



Special City Council Meeting
6:00 p.m., December 15, 2025
Conference Room
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on December 15, 2025, 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 6:01 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	Present	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present:

City Manager, David Murphy
Assistant City Manager, Chris Weber
City Clerk, Meaghan Bachman
DPW Superintendent, Josh Leach
City Attorney, Beth Saarela
OHM Advisors, Austin Downie

2. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public spoke.

4. John Kaczor, Principal, Municipal Analytics, presented a comprehensive water and sewer rate study analysis. John explained that the city's current cash position is weak and insufficient to handle emergencies or take advantage of grants.

The presentation covered three main funding scenarios for a 10-year capital plan totaling \$15.2 million for water and \$6.5 million for sewer improvements.

The first scenario maintained current rate structures with minimal increases of approximately 8% for sewer and 7.3% for water, resulting in a combined impact of about \$6.54 per quarter for average residential customers.

The second scenario involved aggressive rate increases with a 40% water rate increase in the first year, resulting in a 22.5% combined impact in year one.

The third scenario proposed a more gradual approach with 18% annual water rate increases for three years, resulting in approximately 13% combined annual increases for the first three years.

Council members expressed concerns about the impact on residents, particularly lower-income households. Some members requested additional analysis showing how different rate structures would affect various customer categories based on meter size and usage patterns.

The item will be brought back to City Council in February 2026.

5. **Appointment to Commission on Children, Youth and Families**

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Parkins

Resolved, move to approve the appointment of Bridget Gibbons to the Farmington seat on the Farmington/Farmington Hills Commission for Children, Youth and Families for a term ending December 31, 2027.

Motion Carried Unanimously

6. **Other Business**

City Manager Murphy asked to add payment to Robertson Brothers to the regular meeting agenda.

7. **Public Comment**

No members of the public spoke.

8. COUNCIL COMMENT

No members of council spoke.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to adjourn the special meeting at 7:19 PM.

Motion carried unanimously

Joe LaRussa, Mayor

Meaghan K. Bachman, City Clerk