



Regular City Council Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Monday, April 20, 2020  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**FINAL**

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## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on April 20, 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 2020-15 signed by Governor Whitmer on March 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 7:02 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 Saarela  
Director Weber

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 3. APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Accept City of Farmington Board and Commission Minutes
- B. City of Farmington Minutes
  - a. March 16, 2020 Regular
  - b. March 23, 2020 Special
  - c. April 6, 2020 Regular
- C. Farmington Monthly Payments Report
- D. Farmington Public Safety Monthly Report
- E. Third Quarter Building Report
- F. Department of Public Works Quarterly Report
- G. Oakwood Cemetery Rule revision section "B" No. 11
- H. ~~Special Event Application: Swing Farmington~~
- I. Resolution to accept Oakland County West Nile Grant

Move to approve the consent agenda as amended, removing Item 3H from the Consent Agenda and adding it for discussion as Item 7C under New Business.\*\*

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

### 4. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Move to approve the regular agenda as amended, removing consideration to approve Fireworks from Item 6A.\*\*

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

### 5. DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENT

Brian Golden, City of Farmington Media Director, shared a portion of a video highlighting restaurants that are offering take-out services in Farmington during Governor Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order restrictions. It featured drone footage of the downtown and surrounding area and is available to view on the City's Vimeo channel.

Christiansen updated Council about the Small Business Loan and Grant Committee that he and Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Kate Knight have been a part of. He explained the process in allocating funds for local businesses. He also informed Council about his department's operations during the current shut down of the City Hall premises.

Murphy let Council know that the 2020-2021 FY Proposed Budget would be available online the next day. He noted that the Table of Contents contained links to help navigate the document, and that the Budget document would also be available publically via the City’s website.

**6. PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**A. Special Event Application: Founders Festival Beer Tent**

After receiving feedback from the community, Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce Director Connor Osborn requested approval to involve the downtown business district in the Founders Festival by offering a beer tasting. He described plans to hold a beer tasting at Riley Park on the Saturday evening of the Founders Festival. He also spoke about operating the event safely in light of current restrictions and social distancing recommendations.

Schneemann asked Osborn whether he had consulted with the Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Kate Knight, the DDA Board, and Farmers Market Master Walt Gajewski. Osborn said that he had not communicated recently with Knight and Gajewski, but that they had supported it in the past.

Discussion ensued concerning whether music would be involved, what the procedure for obtaining an additional liquor license might be, safety concerns, and the rather strict rules that would need to be in place in regards to ingress and egress to the tasting venue.

Bowman appreciated Osborn bringing an option in response to listening to all that had been previously expressed about involving the downtown in some aspect of the Founders Festival plans. She noted that safety and guidelines associated with the event should be paramount.

**Move to approve the Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce Special Event Application for a beer tasting in Riley Park and the Sundquist Pavilion on the Saturday of Founders Festival from 6-9 p.m., whenever that may happen for 2020.\*\***

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

**B. Public Hearing for Drake Park Facilities Improvement Grant submittal**

Jessica Howard of OHM explained plans for improving Drake Park and displayed a slide of proposed changes and enhancements to the park. Bowman mentioned that the project was something that Council had been working toward for a long time and that it was good to see it come to fruition.

Schneemann asked Murphy whether the funding in the grants had anything to do with improvements to the structures such as the bathrooms in the park, and Murphy assured him

that it did not. In response to another question from Schneemann, Howard explained that a more detailed construction document would be produced after the conceptual one had been submitted for the grant(s). She also gave a more detailed explanation of the difference between the two grants and explained that we would only be awarded one or the other.

DeLind asked whether submitting for both grants might introduce a risk to be given the lesser grant, and Howard replied that there was no risk in that.

LaRussa asked about removing the tennis courts and maximizing the grant by keeping that asset, and Murphy explained that the removal was based on cost. Schneemann asked whether the grant would preclude the City from adding tennis courts at a later date and was told that further improvements could be added, but would be on the City to fund. Weber added that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan indicated that there were more than enough tennis courts available to residents without the Drake Park courts and that the space cleared might then be used for something the Master Plan indicated the City did not have enough of, such as basketball or volleyball courts. Discussion ensued.

**Move to open Public Hearing for Drake Park Facilities Improvement Grant submittal.\*\***

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

Public hearing was opened at 7:45 pm. No public comment was heard.

**Move to close Public Hearing for Drake Park Facilities Improvement Grant submittal.\*\***

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

Public hearing was closed at 7:46 pm.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Consideration to approve purchase of Public Safety vehicle**

Director Demers requested the purchase of one (1) 2020 Ford Explorer to replace the Public Safety Director's administration vehicle which was purchased in 2017. The request is for the FY 20/21 budget and the vehicle would not be purchased until after July 1, 2020. The purchase is

part of the ongoing replacement program for public safety administrative vehicles. Signature Ford has provided a list price of \$29,208.00. Competitive bid prices were obtained from Gorno Ford (\$29,727) and Jorgensen Ford (\$32,091).

The Public Safety department replaces one (1) administration vehicle every three years. The department has not replaced an administrative vehicle since FY 17/18. This vehicle will be paid for using funding from the drug forfeiture account (345-958.001).

LaRussa asked what other uses for the drug forfeiture account could be put toward instead of this purchase. Demers explained that the forfeiture funds are specifically designated for law enforcement purposes and could not be used to make up City shortfalls during the pandemic. He stated that the scheduled purchase, use, and subsequent passing down through the department of vehicles was the best use of the funds.

**Move to approve FY 2020/21 budget request to purchase one (1) 2020 Ford Explorer from Signature Ford in the amount of \$29,208.00.\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Schneemann, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Delind, Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b>	Bowman, DeLind, LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor

**B. Consideration to award the Bel-Aire Sanitary Sewer Lining Project to Pipeline Management Company Incorporated**

Superintendent Eudy stated that Administration and the engineers at Orchard Hiltz & McCliment (OHM) have reviewed the City of Farmington sanitary sewer system condition. The area in the most critical need of improvement is in the Bel-Aire Subdivision since the sanitary sewer system there is approximately 65 years old. Several years ago a sanitary sewer repair project addressed most of the sanitary sewers which needed repairs in preparation for this area to be Cured In Place Pipe lined (CIPP). A total of four (4) bids were received from Granite Inliner LLC, Inland Water Pollution Control Inc., DVM Utilities Inc., and Pipeline Management Company Inc.

This project will include CIPP lining of nearly 13,000 lineal feet of 8 inch diameter to 15 inch diameter sanitary and storm sewers, open cut repairs of the sanitary sewer system, and manhole bench repairs to improve effluent flows. The CIPP lining will extend the life expectancy of the sewer 50 years and reduce the ground water infiltration and root intrusion (I/I) in one of the most problematic areas of the City.

OHM recommended awarding the project to Pipeline Management Company Incorporated in the amount not to exceed \$1,036,115.74 which represents the contract of \$941,923.40 and a contingency of 10% for unforeseen issues.

Bowman complimented Eudy on the use of the contract to get additional pipe included in this proposal.

**Move to award the Bel-Aire Sanitary Sewer Lining Project in the amount of \$941,923.40 with a 10% contingency fund for a total amount of \$1,036,115.74 to Pipeline Management Company Incorporated of Milford, Michigan; to direct the City Engineer and City Attorney to finalize the Project Agreement and all related documents; and to authorize the City Manager to sign the Project Agreement and related documents.\*\***

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

**C. Discussion on Special Event Application: Swing Farmington**

Taylor asked for this item to be removed from the consent agenda to discuss plans for contingencies in schedule because of Governor Whitmer’s “Stay Home, Stay Safe” Executive Order. She indicated that she wanted to make clear that Farmington is not endorsing that everybody get together even though conditions may not be safe to do so.

Schneemann pointed out that the application states that the events would be scheduled “to begin on or after May 7 when the Governor’s Stay Home Stay Safe Executive Order prohibiting such activities is rescinded” and asked Taylor whether there was something else she was intending to highlight. Bowman clarified Taylor’s reference, and Schneemann still felt it was unnecessary to change the request. LaRussa wondered what the evolution of the Governor’s Executive Order would be and suggested that the application be tabled until the next Council meeting. Schneemann said that he loved the event and was appreciative of Alexander Steward and all that he does, but that he did agree that it would be difficult to meet social distancing requirements while swing dancing. He also advocated a wait and see attitude.

Bowman added that these are strange and unprecedented times, and that she believes having something to look forward to provides something that helps her get through this. However, public safety must be paramount and she intends Farmington to be at the forefront in following CDC, Governor’s Office, and other expert guidelines. She recognized that Steward needed time to put plans in place for the season, but she wants to say yes with a contingency that this will not happen until all the orders are lifted.

**Move to table issue to May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.\*\***

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

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was heard.

**9. CITY COUNCIL COMMENT**

DeLind explained that his vote to table the Swing Farmington Special Event Application was because as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect our lives, he would like more information before supporting a public gathering. He agreed that it was important to have things like this to look forward to, but felt Council needed to understand more about how public spaces are going to open up before approval of something that encouraged gathering.

LaRussa gave kudos to all City Administration who are still finding ways to creatively work around the circumstances, especially high praise for the quality of services that are happening. He noted that administering a city couldn't possibly be easy in the present circumstances and thanked staff for all they were doing to keep things moving during the pandemic.

Taylor clarified why she voted to move consideration of Swing Farmington for discussion later in the meeting. She stated that she loved Swing Farmington and is looking forward to dancing there as well when it is safe. She requested that Council hold a discussion about what giving permission for public gatherings would mean for this and other events that come for approval in the near future.

Bowman asked all to take a moment and think about how this COVID-19 pandemic has impacted each and every one of us individually and as a community. She acknowledged that we are living through history, and that we all need to exhibit empathy, kindness, and patience for each other.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Move to adjourn the meeting.**

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

Meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.

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Sara Bowman, Mayor

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Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: May 18, 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.