



City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., December 1, 2025
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on December 1, 2025, 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 7:02 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
Assistant City Manager, Chris Weber
City Clerk, Meaghan Bachman
Deputy Public Safety Director, Todd Anderson
City Treasurer, Jaime Pohlman
City Attorney, Beth Saarela
Austin Downie, OHM Advisors

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

3. Public Comment

Victoria Kirby of 34935 Oakland Street, addressed the council expressing concerns about authorizing deer culls in residential areas, urging consideration of more humane non-lethal solutions for wildlife management.

4. Board and Commission Interview: Commission for Children, Youth and Families, Bridget Gibbons

Bridget Gibbons was interviewed for the Commission for Children, Youth, and Families position. No action was taken on an appointment at this meeting.

5. Consideration to Amend Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget: Salt Dome

Motion by Taylor
Seconded by Balk

Move to adopt Budget Amendment Resolution #6, amending Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

6. Workplan Review Quarterly Report

City Manager David Murphy presented the quarterly workplan update. City Council reviewed the final quarterly report for the 2024–2025 goals cycle, noting progress made and acknowledging that some goals remain ongoing due to capacity limitations and emerging priorities. Council discussed opportunities to improve the goals-setting process, including clearer expectations, action plans, and improved prioritization.

Council also received an update on the Civic Theater, including early planning related to serving alcohol and potential future enhancements. The Downtown Development Authority has expressed interest in partnering on Civic Theater initiatives.

Council discussed the need for improved tracking of long-term versus short-term goals, the importance of holding planned study sessions, and balancing goal implementation with projects that arise during the cycle. Council emphasized the value of focusing more on strategic discussions and policy direction. Council referenced the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as a potential model for improved prioritization.

A Council goals session was tentatively scheduled for January 17, 2025 to further refine the process and establish priorities for the next cycle. The facilitator of the goals meeting was discussed. Mr. Murphy provided a quarterly report on the 2024-2025 goals, noting that approximately 11 out of 27 items were completed or ongoing.

7. Discussion: Update on Governor Warner Mansion

Councilmember Steve Schneemann presented updates on the Governor Warner Mansion renovations, recommending removal of walls on the east side of the second floor to create one large gathering space while keeping smaller rooms on the west side intact. It was noted that while Council previously reviewed initial design concepts, there has not yet been full consensus on the intended use of the second floor.

Council reviewed earlier discussions that discussed limiting second-floor use to non-event purposes, such as an artist-in-residence program, to reduce structural and code requirements. However, additional consideration has been given to allowing limited gathering space on the second floor while managing structural capacity and cost.

Council discussed the need for accessibility improvements, including installation of a limited-use/limited-application (LULA) elevator to provide access to the second floor. Council expressed strong support for ensuring full accessibility and inclusivity within the historic structure.

Additional building considerations discussed included restroom placement on both levels, warming kitchens, and potential structural reinforcement of the second floor to safely accommodate limited group use.

8. Discussion: Update to the Shiawassee Connection

Council received an update from Austin Downie and Claire Martin of OHM on the Shiawassee Connection project as it advances toward final design. Staff reviewed the proposed ADA-compliant pathway alignment connecting downtown to Shiawassee Park, including replacement of the eastern pedestrian bridge and removal of the non-compliant western staircase and bridge.

Staff explained that geotechnical analysis supports construction of a raised boardwalk on pilings to minimize floodplain impacts and hillside disturbance while meeting accessibility and HUD funding requirements. The project also includes a new bridge above the 500-year floodplain, paved ADA-accessible paths within the park, and stair connections where ramps are not feasible.

Council discussed safety, lighting, emergency access, and potential funding opportunities. Council expressed general support for the proposed approach and directed staff to continue with final design and funding evaluation.

9. Oakland County Transportation Grant

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to approve the use of the Oakland County Transportation grant funds to construct three (3) pedestrian shelters at Jamestown Apartments, Chatham Hills Apartments (western stop location), and near the intersection of Drake and Grand River as recommend.

Roll Call Vote:
Yea: LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor
Nay: None

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

10. Proposal to Consolidate Voting Precincts

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to approve the consolidation of the City's voting precincts from five (5) to three (3), effective for the 2026 election cycle, with Precinct 1 located at City Hall, Precinct 2 at Farmington High School, and Precinct 3 at Farmington High School.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

11. Other Business

City Manager Murphy provided updates on the estate sale scheduling, noting delays until January to allow historical commission review of items for potential museum preservation.

12. Public Comment

Della James commended the Shiawassee Connection project and said that it looks great. She also raised concerns about potential voter confusion due to precinct consolidations and emphasized the importance of clear communication.

13. Council Comment

Mayor LaRussa noted the State of the Cities event is scheduled for March 5, 2026. He also announced the Michigan Association of Mayors will visit Farmington August 5-7, 2026, with a group dinner currently planned for August 6 and August 5 reserved as a backup date.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 PM.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

Joe LaRussa, Mayor

Meaghan K. Bachman, City Clerk