director Christiansen
Superintendent Eudy
City Clerk Mullison
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Saarela

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Move to approve the regular meeting agenda as presented.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Schneemann, Councilmember

3. PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE FARMERS MARKET 2021 CALENDAR

Market Manager Walt Gajewski made a presentation highlighting successes and challenges of the Farmers Market's 2020 season. He also requested approval of the scheduled calendar for the 2021 season.

Bowman noted all of the volunteer support for the Market and commended those volunteers that were present at this meeting.

Move to approve the 2021 Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market season on Saturdays, May 8 through Oct. 30 from 9 a.m. – 2p.m. at the Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion in Riley Park, with one extension, weather permitting.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember

4. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AND INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT APPOINTING THE OAKLAND COUNTY DESIGNATED ASSESSOR FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

City Attorney Saarela explained the need for having a Designated Assessor, per a new State law. City Manager Murphy requested approval for having Oakland County act as Designated Assessor for the City of Farmington through 2025.

LaRussa noted that we already use Oakland County Assessing services and asked whether this request was just a formalization of that relationship. Saarela said Assessing services to Farmington would remain the same and that this resolution would be to keep Farmington in compliance with the new State law.

Move to approve (1) a Resolution to Approve Interlocal Agreement for Oakland County to approve the Designated Assessor for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025 and, (2) the Interlocal Agreement for Oakland County to approve the Designated Assessor for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	DeLind, Councilmember
SECONDER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	DeLind, LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Bowman

5. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE CITY OF FARMINGTON "SYNDICATE" SOCIAL DISTRICT AND DEFINING THE COMMONS AREA, WITH MODIFIED LANGUAGE RECOMMENDED BY MLCC

Executive Director of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority Kate Knight requested approval for a proposed Social District Plan with Map. After the resolution was passed at the

last meeting, MLCC requested amended language, which is why Council is being asked to revisit this resolution.

Taylor asked about looking into heaters for Riley Park. Knight said CARES Act funding might help in costs, and the plan is to run heaters as often as possible. She indicated that the DDA hopes to expand hours in use from just weekend use to throughout the week. Taylor asked about the timeline for the Social District application. Knight said that it would go to MLCC this week, applications are already on file from local establishments, signage is ordered, and that the signage needed to be installed after arrival. She hoped that a soft rollout could be aligned with the opening of ice rink.

Schneemann asked about other licensees for the Syndicate and Knight said that not all establishments are choosing to participate.

Move to approve Resolution to Approve The City of Farmington "Syndicate" Social District and Defining the Commons Area, subject to adding Farmington Brewing Company as one of the license holders on the approved list.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	DeLind, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember
AYES:	LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Bowman, DeLind

6. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE PROPOSED ROAD IMPROVEMENT & WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT FY21/22

Superintendent Eudy explained that one of the City Administrations determining factors to recommend Oakland Street for improvement is the fact that the 8-inch watermain will serve as a backbone for other future watermain improvement projects in this area. Oakland Street serves as a local arterial street, primarily for the residents of the area to by-pass Grand River for access to the Downtown area.

Eudy brought this project request before Council because it has not been previously discussed in depth and it is significant in size with the high end of the estimate at approximately \$1,900,000. If approved, it will obligate all road funds available in the 2020/21 road budget (\$850,000) and all of the road funds yet to be budgeted in the 2021/22 budget (\$500,000) and would also use all of the water and sewer funds available in the 2021/22 budget for water and sewer reconstruction (\$100,000) as well as a draw-down of fund balance (\$200,000) in the water and sewer fund. Finally, it would use \$250,000 of the \$700,000 of funds in the 2021/22 millage fund. He noted that this would be a significant project that the City would complete without bonding, using current resources. The \$1,900,000 was a high-end estimate and included a 25% contingency.

DeLind asked about reasons for the choice, as well as whether other options for improvement might be available. Discussion ensued about Paser ratings of other stretches of road and the value of starting with an arterial street. LaRussa wondered why this was not in the Capital Improvement Program already developed, and Eudy explained that over the last 10 years other projects were completed and the Alta Loma area had not been touched recently. LaRussa encouraged Administration to have this project included in the new CIP. Matt Parks of OHM and

Murphy discussed why this choice was made at this time. Parks commented about the value of Farmington not backing off on sidewalk improvement and concrete patch and crack sealing programs, and noted that the proposed plan gives Farmington a fighting chance to keep up.

Taylor asked whether the City could just fix the road and skip the water main replacement. She was reminded that fixing a road and then tearing it up in a few years to replace the water main makes little fiscal sense.

Schneemann asked about the crack sealing program and Eudy answered that there is a 4 year rotational program in place.

Move to approve Orchard Hiltz & McCliment (OHM) to develop the Oakland Street Reconstruction & Watermain Replacement plans, contract book, and associated documents.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember
AYES:	Schneemann, Taylor, Bowman, DeLind, LaRussa

7. DISCUSS SCHEDULING A JOINT MEETING WITH FARMINGTON HILLS FOR JAN. 25 AT 6 P.M.

Murphy asked for a meeting in regards to a recently completed Broadband study. The joint Farmington/Farmington Hills committee would like to present findings to both Councils simultaneously. No decisions will be made. Council agreed to participate in the combined meeting via Zoom.

8. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF FARMINGTON, CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 4, "AMUSEMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENTS," ARTICLE VI, "SPECIAL EVENTS," IN ORDER TO ADD PROVISIONS TO TEMPORARILY ALLOW OUTDOOR ENCLOSURES FOR DINING FOR RESTAURANT AND BAR USES DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Director Christiansen explained that as a result of recent orders issued by the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services seeking to curb the transmission of Covid-19 by temporarily prohibiting indoor food and beverage service, local bars and restaurants have requested temporary relief to expand service areas outside the building. Although many have received approvals to have unenclosed outdoor seating through the City's "blanket" special event permit process approved in June by Council Resolution, some are looking for ways to continue outdoor seating into the winter months by erecting different types of enclosed structures. These structures would be governed by various City Code provisions, including the State Construction Code, but that might not otherwise be allowed by ordinance. In an effort to ensure health, safety and welfare are preserved, while at the same time seeking to provide additional options to local bars and restaurants, Christiansen requested approval of an amendment to the Special Events Ordinance that will allow temporary review and approval of enclosed outdoor structures through the winter months (December through April) during the

Covid-19 pandemic—but ending with the termination of indoor dining restriction and/or the public health orders that impose them. The amendment would allow dining within outdoor enclosures only when indoor dining is permissible.

Schneemann asked Christiansen to clarify why the word “enclosed” was noted so many times. Discussion ensued about current Codes and Ordinances, interpretation of state orders, and rules on building. Schneemann noted that if these enclosures can’t be used while indoor dining is prohibited, then there really is no relief by having another enclosed structure next to a restaurant’s indoor space.

LaRussa asked how approval would be implemented, and Christiansen described the proposed application and review process. LaRussa suggested that Council might be better served by defining these structures and asked for the addition of definitions when the second reading of this ordinance comes before Council. He noted that it might be advisable to allow room for the creativity of business owners in this pandemic, but that it was imperative to provide guiderails.

Taylor asked for the second reading to be more specific in terms of provisions for ventilation between use. Christiansen described present rules about the fire code and ventilation and noted that the City already has guidelines in place.

Bowman thanked all involved for making sure that these provisions will apply to all businesses in Farmington, not just in the downtown area.

Move to approve Introduction of the Ordinance to amend the City of Farmington, Code of Ordinances, Chapter 4, “Amusements and Entertainments,” Article VI, “Special Events,” in order to add provisions to temporarily allow outdoor enclosures for dining for restaurant and bar uses during the covid-19 public health emergency.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	DeLind, Councilmember
AYES:	Taylor, Bowman, DeLind, LaRussa, Schneemann

9. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was heard.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

11. COUNCIL COMMENT

LaRussa acknowledged the hard work by the Chamber of Commerce, various members of the City Administration and leadership including Mayor Bowman, and the Jaycees toward the move to a virtual tree lighting. The event added to the list of innovative things that have had to be

done in Covid season. He likened it to a Christmas miracle and hoped something similar could be done in future, even when restrictions lift.

Taylor will ask the Jaycees at their next meeting whether they would be interested in streaming the event again next time, suggesting that the combination of a live event and a live stream would provide more engagement.

Bowman thanked all for their time and efforts and noted that the Governor had extended the stay safe order. She congratulated Murphy for keeping staff safe by closing City Hall to the public and still keeping services operating without missing a beat.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Schneemann, Councilmember

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: December 21, 2020

******To view approved documents, please see the Agenda Packet link that is relevant to this meeting at <http://farmgov.com/City-Services/Government/Agendas-and-Minutes/City-Council.aspx> or contact the City Clerk.