



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on April 6, 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 7:27 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
Assistant City Manager, Chris Weber
Finance Director/Treasurer, Jaime Pohlman
City Attorney, Tom Schultz

2. Public Comment

No members of the public spoke.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to approve the const agenda as presented:

- A. Market Manager Contract
- B. Resolution Regarding the MI Home Program
- C. Resolution Regarding the Local Municipal Zoning Authority
- D. South Farmington Baseball Parade Application

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

4. Approval of the Regular Agenda

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to approve the regular agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

5. New Business**5-A Resolution to Delegate Public Hearing to Brownfield Redevelopment Authority**

State law requires City Council to hold a public hearing prior to the adoption of a Brownfield Plan. This requirement can be delegated to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Administration is recommending that this requirement be delegated because the feedback received during the public comment period would be useful to the BRA in considering whether to recommend approval to City Council.

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Parkins

Resolved, move to Approve a Resolution to Delegate Public Hearing to Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Roll Call Vote:
Yeas: Balk, LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor
Nays: None
Motion carried unanimously 5-0

5-B Ordinance Committee Discussion

City Manager David Murphy discussed the Ordinance Review Committee structure, suggesting a committee including City Clerk, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, a City Council Member at large, a planning commission member, and a former Farmington mayor, with the City Attorney as a non-voting participant.

Council Member Taylor clarified her original request for the ordinance review process, expressing concern that the proposed structure was too similar to a charter review committee rather than focusing on ordinance updates.

Attorney Tom Schultz explained the differences between ordinance review committees and charter review committees, noting that ordinance review is typically handled by council members since they are the ones who will ultimately adopt the ordinances.

Council Member Parkins noted that the original goal-setting discussion focused on utilizing an underutilized charter review committee to examine existing ordinances that may need updates, not necessarily creating new ordinances.

Council Member Schneeman suggested that ordinance reviews are commonly done by consultants such as city attorneys or planning consultants who have the training and experience to update ordinances effectively.

Attorney Tom Schultz noted he will provide the city with a few options.

5-C Financial Forecast

Treasurer Jamie Pohlman presented a 10-year financial forecast showing the city's general fund will face challenges, with fund balance depletion projected by 2029 due to various factors including EMS costs, increased assessing expenses, full-time code enforcement officer, pension obligations, and civic theater subsidies.

City Manager David Murphy explained several financial pressures including EMS service costing approximately \$300,000, assessing increases of about \$30,000, full-time code enforcement officer, 23rd police officer costing \$100,000, district court expenses of \$30,000, deer management \$20,000 and civic theater support of \$100,000 annually. Critical milestones include Fiscal Year 2029/30 OPEB debt elimination and Fiscal Year 2033/34 end of current millage. Fund balance concerns include unrestricted fund balance declining below policy targets.

Council discussed financial strategy options that include:

- Millage Renewal Discussion: Current 3-mill voter-approved millage expires, requiring council decision
- Special Assessment District: Potential option for EMS funding to preserve millage capacity
- Revenue Assumptions: 3.5% annual property tax growth
- Operational Improvements:
 - Warner Mansion revenue potential after renovations
 - Civic Theater revenue enhancement through liquor license and improvements

Council requested to see additional scenarios that would demonstrate the operational impact of positive city financial initiatives and a potential millage renewal. It was noted the conservative approach is appreciated in financial planning but did not want to make decisions based on projections.

6. Other Business

City Manager David Murphy reported on the rapid flashing beacon project for State Street, noting that preliminary improvements have been made including signage and vegetation trimming, but requested council direction on whether to proceed with the \$45,000-\$60,000 beacon installation. The funds are budgeted and the city will go out to bid and bring it back to the council for approval.

7. Public Comment

No members of the public spoke.

8. Council Comment

Mayor LaRussa provided updates on federal grant opportunities including a \$4.2 million EPA Great Lakes Community Project grant for green infrastructure with no local match required and Safe Streets Now is funding for traffic calming measures including rapid flashing beacons. The Mayor encouraged all to consider projects that would qualify for the funding.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

Joe LaRussa, Mayor

Meaghan K. Bachman, City Clerk