



City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, March 4, 2024
Conference Room
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on March 4, 2024, at 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, MI. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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	Absent	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present

City Manager David Murphy
Public Safety Director Bob Houhanisin
City Treasurer-Finance Director Chris Weber
DDA Director Kate Knight
Public Works Superintendent Chuck Eudy
Planning & Building Director Kevin Christiansen
Building Official Jeff Bowdell
City Clerk Meaghan Bachman
City Attorney Beth Saarela

2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA

Move to approve the regular agenda as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Balk, Mayor Pro-Tem
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Cowley, resident at 23818 Wilmarthspoke regarding the ambulance service proposal on the agenda.

Ryan Cannon of 21452 Chestnut Lane, spoke regarding the ambulance service proposal on the agenda.

Sarah Davies resident at 23120 Violet Street spoke regarding to the ambulance service proposal on the agenda.

4. Consideration of Resolution Amending Social district and Defining Commons area to Include New Eligible License Holders

Kate Knight presented this agenda item. This amendment is to accommodate new businesses (Tagues Bar & Grill and Heights Brewing) to the social district (the Syndicate) and to also extend the district to reach new businesses and include new common area and connective sidewalks.

Move to approve the Third Amended Resolution Designating Social Districts containing commons areas and adopting a Management and Maintenance Plan in order to allow certain on-premises Liquor Licensees Expanded Use of Shared Areas for Consumption of Alcohol Pursuant to Public Act 124 Of 2020.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Balk, Mayor Pro-Tem
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember
AYES:	Balk, LaRussa, Parkins, Taylor
ABSENT:	Schneemann

5. PATHWAYS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Pathways Committee has two vacancies. City Council interviewed four candidates and the following candidates were appointed.

Move to appoint the following candidates to the Pathways Committee:

- Appoint Jamie Palmisano to the Farmington Pathways Committee for a term ending December 31, 2024.
- Appoint Heather Davies to the Farmington Pathways Committee for a term ending December 31, 2025.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Parkins, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Taylor, Mayor Pro-Tem

6. DEMOLITION ORDINANCE FIRST READING

This agenda item was presented by Kevin Christiansen, Planning and Building Department Director. The Planning and Building Department is recommending an amendment to the existing City of Farmington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 7, Buildings and Building Regulations, adding a new article providing standards/regulations for building demolition. The city does not currently have a building demolition ordinance. The requested action is review of the proposed amendment and approval of the First Reading.

Move to approve the Introduction of Ordinance No. C-811-2024 Amending the City of Farmington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 7, Buildings and Building Regulations, to Add a New Article III, Demolition – FIRST READING.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Parkins, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember
AYES:	LaRussa, Parkins, Taylor, Balk
ABSENT:	Schneemann

7. MICHIGAN WWII LEGACY MEMORIAL

This item was presented by City Manager David Murphy. This item was originally presented to Council at the meeting of February 20, 2024. Debi Hollis of Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial would like the City of Farmington to participate in the Michigan Historic WWII Trail. Their goal is to have plaques throughout the state at various points of interest. On November 3, 1944 the Japanese military began to launch more than 9,300 Fu-Go ballon bombs, filled with hydrogen. About 280 ballons made it to Michigan. One hit at the home of John T. Cook near 8 Mile and Farmington Road. A proposal to purchase a memorial plaque showcasing the historic event was presented.

Move to approve the purchase of the 24 x 36 - bronze plaque at a cost of \$7,500 as recommended by the City Manager.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Balk, Mayor Pro-Tem
SECONDER:	Parkins, Councilmember
AYES:	Parkins, Taylor, Balk, LaRussa
ABSENT:	Schneemann

8. MEDC GRANT AGREEMENT FOR GOVERNOR WARNER MANSION

The city has been awarded a \$1,000,000.00 grant from the MEDC to make significant improvements to Warner Mansion for building repair and maintenance, sidewalk and parking infrastructure, landscaping, lead abatement, bringing water and sewer connections to the carriage house and boiler/generator upgrading. There is no local match required. The city is required to provide quarterly reports, invoices, and documentation to the MEDC. The initial payment from the MEDC to the city will be for 50% of the grant funds and shall be provided within 30 days after the grant is executed. The term of the grant ends on December 31, 2025. The city will competitively bid the work for the entire project.

Motion to approve Grant from the MEDC to fund \$1,000,000.00 of improvements to Warner Mansion.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Balk, Mayor Pro-Tem
AYES:	Taylor, Balk, LaRussa, Parkins
ABSENT:	Schneemann

9. GLWA SETTLEMENT & RELEASE AGREEMENT AND RESOLUTION

Motion to accept the proposed Settlement and Release agreement between the City of Farmington and Great Lakes Water Authority and approve the resolution certifying the approval of the Settlement and Release agreement for the claim of damage to the City of Farmington water distribution system as a result of the temporary operation of the GLWA water transmission system.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Balk, Mayor Pro-Tem
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember
AYES:	Balk, LaRussa, Parkins, Taylor
ABSENT:	Schneemann

10. AMBULANCE SERVICE PROPOSAL

Public Safety Director Bob Houhanisin presented this agenda item. The Director proposed a motion that would enter into an agreement with Huron Valley Ambulance to provide 24/7/365 Advanced Life Support services for the city. It was proposed to go with Option A, which requires a response time of 12 minutes for 90% of priority one service with a zero annual cost to the City of Farmington.

The current EMS service provider, Superior Ambulance, will no longer provide ALS services without subsidy and therefore Director Houhanisin requested proposals from other providers. The Director received from Huron Valley, Star EMS, MEDstar EMS, Superior Ambulance Service, and the Farmington Hills Fire Department. City Council discussed options, locations of fleet, cost, and voiced concerns regarding response times with the proposals. No action was taken at this meeting and council scheduled a special meeting for March 11, 2024 to finalize the decision.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Taylor presented a proclamation to Council marking the 200th Anniversary of Farmington’s Founding in 1824. City Council proclaimed March 8, 2024 a Bicentennial Day of Jubilee, and invited residents to engage in festivities befitting the historic anniversary.

Motion to approve the Proclamation presented by Councilmember Taylor marking the 200th Anniversary of Farmington’s Founding.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Balk, Mayor Pro-Tem
SECONDER:	Parkins, Councilmember

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Cannon resident at 21452 Chestnut Lane spoke regarding the Ambulance Services Proposals.

Ms. Mosby of Senator Mary Cavanagh’s Office was present at the meeting and introduced herself to Council.

13. CITY COUNCIL COMMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Balk noted she respects all the comments from the public with the ambulance service discussion and is not taken lightly. She noted the council is trying to do the best they can for the community with the resources given.

Mayor LaRussa noted the decision that will be made regarding ambulance services is not an easy one. He noted the Council will need to get the facts and have discussions to make the proper decisions. The Mayor presented City Council with an end of year update regarding DTE Energy and the outage status. Mayor LaRussa noted the upcoming SEMCOG events and encouraged all to attend.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Balk, Mayor Pro-Tem
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Joe LaRussa, Mayor

Meaghan K. Bachman, City Clerk

Approval Date: March 18, 2024