



Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, March 16, 2020
City Council Chambers
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on March 16, 2020, in Farmington City Hall, 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 7:00 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	Present	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present

Director Christiansen
Director Demers
Superintendent Eudy
City Clerk Mullison
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Schultz
Director Weber

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

Bowman made a statement on behalf of herself and the City Council relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. She thanked everyone for sacrifices already made and to come in navigating through this public health issue. She assured the public that the City was in constant contact with the State Representative and the County Health Department, and will continue to monitor news from the CDC. Bowman announced recommendations for limiting potential exposure when conducting business with the City and that the DDA was coordinating curbside restaurant pick up in parking spaces on Grand River in order to minimize contact and maximize support of our local businesses and restaurants. She asked all residents to take personal, proactive measures to help slow the spread of the virus.

4. APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Accept City of Farmington Board and Commission Minutes
- B. City of Farmington Minutes
 - a. 02-18-2020 Special DRAFT
 - b. 03-02-2020 Regular DRAFT
- D. Annual Special Event Application: Swing Farmington
- E. Annual Special Event Application: Telegana Development Forum
- F. Board and Commission Reappointments: DDA

Move to approve the consent agenda as amended, removing Item D, Annual Special Event Application: Swing Farmington.**

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

5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Move to approve the regular agenda with the addition of one item as 7H, Consideration to draft a resolution requesting gubernatorial action to enable remote meeting attendance during the current state of emergency and removal of Item 6B, Chamber of Commerce Beer Tasting at Riley Park during Founder's Festival and Item 9, Department Comment and adjust the agenda accordingly.**

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

6. PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Drake Park MDNR Grant Application Public Hearing

City Manager Murphy explained plans for updating Drake Park including improvements to the parking lot and the walking path, tennis court removal, and baseball diamond bleacher replacement.

Public hearing was opened at 7:06 pm. No public comment was heard.

Public hearing was closed at 7:06 pm.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration to approve agreement between Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the City of Farmington regarding the rehabilitation of Freedom Road within the City limits

Superintendent Eudy requested that Council approve Contract 19-5641 and adopt a resolution regarding the acceptance of grant funds for the resurfacing of Freedom Road. MDOT did approve additional funding for this program.

Move to approve the Contract 19-5641 and adopt resolution between MDOT and the City of Farmington regarding the acceptance of grant funds for the resurfacing of Freedom Road within the city limits, and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign the contract on behalf of the City.**

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

B. Consideration to accept bid for the Mayfield Street Improvement Program

Eudy summarized the four bids received for this project and explained OHM’s recommendation to award V.I.L. Construction the project.

Schneemann clarified what this project will do for affected residents by asking Eudy how this project will improve recent flooding problems for Mayfield and Slocum Streets. Bowman requested details of how the sidewalk improvements had been decided upon.

Move to accept bids, and award the Mayfield Street Improvement Program to V.I.L. Construction.**

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

C. Consideration to accept bid for the 2020 Farmington Sidewalk Improvement Program

Eudy requested that Luigi Ferdinandi & Sons be awarded the bid for Farmington's Sidewalk Improvement Program.

LaRussa asked how the divisions in the planned work were arrived at. Eudy responded that they corresponded to finishing areas already started and then logical progression to the next area. Schneemann asked who might monitor the work being done and was assured that OHM has staff on-site while work is being done, and DeLind asked if they might need extra monitoring for specific aspects of the work. Bowman asked how these sidewalks were selected, and Eudy explained how projects were identified and planned over several years. In response to a question by Schneemann, Eudy reviewed the areas that might be impacted by this project including Floral Park, Bel Aire Subdivision, and Warner Farms.

Move to accept bids, and award the 2020 Farmington Sidewalk Improvement Program to Luigi Ferdinandi & Sons Cement Company Incorporated.**

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

D. Consideration to approve contract for professional services between the City of Farmington and Community Image Builders for redevelopment services

City Manager Murphy requested approval to contract services in connection to the redevelopment services that will be required for the Maxfield Training Center acquisition.

LaRussa asked whether this was budgeted and Director Weber explained that the expense would be a draw from fund balance. In response to a question by LaRussa, Murphy and Director Christiansen explained out the benefits and importance of the timing of this request. City Attorney Schultz recommended awarding this contract. Discussion ensued about developer interests, the shape of the Request for Proposal, consulting, and bringing new businesses in.

Move to approve Contract for Professional Services and related redevelopment services proposal, subject to the City Manager and City Attorney finalizing the form of agreement, including any minor amendments as required.**

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

E. Second reading and adoption of smoke shop ordinance

Schultz noted changes made in response to Council discussion at the March 2, 2020 First Reading. Council reviewed changes to the ordinance wording and discussed the possible ramifications of adoption.

Move to approve Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance C-798-2020 relating to smoke shops as a special land use.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Schneemann, Councilmember

F. Appointment of City Council Members to serve on Boards and Commissions

Council discussed reassigning councilmembers to serve on Boards and Commissions now that Council is back to its full compliment. Openings exist on the Multicultural Multiracial Community Council, the Eight Mile Boulevard Association, the alternate seat to SEMCOG, and the Downtown Farmington Parking Advisory Committee.

Schneemann suggested that only vacant seats be assigned rather than reassigning all board and commission participation so that some continuity could be kept. After discussion, reassignments were as follows:

- Multicultural Multiracial Community Council – tabled
- SEMCOG - LaRussa remains assigned, DeLind alternate
- Parking Committee - Taylor assigned
- Eight Mile Boulevard Association - LaRussa assigned, Taylor alternate

New assignment made:

- Beaumont Community Advisory Board - Schneemann

Move to adopt the resolution reassigning Council Members to serve on various boards and commissions.**

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

G. Consideration of Bond Authorization Resolution for 2020 Capital Improvement Bonds

Weber requested that City Council adopt a Bond Authorization Resolution for the 2020 Capital Improvement Bonds. The resolution was prepared by the City’s bond counsel: Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone. The bonds would be utilized toward the following projects: Bel Aire Sewer Lining, Freedom Road, Mayfield Street, as well as bond issuance costs. The sources for repayment of the bonds will be water and sewer and Act 51 revenue.

Schneemann inquired about interest rates at the moment and asked Weber how the City would time the market so that they could get the best rates possible. Weber explained that part of the financial team was PFM, advisors to handle that aspect on the City’s behalf. His understanding was that the bonds would be issued in April.

Move to adopt resolution authorizing the issuance of 2020 Capital Improvement Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000.**

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

H. Consideration to draft resolution requesting gubernatorial action to allow remote meeting attendance during the current state of emergency

LaRussa proposed a resolution to be prepared requesting that Governor Whitmer to use her authority to allow Council meetings to be conducted all or in part virtually.

City Attorney Schultz clarified what the Emergency Powers Act might mean for communities that might have difficulty getting a quorum together. Discussion ensued as to the scope of and need for this resolution.

Move to instruct the City Manager and the City Attorney to draft a resolution requesting gubernatorial action to enable remote meeting attendance during the current state of emergency.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [3-2]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember
AYES:	Taylor, DeLind, LaRussa
NAYS:	Bowman, Schneemann

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

9. CITY COUNCIL COMMENT

Schneemann spoke of the health pandemic and expressed his hopes for health and good habits and safety for all Farmington residents.

Bowman recounted an instance of a friend who experienced racist comments while doing her job as a cashier at Fresh Thyme. Bowman expressed dismay that no one in line had stepped up and stood up for the cashier, and worried that people could not be there for each other. She said she was grateful for all the people and businesses that are doing their part to keep all Farmington residents safe.

10. CLOSED SESSION– DISCUSS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT REGARDING LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING WITH POAM – MILITARY SERVICE

Move to enter closed session to discuss Collective Bargaining Agreement regarding Letter of Understanding with POAM – Military Service.

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

Council entered closed session at 8:18 p.m.

Mayor Bowman called a recess until 8:25 p.m. to allow the public to clear the room.

Move to exit closed session.

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

Council exited closed session at 8:28 p.m.

Move to direct City administration to execute the LOU that was discussed during the closed session.

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

11a. Other Business

Murphy requested that Council hold another meeting prior to April 1 for the purpose of approving resolutions for the MDNR grant being applied for. City Council set the date of March 23 at 6:30 pm. He also spoke of the Farmington Civic Theater employees now that the theater must be closed and requested that Council give their approval to keep them “whole” and pay them while they are off work. He reported other municipalities decisions about staffing that are being implemented because of further Emergency Orders, and let Council know about canceled meetings, billing considerations, and the ramifications of temporarily closing City Hall to the public.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Schneemann, Councilmember

Meeting adjourned 8:40 p.m.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: April 20, 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.