



Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, March 15, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on March 15, 2021, 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 p.m. by Mayor Bowman.

1. ROLL CALL

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

City Administration Present

Director Christiansen
Superintendent Eudy
City Clerk Mullison
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Schultz
Director Warthman

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeanne Freed, 23069 Lilac, made suggestions for current tree inventory implementation.

4. APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Accept City of Farmington Board and Commission Minutes
- B. City of Farmington Minutes
 - a. February 16, 2021 Regular
 - b. March 1, 2021 Regular
 - c. March 4, 2021 Special
- C. Farmington Monthly Payments Report
- D. Farmington Public Safety Monthly Report
- E. Accept the resignation from Sharon Bernath from the Friends of the Mansion Committee

Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

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

5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Move to approve the regular agenda as presented.**

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Historical Commission Interview

Rudy Wengorovius was interviewed for an open seat on the Historical Commission.

Move to appoint Rudolph Wengorovius to the Farmington Historical Commission for a term ending March 31, 2022.**

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

B. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CONTRACT BETWEEN OAKLAND COUNTY WATER RESOURCE COMMISSIONERS (OCWRC) OFFICE AND DIXON ENGINEERING FOR THE 9 MILE BOOSTER STATION PIPE REHABILITATION, AND ALLOW CITY ADMINISTRATION TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Superintendent Eudy summarized the OCWRC recommendation for pipe rehabilitation at the 9 Mile Booster Station. This project would include replacement of the bolts at the 80 pipe connections, and bolt replacement of the 14 valves. It would also include surface preparation of the piping and painting of the pipe and surface as well as preparation and galvanized coating of the steel grating. Eudy said that the painting of the pipe would require the booster station to be taken out of service to control the moisture on the pipe surface. The water tank in the cemetery will be filled by manual adjustments of an inter-connect valve from the Whittaker District to the tank district, and the manual adjustments would be the responsibility of the City of Farmington Public Works Department.

LaRussa questioned why Farmington was not contracting directly with Dixon Engineering instead of through OCWRC and Eudy explained that Farmington was utilizing OCWRC's already awarded bid for improvements at their facility and taking advantage of value pricing.

Move to approve contract between Oakland County Water Resource Commissioners (OCWRC) office and Dixon Engineering for the 9 Mile Booster Station Pipe Rehabilitation.**

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

C. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION OF AWARD FOR REPAIRS TO CELL #1 AT THE 9 MILE RETENTION FACILITY AND ALLOW CITY ADMINISTRATION TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Eudy explained that several years ago City Administration and OCWRC developed a five-year Capital Improvement Plan for the Nine Mile Retention and Nine Mile Booster Facilities. Target items the OCWRC recommended for repairs next fiscal year included repairs to Basin No.1 joint sealing, Pump #2 rehabilitation, and lighting rehabilitation in all 3 containment cells. Eudy indicated that this work would be budgeted and completed in the 2021/22 fiscal year. Due to the limited availability of contractors and other work scheduled at the 9 Mile Retention he requested that City Council approve the proposed project so that it could proceed as soon as possible.

Move to approve recommendation of award for repairs to cell #1 at the 9 Mile Retention Facility and allow City Administration to execute contract documents.**

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

D. CONSIDERATION TO AWARD 9 MILE RETENTION CONTAINMENT BASIN LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS TO MICHIGAN ELECTRICAL SERVICES AND AUTHORIZE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Eudy said that though this work is to be budgeted and completed in the 2021/22 fiscal year, he was requesting City Council approve the proposed project now due to the 10 week lead time of ordering the fixtures and the volatility of the supply chain.

DeLind asked if there would be any potential for negotiation or cost savings for using a dry period and not needing to break down scaffolding. Eudy said that they are entertaining that idea.

Move to award 9 Mile Retention containment basin lighting improvements to Michigan Electrical Services and authorize City Administration to execute contract documents.**

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

E. CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT PROPOSAL FROM OAKLAND COUNTY WATER RESOURCE COMMISSIONER OFFICE (OCWRC) TO RECONDITION PUMP #2 IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$19,000.00 AND ALLOW CITY ADMINISTRATION TO EXECUTE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Eudy requested approval to proceed with the contract for this project, with the work not to commence until after July 1, 2021.

Move to accept proposal Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner Office (OCWRC) to recondition pump #2 in the estimated amount of \$19,000.00 and allow City Administration to execute contract documents.**

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

F. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AWARDING THE ANNUAL CRACK SEALING CONTRACT TO WOLVERINE SEALCOATING PER THE RFP AND ALLOW CITY ADMINISTRATION TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT

Eudy referred to the existing 4-year rotating pavement crack sealing schedule for major and local streets as developed by City Administration and OHM Advisors and said that Farmington has joined with several other communities to solicit a Request For Proposal (RFP) for these services. The RFP has returned with a reduced price for crack sealing.

Move to award the Annual Crack Sealing Contract to Wolverine Sealcoating per the RFP and allow City Administration to execute the contract.**

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

G. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE COST INVESTIGATION FOR SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR ALLEY OFF OAKLAND STREET

City Manager Murphy explained that an alley that serves as access to two residential properties off of Oakland Street has deteriorated to the point that is in need of repair. The property owners have approached the City and would like the alley repaved in conjunction with the Oakland Street project. The alley is currently a public alley, but the special assessment process is available to the City to have the adjacent owners pay for needed improvements, as they will be specially benefitted by those improvements.

Murphy requested that Council approve a resolution that would allow the City Manager to prepare a report that would address the scope and specifications of the project, the estimated cost of the project, the estimated life of the project, and a description of the proposed special

assessment district and other pertinent information for the City Council to consider in establishing a district, including assessments on benefiting properties. Four further resolutions will be considered before the SAD can be established.

Murphy said that City Administration believes that the improvements are appropriate, and that assessing the costs to the benefitted owners is also appropriate, and he recommends commencing the SAD process.

LaRussa asked why this was still a public roadway and whether this alley could be a quitclaim to the adjacent owners. Murphy said that was a better long-term solution and that he would like to explore vacating that alley to the residents the alley serves.

Bowman thanked Murphy for bringing this issue to light and thought this was a nice representation of the public and city working well together.

Move to adopt Special Assessment Resolution #1 for the Re-Paving Project of an alley at 34005, 34015 Oakland and 23701 Wilmarth off Oakland Street which directs the City Manager to prepare a report regarding the proposed project.**

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

H. DISCUSS TAKING RESERVATIONS FOR PARKS, MANSION GROUNDS AND SPECIAL EVENTS, LIVE MEETINGS AND OPENING CITY HALL

Murphy asked City Council to make some determinations regarding continuing remote meetings through a resolution declaring a local state of emergency; continuation of closing of City Hall to the public; and the time for commencing the taking of reservation for park properties under the City's park use policy.

Discussion followed concerning the adoption of the local state of emergency, Murphy's preference that City Hall remain closed to the public at least through the end of May, 2021, and when the City should resume taking reservations for Shiawassee Park Pavilion, Shiawassee Playscape shelter, and the Governor Warner Mansion grounds. Murphy reminded Council that the parks and Mansion grounds were currently available for public use, but the City is not currently taking reservations for those spaces.

Bowman asked Schultz to clarify exactly where we are right now with State rules for gathering in a public place. Schultz indicated that the City could probably meet existing rules for outside gatherings but that indoor numbers might be more difficult to abide by.

DeLind supported Murphy's requests. He noted that transmission rates are still going up even with more vaccines out there and that the City needs to keep public servants as safe as possible as long as services remain available. He also deferred to Murphy's idea that park

reservations could be made for after June 1, with the caveat that should things change, those reservations would be canceled.

Taylor appreciated that the City Manager was taking care of employees and felt that it was totally right keeping City Hall closed. She suggested beginning to take park reservations mid-July so that it coincides with Founders Festival dates.

LaRussa also agreed with his colleagues. He requested that the remote meeting resolution being considered be fixed to read through 2021 and said that Murphy's suggestions were prudent actions to take.

Bowman agreed that keeping City Hall closed has so far worked at keeping employees safe and thanked Murphy for his proactive policies. She remarked that declaring a state of emergency makes sense if it allows remote meetings to continue for a while. She reemphasized Murphy's statement about Farmington parks still being open and noted that this discussion was just about reserving and renting for special events. Council still wants people to be out and about and use the parks.

In response to a question by LaRussa, Schultz said he didn't see a need to look at revising the City Charter with language addressing a local state of emergency since the Council has the state statutes and local ordinance in place already.

Move to adopt the Resolution Declaring a Local State of Emergency.**

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

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

8. CITY COUNCIL COMMENT

Taylor mentioned that she had recently spoken to a Farmington School Board member and that their board had just met in person, though public attendance was remote. She suggested that this was something to keep in mind once the State of Emergency is done and Council does go back to in-person meetings.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned 8:00 p.m.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: April 19, 2021

**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.