



Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, October 5, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on June 1, 2020, 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 by Executive Order 2020 129 signed by Governor Whitmer on June 18, 2020, 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 pm by Mayor Bowman.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Sara Bowman	Mayor	Present	
Dave DeLind	Councilmember	Present	
Joe LaRussa	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Steve Schneemann	Councilmember	Absent	7:02 pm
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present

Superintendent Eudy
City Clerk Mullison
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Schultz

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Move to approve the regular meeting agenda as presented.**

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

3. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE INTERVIEW

Natalie Soave was interviewed for a seat on the Farmington Beautification Committee. Council asked about her interests and what focus she would like to bring to the committee.

Move to appoint Natalie Soave to serve on the Farmington Beautification Committee for a term ending 6/30/2023.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember

4. FIRST READING: INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE CREATION OF A SOCIAL DISTRICT

Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority, Kate Knight explained a new law intended to spur economic activity and provide flexibility for hospitality businesses by enabling the on-site sale and off-site consumption of alcoholic beverages in designated "Social District" areas.

On July 1, 2020, Governor Whitmer signed House Bill 5781 into law (MCL 436.1551) creating the "Social District Permit," which allows local governments to designate a Social District within their jurisdictions. Businesses that are granted a Social District Permit may sell alcoholic liquor (beer, wine, mixed spirits, or mixed drinks) on their licensed premises to customers who may then consume the alcoholic liquor within the commons area of the Social District. Local governments may now designate a Social District that contains a "commons area." Once designated, "qualified licensees" whose licensed premises are contiguous to the commons area within the Social District and who obtain a license from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) may permit patrons to leave the licensed premises with the alcohol and consume it within the commons area.

A Social District will be delineated and proposed for consideration in the form of a Resolution of City Council. Kate Knight is currently working with downtown business owners to determine which will apply to the MLCC for a Social District Permit. This will form the basis of the boundaries of the District. As more businesses add these permits, the Social District may be amended by City Council by amending the Resolution to expand or modify the District.

Taylor asked what challenges and successes Knight had heard of from surrounding communities that operate Social Districts. Knight reported that this had been the subject of a recent Michigan Municipal League session at a convention. Representatives from Northville, Muskegon, and the MLCC spoke of their experiences, both positive and negative. Knight said that Farmington's legal team had researched areas of current ordinances which might need to be amended to allow for Social Districts. Taylor asked what benefits had been found to merchants in other communities. Issues of concern were signage and trash receptacles needed, along with a higher level of oversight by public safety. Taylor asked for consideration of recycling receptacles.

LaRussa commented Knight for all the work done on this project so far. He asked about the map included in the agenda packet. Knight explained that there was a limit to square footage and that they were trying to be efficient in their plan. Discussion followed about specific routes,

cups that would identify purchase origin and Social District logo, and future plans. Schultz explained local considerations and said that the ordinance being considered parroted state law that lapses in 2024.

DeLind asked about public safety concerns associated with entering and exiting Social Districts, since not every cut-through is designated as a Social District. Knight indicated that signage would demarcate where the district ends, and discussed future expansion of the Social District.

Schneemann said that he had been looking forward to Social Districts since spring. He noted that the proposed Social District was spread throughout town, that children would be allowed in the area, and that there was no prohibition on entering but participants could not carry open alcohol beyond the Social District. When Schneemann expressed concern with public intoxication, Schultz explained that this ordinance just addressed the open intoxicant rules and that other limitations on conduct still held. Schneemann indicated that he was supportive of the idea, but was concerned about how extensive the district is throughout the downtown area. Discussion ensued about liabilities, exposure, rules, and differences.

Bowman asked why other cities have not opted to do this since it seems it would help businesses and make the downtown vital, and Knight replied that she had not asked. She posited that it was not an easy task and not always applicable to every downtown area. She predicted that a Social District would create the potential for additional development and new businesses, and that creating a plan was a matter of political will, interested establishments, and appropriate legislative tools. In response to a question from Bowman, Knight indicated that shut down was anticipated to be at 10:00 pm. Bowman noted that strange times are breeding some new and interesting changes and that, though this was a new endeavor, setting rules, guidelines, and procedures would allow the public something to look forward to.

LaRussa followed up by asking about what applying for a Social District permit entailed, and Schneemann requested hearing from the Public Safety Director at the next meeting.

Move to approve introduction of Ordinance No. C-799-2020, an Ordinance to amend the City of Farmington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3, "Alcoholic Liquors," to add Article III, "Social Districts." FIRST READING.**

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

5. WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Superintendent Eudy updated Council on the continuing need for water main replacement at Lilac and Nine Mile. Jess Howard of OHM assisted Eudy in answering Council questions on the details of the project. Three quotes were obtained. Schneemann asked where funds for this repair would come from and Murphy indicated that it would be paid for through both the Water and Sewer Contingency fund and the Roads fund, as the project entail both kinds of work.

Move to award the contract for the Nine Mile water replacement to D'Angelo Brothers in the amount not to exceed \$300,000.**

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

6. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CONTRACT FOR UPDATED PRINTERS

City Manager Murphy recommended the lease of 4 multipurpose printer/copier machines for a 5-year period. The current equipment lease expires at the end of October. The new machines will be upgrades for a slightly lower cost: \$443.00 per month (\$26,580.00) rather than the current \$460.69 per month (total \$27,641.40) The City plans to lease the equipment through a competitive contract bid out by Farmington Hills.

Move to approve the lease of 4 Multipurpose Printer/Copier Machines for a 5-year period in the amount of \$443.00 per month (\$26,580.00).**

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

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Brian Golden presented a video about historic markers and a tour incorporating QR codes and the city's website.

City Manager Murphy asked Council for permission to organize a skate swap on November 29 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Due to the pandemic, it was deemed too risky to have skates to borrow as usual for the Ice Rink at Riley Park.

Murphy also asked for Council availability for an October 14 combined DDA/City Council meeting and received the go-ahead to make plans.

Mayor Bowman updated Council on meetings held in preparation for retaining 360 Productions to organize Founders Festival 2021. She anticipates including a proposed contract at the next Council meeting.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Davies, 23120 Violet, commented about Flanders Park, Social Districts, and upcoming Halloween "Bootification" awards She also welcomed Soave to the Beautification Committee.

9. COUNCIL COMMENT

DeLind thanked Eudy and OHM for doing such good work on short notice to get the water main project pulled together.

Taylor gave a preliminary Sidewalks and Pathways Committee report. She will have more details at the next Council meeting on October 19th. LaRussa asked Taylor about planned prioritization of sidewalks and she said they will be reviewing those ratings. Bowman asked what the format for the committee will be. Taylor said bylaws were anticipated to mirror those of the Parking Committee. Schultz reminded Council that a resolution will need to be passed to actually create the committee.

Bowman thanked Public Safety Commander Anderson and Officer Cote for a speed measurement event for citizens. She commends the department for taking the issue seriously and scheduling these demonstrations to address public interest. Bowman noted that there would be one more opportunity to attend a session.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	DeLind, Councilmember

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: October 19, 2020

******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.