



City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., August 17, 2026
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on August 17, 2026 at 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:06 PM by Mayor LaRussa

1. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Johnna Balk	Mayor Pro-Tem	Present	
Joe LaRussa	Mayor	Present	
Kevin Parkins	Councilmember	Present	
Steve Schneemann	Councilmember	Present	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present:
City Manager, David Murphy
City Clerk, Meaghan Bachman
Director of Public Safety, Bob Houhanisin
DPW Superintendent, Josh Leach
City Attorneys, Tom Schultz and JoEllen Shortley

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Public Comment

Several Floral Park residents addressed Council regarding neighborhood blight, code enforcement, property maintenance, commercial vehicles, rental properties, tree loss, pedestrian safety, access to Shiawassee Park, neighborhood amenities, and preservation of the historic winery property. Residents asked the City to improve communication and consistently enforce existing ordinances.

Kim Thompson Everett, a longtime Floral Park resident, described the neighborhood as an intergenerational community and requested greater City investment, improved walkability and park access, restoration of a neighborhood pocket park or bench, and efforts to preserve the historic winery building and chimney.

Michael Sweeney, 26105 Orchard Lake Road, spoke on behalf of the Emergency Preparedness Commission. He recalled the 2003 regional blackout, encouraged residents to maintain three days of emergency supplies, and recommended the City's emergency information resources, Oakland County emergency alerts, and the What3Words location application.

Kim Hart, 23192 Lilac Street, expressed concern about speeding on Shiawassee Road and requested additional speed monitoring and enforcement near the Floral Park neighborhood.

4. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Parkins

Resolved, move to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

5. Approval of the Regular Agenda

Motion by Taylor
Seconded by Schneemann

Resolved, move to approve the regular agenda with the addition of Item 7-G, Principal Shopping District Renewal Resolution, and the removal of Item 10.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

6-A PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS - Promotions of Public Safety Officers

Director of Public Safety Houhanisin recognized four recently promoted members of the Farmington Public Safety Department, who collectively represent more than 73 years of institutional knowledge. City Clerk Bachman administered the supervisory oath of office, family members participated in badge presentations, and each officer thanked family, colleagues, City administration, and Council for their support.

The following promotions were recognized: Shane Wash to Deputy Director; Mike Weir to Commander; Will Wood to Sergeant; and Lisa Kobernick to Sergeant. Council congratulated the officers and commended the department for developing and promoting leaders from within.

7-A NEW BUSINESS - E-Bike Ordinance Discussion

City Attorney Shortley provided an updated legal analysis regarding electric bicycles. Based on additional research and consultation with bicycle-law specialists, she advised that the Michigan Vehicle Code does not expressly prohibit electric bicycles on sidewalks; therefore, a local ordinance would be needed to establish such restrictions. Council discussed safety, enforcement, downtown sidewalks, parks, speed limits, bicycle infrastructure, and the distinction between legal e-bikes and other motorized devices.

A majority of Council directed the City Attorney to return with revised ordinance language with three options - prohibiting the riding of e-bikes on sidewalks in the downtown ,City parks (while allowing e-bikes to be walked) and prohibiting all bikes on all sidewalks. Staff members were also asked to evaluate a possible citywide sidewalk prohibition and to clearly define the downtown area. Council requested additional research regarding South Lyon's ordinance and enforcement approach.

7-B NEW BUSINESS - First Reading of Zoning Ordinance Amendments - Parking Requirements and Gross Usable Area

Council considered amendments to Chapter 35, Article 7, Section 35-105(B); Article 14, Section 35-172; and Article 21, Section 35-252, intended to modify certain parking requirements and add a definition of gross usable area.

Motion by Balk

Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to approve the first reading of amendments to Chapter 35, Article 7, Section 35-105(B); Article 14, Section 35-172; and Article 21, Section 35-252 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Balk, LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

7-C NEW BUSINESS - Interlocal Agreement for Damage Assessment Mutual Aid

Building Official Bodell explained that the agreement provides mutual aid among building departments following a large-scale emergency. Participating communities may supply qualified inspectors to document property damage within the limited timeframe required for state and federal emergency-assistance reporting.

Motion by Balk

Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Damage Assessment Mutual Aid and authorize the City Manager to sign on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor, Balk

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

7-D NEW BUSINESS - Video Camera Antenna Purchase

Director Houhanisin reported that aging antennas in the City's video-camera network are failing, causing outages and reduced video quality. The proposed work will replace obsolete point-to-point antennas with multi-point antennas, replace remaining original analog cameras at the Public Safety station, and add cameras in the interview room and at the DPW property. The purchase was included in the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan and is under budget.

Motion by Taylor
Seconded by Balk

Resolved, move to approve the purchase agreement with Advanced Satellite Communications to replace antennas and upgrade the existing camera system in the amount of \$25,998.71.

Roll Call Vote:
Yeas: Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor, Balk, LaRussa
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

7-E NEW BUSINESS - CLEMIS Authority Agreement

Mayor LaRussa disclosed that he serves on the CLEMIS Executive Committee. Council unanimously approved his request to abstain from discussion and voting on the item, after which he left the room and Mayor Pro-Tem Balk presided.

Director Houhanisin explained that the CLEMIS Authority was created to transfer the operation of shared law-enforcement information-technology services from Oakland County to a separate legal entity. The agreement allows the Public Safety Department to continue using computer-aided dispatch, police and fire reporting, booking, and video services.

Motion by Parkins
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to approve the resolution and agreement to join the Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System (CLEMIS) Authority.

Roll Call Vote:
Yeas: Schneemann, Taylor, Balk, Parkins
Nays: None

Motion carried 4-0; LaRussa abstained.

7-F NEW BUSINESS - Warner Mansion Asbestos Abatement

DPW Superintendent Leach reported that an asbestos survey identified asbestos-containing window glazing, exterior door caulk, furnace-room wall-penetration mortar, and basement pipe insulation. Abatement is required before removal of the Mansion addition. ABF Environmental submitted the lowest of three requested quotes, and the proposed amount includes a ten-percent contingency for unforeseen material discovered during the work. Grant funds will be used for the project.

Motion by Taylor
Seconded by Balk

Resolved, move to award asbestos abatement and air monitoring at the Governor Warner Mansion, 33805 Grand River Avenue, to ABF Environmental of Farmington Hills in an amount not to exceed \$36,014.00.

Roll Call Vote:
Yeas: Taylor, Balk, LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

7-G NEW BUSINESS - Principal Shopping District Renewal Resolution

City Manager Murphy reported that the Principal Shopping District special assessment is scheduled to expire in 2026 and currently generates \$225,259 for Downtown Development Authority operations. The first of five required resolutions initiates the renewal process by directing preparation of a report for Council's consideration in September.

Motion by Taylor
Seconded by Balk

Resolved, move to approve Resolution No. 1 instructing the City Manager and DDA Executive Director to prepare a report for City Council regarding renewal of the Principal Shopping District special assessment.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

8. Public Comment

Patrick Thomas, 22432 Brookdale Street, encouraged Council to distinguish legal Class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes from electric motorcycles, scooters, and other devices already prohibited on sidewalks. He described safety concerns for cyclists traveling on Grand River Avenue, Orchard Lake Road, and other high-speed roads without adequate shoulders. He asked Council to avoid a blanket prohibition, consider targeted downtown restrictions and speed regulation, and review South Lyon's e-bike ordinance.

9. City Council Comment

Councilmember Taylor reported that South Lyon's recently adopted e-bike ordinance includes a 15-mile-per-hour speed limit and a prohibition against careless or reckless operation. She requested further review of that ordinance and its enforcement approach. She later joined her colleagues in requesting focused attention to code-enforcement concerns in Floral Park.

Councilmember Schneemann expressed concern regarding the issues raised by Floral Park residents and requested increased speed-enforcement efforts along Shiawassee Road. He also asked City administration to follow up on reported blight and code-enforcement matters.

Mayor LaRussa echoed those concerns and requested that neighborhood issues be prioritized. He also asked for clearer code-enforcement reporting showing the progression from initial complaint through resolution. Mayor LaRussa congratulated the promoted Public Safety officers and commended the department's ability to promote from within.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Taylor

Seconded by Balk

Resolved, move to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 PM.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

Joe LaRussa, Mayor

Meaghan K. Bachman, City Clerk