



**City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., May 4, 2026
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on May 4, 2026 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 7:33 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	Excused	
Steve Schneemann	Councilmember	Present	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present:

City Manager, David Murphy
City Clerk, Meaghan Bachman
Assistant City Manager, Chris Weber
Treasurer/Director of Finance, Jaime Pohlman
City Attorney, Beth Saarela

2. Approval of the Regular Agenda

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to approve the regular agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0

3. Public Comment

Jill Card, resident at 22977 Frederick Ave. commented regarding poor cell phone reception in the city and asked whether the City had previously contacted service providers to encourage improved coverage and service reliability.

4. Presentation: DTE Update

Elizabeth Vogel DTE Energy Regional Manager for Oakland County Corporate and Government Affairs, and her associates, provided a quarterly reliability update to Council, including discussion of outage frequency, response times, infrastructure investments, tree trimming schedules, and the company's four-point improvement plan.

DTE representatives noted significant improvements in outage metrics since 2021 and discussed ongoing investments and planned maintenance within the City of Farmington service area.

Councilmembers expressed appreciation for the improved reliability data and discussed concerns regarding smaller outage areas and support for medically vulnerable residents. DTE representatives shared information regarding the company's "Life Critical" program for residents requiring medical equipment during outages.

5. Special Event Application: Farmington Founders Festival

Festival organizers presented plans for the 2026 Farmington Founders Festival, including:

- Artisan and craft fair activities
- Food vendor participation
- Family-focused activities in Riley Park
- Children's rides and entertainment
- Beer tent programming
- Community nonprofit participation
- Potential return of Touch-a-Truck activities

Council discussed community engagement efforts, family-friendly programming, business participation, parking logistics, and coordination with the Farmers Market. The festival will take place from July 16-18, 2026.

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, Move to adopt resolution approving the 2026 Founders Festival which includes approving event locations, authorizing road closures and application for temporary liquor licenses.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0

6. Professional Services Agreement extension with Plante & Moran, PLLC, for audit services

Motion by Schneeman
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, Move to approve the proposed 3-year extension with Plante & Moran to conduct the City's required annual financial audit.

Roll Call Vote:
Yeas: Balk, LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor
Nays: None
Motion carried unanimously 4-0

7. First Reading of Amendment to the Farmington Code of Ordinances, amending Chapter 17, Article II, Section 17-28 to provide for alternate members of the Historical Commission.

The City Council recently received more applications for a seat on the Historical Commission than it had openings. It was suggested to have the City Attorney investigate putting alternates on the Commission. The Attorney said it is allowable, but the ordinance would have to be revised. This would be the first reading to amend the ordinance to allow for two alternates on the historic Commission.

Motion by Taylor
Seconded by Balk

RESOLVED, Move to introduce Ordinance C- , amending Chapter 17, Article II, Section 17-28 to provide for alternate members of the historical Commission

Roll Call Vote:
Yeas: LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor Balk
Nays: None
Motion carried unanimously 4-0

8. Other Business

Discussion was held regarding a proposed budget amendment request from the Grand River Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) to allocate \$20,000 for professional appraisal services related to potential property acquisitions and redevelopment opportunities. Councilmembers discussed the usefulness of appraisals versus alternative valuation methods. The following motion was suggested by Assistant City Manager Chris Weber:

Motion by Taylor
Supported by Mayor LaRussa

Move to amend the CIA 2025–2026 budget by \$20,000 for professional appraisal services.

Roll Call Vote:
Yeas: Taylor, LaRussa
Nays: Schneemann, Balk
Motion failed due to tie vote.

9. Public Comment

Resident Della James commented positively on improvements in City communications during inclement weather, including the use of the City's electronic sign and YouTube meeting broadcasts. Additional comments were made expressing appreciation for the family-friendly direction of the Founders Festival and increased nonprofit involvement.

10. Council Comment

No members of the council spoke.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0

Joe LaRussa, Mayor

Meaghan K. Bachman, City Clerk