



Regular City Council Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Monday, May 15, 2023  
Council Chambers  
23600 Liberty Street  
Farmington, MI 48335

## FINAL

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on May 15, 2023 at 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
Johnna Balk	Councilmember	Present	
Sara Bowman	Mayor	Present	
Joe LaRussa	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Steve Schneemann	Councilmember	Present	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

#### City Administration Present

Superintendent Eudy  
Director Houhanisin  
City Clerk Mullison  
City Attorney Schultz  
Director Weber

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Ellen Hopfe, representative of the Emergency Preparedness Commission, gave the Tip of the Month: General Community Preparedness.

Diana Darland, representing Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, South Oakland County Chapter, thanked Council for supporting a proclamation declaring the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Farmington.

Sue Alvey, 23837 Beacon Street, asked Council to approve flying the Pride flag on City Hall property during the month of June. She read a petition she had started to gauge support for this display which had 122 signatures at the time of reading.

Bradley Kabert, 20824 Gill, indicated his support of the petition to fly the Pride flag.

**4. APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Accept City of Farmington Board and Commission Minutes**
- B. City of Farmington Minutes**
  - a. April 17, 2023 Special
  - b. April 17, 2023 Regular
  - c. April 24, 2023 Budget
  - d. May 1, 2023 Special
  - e. May 1, 2023 Regular
  - f. May 2, 2023 Special
- C. Farmington Monthly Payments Report**
- D. Farmington Public Safety Monthly Report**
- E. Farmington Quarterly Financial Report – Court**
- F. Farmington Quarterly Investment Report**
- G. Farmington Quarterly Financial Report**
- H. Proclamation declaring the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Farmington**
- I. Special Event: TDF Detroit Chapter Annual Picnic in Shiawassee Park**
- J. DPW Quarterly Report**

Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Balk, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem

**5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA**

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Balk, Councilmember

## 6. PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARINGS

### A. Swearing in of Farmington Public Safety Officers

Director Houhanisin presented Scott Sparks and Andrew Atallah as new public safety officers. City Clerk Mullison administered oaths to both officers, who were supported by family.

### B. Presentation by OHM on the project planning document to apply for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) low interest loan

OHM Advisors presented a project planning document, partially funded through an Oakland County grant, to apply for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) low interest loan after an intent to apply was submitted to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in the fall of 2022. This low interest loan would assist the city in addressing needed improvements to the drinking water distribution system. OHM and the City have worked together to identify eligible projects, which would include non-copper service line replacements, multiple areas of water main replacement, and a new metered system connection.

Questions from Council and the public were addressed.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Consideration to approve a resolution to adopt the DWSRF project planning document

Director of Finance and Administration Weber requested approval for the resolution that accompanied the prior presentation.

**Move to approve the accompanying resolution to adopt the DWSRF project planning document and designate Chuck Eudy, the Director of Public Works, as the authorized representative.\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b>	Bowman, LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Balk

### B. Special Event: Farmington Community Library Author & Book Festival

Sarah Zitter Masandi, Community Relations Manager of the Farmington Public Library, requested permission to highlight local authors during the Art on the Grand event in Downtown Farmington.

**Move to approve the Event Application for the Farmington Community Library to hold an Author & Book Festival on Saturday, June 3, 2023 from 8 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. in Memorial Park.\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Balk, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember

### **C. Consideration to approve DDA Budget Amendment – Dinan Park**

DDA Executive Director Kate Knight requested approval for a budget amendment that allows the construction contract for Dinan Park to be awarded immediately.

**Move to approve the resolution amending the DDA 2022/23 Budget to increase expenditures by \$186,000 for Dinan Park construction.\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Balk, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>AYES:</b>	LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Balk, Bowman

### **D. Consideration to certify 2023 delinquent false alarm fees, water and sewer bills, and invoices**

Each year, the City Treasurer certifies false alarm fees, water and sewer bills, and invoices that are delinquent and should be placed on the City of Farmington tax roll in accordance with Farmington City Code. The total amount to be placed on the tax roll is \$186,598.10. Of that amount, \$185,278.10 represents delinquent water and sewer bills, \$1,320.00 represents delinquent false alarm fees, and \$0.00 represents grass cutting, sidewalk snow removal, and other services provided by the City.

**Move to approve the attached lists of delinquent false alarm fees, water and sewer bills, and invoices for placement on the Farmington Tax Roll pursuant to City Code.\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Balk, Councilmember

### **E. Consideration to approve Public Hearing Notice for Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget and Property Tax Rates and schedule public hearing**

In accordance with the City Charter, Public Act 43 of the Extra Session of 1963 and Public Act 2 of 1968 as amended, it is necessary to hold a public hearing on the proposed budget and millage rate prior to their adoption. In accordance with the City Charter, the City Council must

adopt the budget not later than June 19. Weber recommended that the public hearing be held on Monday, June 19 at 7:00 pm, following which the City Council could adopt the budget and millage rates.

**Move to hold public hearing on Monday, June 19 at 7:00 p.m. regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget and property tax rates.\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember

**F. First Reading of Ordinance to Amend Chapter 20, Offenses Against Public Safety, Section 20-228 Discharging in the City**

Houhanisin introduced an ordinance amendment that would remove the defense of property as an exception to the prohibition on discharging a weapon in the city. This change is recommended because the defense of property alone is not a permissible use of deadly force, which should be limited to situations where a person is protecting themselves or another from imminent death or great bodily harm.

**Move to approve First Reading of an ordinance to amend the City of Farmington City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 20 Offenses Against Public Safety, Section 20-228 Discharging in the City.\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Balk, Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b>	Schneemann, Taylor, Balk, Bowman, LaRussa

**G. First Reading of Ordinance to Amend Chapter 29, Nuisances, Article III-Littering and Distribution of Handbills, Section 19-65 Distributing on Handbills**

Houhanisin also introduced an ordinance amendment that would clarify that the City would permit the placing of a handbill securely on a door or door handle if the handbill contains a political, charitable, religious, or other ideology message. This additional language recognizes First Amendment rights to express these types of messages.

**Move to approve First Reading of an ordinance to amend the City of Farmington City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 29 Nuisances, Article III-Littering and Distribution of Handbills, Section 19-65 Distributing on Handbills, to add language to permit handbills containing political, charitable, religious, or other ideology.\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Balk, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>AYES:</b>	Taylor, Balk, Bowman, LaRussa, Schneemann

**H. First Reading of Ordinance to Amend Chapter 22 Solicitors**

Mullison introduced an ordinance amendment that would more clearly define the activities of what is now termed a solicitor into three categories: a peddler who would be defined as a person peddling materials for sale, a solicitor who would be defined as a person who is making requests for charitable, religious, or political organizations, and a canvasser who would be defined as someone seeking to educate or request support for political candidates and initiatives or for charitable or religious organizations. Peddlers would still be required to obtain a license from the city, and this amendment would provide procedural requirements for peddlers, solicitors and canvassers in a manner that does not unlawfully interfere with First Amendment or other constitutional rights.

LaRussa requested that language be added to further separate the definitions of peddler, solicitor, and canvassers.

**Move to approve First Reading of an ordinance to amend the City of Farmington City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 22 Solicitors to clarify the requirements for solicitors, peddlers and canvassers in a manner that does not interfere with or burden the exercise of constitutional rights.\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Balk, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b>	Balk, Bowman, LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor

**I. Emergency Sewer Repair**

Superintendent Eudy requested payment for emergency repair necessary for the area of Earl Court. Due to the depth of the sanitary sewer (over 13 feet deep) and potential of wet soil conditions the Public Works Department contacted D’Angelo Brothers Incorporated to repair the sanitary sewer main.

**Move to approve payment of \$13,860 to D'Angelo Brothers Incorporated, for the emergency sanitary sewer main repair.\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Balk, Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b>	Bowman, LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Balk

#### **J. Consideration to approve the Shiawassee Park Tennis/Pickleball Courts Improvements**

Eudy recommended approval for funds to restripe and improve the tennis courts at Shiawassee Park repurposing them to combination Tennis/Pickleball courts. The requested funding would also include the replacement of nets and poles.

Schneemann expressed concern with the nonadjustable height of the nets and asked Eudy to come back with a new plan that would either include adjustable nets or have six pickleball courts in the space the tennis courts presently occupy. He suggested that Eudy reach out to other contractors if this became a bigger project.

Council as a whole indicated that they were not ready to vote on this proposal as it was presented. Bowman reminded Council that an increase in scope for this project was not budgeted at this time.

#### **K. Consideration of Resolution to Accept Oakland County West Nile Grant**

City staff has received approval from Oakland County to purchase briquettes that would be placed in catch basins throughout the City. Standing water in catch basins is a primary breeding ground for mosquitoes, and these briquettes would kill the mosquito larvae in the catch basin. This is considered one of the most cost-effective measures to address the problem of mosquitoes. To receive funding reimbursement for the purchase of the briquettes, it is necessary for the City Council to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a reimbursement under the West Nile Virus Fund program.

**Move to adopt resolution authorizing the City Administration to submit a reimbursement request to Oakland County in the amount of \$1,443.82 under the West Nile Fund program.\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember

**L. Consideration to Approve Resolution Renewing Participation in the Oakland County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for a Three-Year Period (2024-2026)**

The City receives approximately \$27,000 each year under the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. These funds are allocated to help fund the Senior Center and Senior Service Programs administered by the City of Farmington Hills. In order to continue to participate in the CDBG program, the City must submit a resolution opting into the program for the next 3 years (2024-2026) by Monday, June 12, 2023.

**Move to adopt Resolution renewing participation in the Oakland County CDBG program for a three-year period (2024 thru 2026) and authorize the Mayor to sign the Cooperative Agreement on behalf of the City.\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Balk, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b>	LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Balk, Bowman

**M. Farmington Bicentennial Committee Proposal**

LaRussa opened a discussion around forming a steering committee who could make the following recommendations: elements of a bicentennial celebration, a calendar of the elements, and the critical resources/relationships needed to execute celebration elements. He suggested that the steering committee could also be extended to support the implementation of the plan and put forth several names of individuals who were interested in participating.

City Attorney Schultz suggested this committee be created by resolution and he will have one ready for Council's next meeting.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was heard.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was heard.

**10. CITY COUNCIL COMMENT**

Taylor thanked Alvey and Kabert for championing flying the Pride flag at City Hall and indicated that she would support the activity.



LaRussa commended the Public Safety department on another successful award ceremony and said that it was nice to see Detective Kobernick and Firefighter Dresden recognized. He also thanked Peterlin's restaurant for opening on their day off for the event.

Bowman thanked Weber for stepping in while City Manager Murphy is away. She also acknowledged the declaration of the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Farmington and read the proclamation from the consent agenda aloud.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

**Move to adjourn the meeting.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Schneemann, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember

Meeting adjourned 8:42 p.m.

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Sara Bowman, Mayor

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Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: June 19, 2023

**\*\***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.