



**Regular City Council Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Monday, April 19, 2021  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**FINAL**

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## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on April 19, 2021, 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 under the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.261, et seq., as amended by HB 1108, 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 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Bowman.

### **1. ROLL CALL**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
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  
Superintendent Eudy  
City Clerk Mullison  
City Manager Murphy  
City Attorney Schultz  
Director Warthman  
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 15, 2021 Regular**
  - b. April 5, 2021 Regular**
- C. Farmington Public Safety Monthly Report**
- D. Building Department Quarterly Report**
- E. Proclamation: National Gun Violence Awareness Day: Friday June 5, 2020**
- F. Farmington High School Graduation Car Parade**

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

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

**4. 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>	Taylor, Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b>	DeLind, LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Bowman

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Samantha Steckloff, State Representative for District 37, gave an update on her committee assignments and budget considerations, with emphasis on possible funding for the Farmington area.

Bill Largent, 28331 Forestbrook Drive, Farmington Hills, gave Council his recommendations for future appointments to the Library Board. Written comment was also received by Council earlier in the day.

Brian Golden, 33230 South Manor Drive, announced a COVID-safe event on April 25<sup>th</sup> to check out new things on display at the Governor Warner Mansion.

Kelly Goldberg, 29995 High Valley Road, Farmington Hills, spoke in support of Farmington's appointed Board members.

Gerald Furi, 22803 Englehardt, Saint Clair Shores, echoed support for Farmington Library Board members

Michael Shereda, 42028 Loganberry Ridge North, Novi, supports the Farmington appointed members on the Library Board.

Danette Duron-Willner, 35750 Fredericksburg Road, Farmington Hills, thanked Council for choosing representatives to the Library Board that reflect the community at large.

Written comment received from:

Cheryl Willette to Clerk Mullison, forwarded to Council, 4/11/2021, in support of a Hudson-Webber Foundation Grant.

Thomas Shurtleff to Clerk Mullison, forwarded to Council, 4/11/2021, in support of a Hudson-Webber Foundation Grant.

Community Equity Organization to Clerk Mullison, forwarded to Council, 4/11/2021, in support of a Hudson-Webber Foundation Grant.

## **6. PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC HEARING**

### **A. Public Safety Annual Report**

Director Warthman presented the 2020 Farmington Public Safety Department Annual Report. Highlights included the impact of the pandemic on crime rates, medical emergencies, and community policing initiatives. Personnel, departmental accomplishments and awards, and 2020 statistics were also presented.

Taylor thanked Warthman and asked about whether Farmington has looked into implementing a Transparency Dashboard. Warthman reported that the Farmington Public Safety Department is currently working with the vendor of the program and plan to implement it sometime this summer.

Bowman also thanked Warthman and commented on the great work he and his staff had done in difficult times. She noted that the great numbers he cited were arrived at through effort, not luck, and that it is a great representation of the hard work done by his officers and staff during COVID and pre-COVID. She also credited Farmington residents with social distancing, following mask requirements, and strong support from Public Safety to allow medical responses to drop during the second wave of the pandemic.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Consideration to authorize a loan from the General Fund to the Civic Theater in the amount of \$90,000**

City Manager Murphy explained that with the onset of COVID 19, the Civic Theater was forced to shut down from March 16, 2020 and was allowed to re-open on October 9, 2020 in a very limited capacity. It had to close again on November 18, 2020 and reopened on February 1, 2021. Expenses for the Theater run about \$10,000 per month, and on October 19, 2020 City Council approved a loan from the General Fund to the Civic Theater in the amount of \$64,000.

It was anticipated that the theater would run out of money by April 1<sup>st</sup>. In order to help the theater continue on, Murphy asked Council to approve another loan from the General Fund to the Civic Theater in the amount of \$90,000 to help the theater get back to a positive revenue path. He asked for a three-year loan at 1% interest which will be repaid earlier if a transfer is able to be made from the American Rescue Act.

Taylor asked whether the 1% interest was necessary in a loan like this. Director Weber explained that loans between funds were typically charged whatever the market rate would be. Taylor clarified that she wanted to be sure it was appropriate.

Schneemann asked about how the American Rescue Act Funds would be used to pay back the debt. Murphy said Council and Administration will have discussions during the coming budget approval process for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

LaRussa asked if this was enough to carry through until theater operations could cashflow themselves again. He noted that though the theater management had made high effort, these were circumstances beyond anybody's control. Weber explained that American Rescue Plan Fund monies were already allocated to be used and beyond that would have to be judged along the way. LaRussa indicated that he wants the theater to be able to bridge over the next fiscal year. Murphy said that Theater Manager Scott Freeman was also applying for grants to help alleviate some of the deficit.

Bowman indicated that she had every confidence that Freeman would continue to be creative in his efforts.

**Move to authorize a loan from the General Fund to the Civic Theater in the amount of \$90,000. This loan would be for a period of three years with an interest rate of 1% effective May 1, 2021.\*\***

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

## B. Special Event Applications

### 1. Library History Challenge and Summer Reading Final Dance Party

Maria Showich-Gallup, Librarian with the Farmington Community Library, requested approval for the Farmington Community Library's Summer Reading History Challenge and Summer Reading Final Dance Party.

**Move to approve the Farmington Community Library applications for a Summer Reading Program History Challenge on Tuesday, July 28, 2021 from 1 – 4 p.m. at Riley Park and a Summer Reading Final Dance Party on Monday, August 2, 2021 from 10 a.m. until noon in Riley Park.\*\***

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

## 2. VegMichigan Free Festival

Following a successful, well-received event in 2019, Tom Progar requested approval to host another VegMichigan Free Festival this year. Last year's planned event had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

**Move to approve the Special Event Application allowing VegMichigan Free Festival to be held on Sunday, Sept. 12 from 10:30 am. until 5 p.m. in Riley Park and the Sundquist Pavilion.\*\***

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

## C. Consideration of resolution to accept Oakland County West Nile Grant

Superintendent Eudy recapped the Oakland County West Nile Grant successes since 2003 and requested adoption of a resolution to enable Farmington's participation for this year.

**Move to adopt resolution authorizing the City Administration to submit a reimbursement request to Oakland County in the amount of \$1,375.97 under the West Nile Fund program.\*\***

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

**D. Consideration to approve extending the 2018 Concrete Road Patching Program with Hartwell Cement Company to include City Hall ADA improvements**

Eudy reviewed bids submitted for ADA improvements to City Hall and requested approval to extend Hartwell Cement Company's current contract to complete the project.

LaRussa asked Eudy what unknowns might be seen in the details for the Hartwell quote that were definitively itemized and if there is a risk for Farmington to proceed with the slightly higher bid submitted by Hartwell. Eudy stated that he did not believe there would be a risk.

**Move to approve extending the 2018 Concrete Road Patching Program with Hartwell Cement Company to include City Hall ADA Improvements in the amount of \$39,213.00 plus the amount for the handrails as determined by City Administration and the Design Committee.\*\***

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

**E. City Manager Transmittal of Fiscal Year 2021-22 Proposed Budget**

Murphy formally submitted the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget to Council. Director Weber demonstrated where the public could find the Budget document on the City website and walked through how to view specific sections.

**Move to accept receipt of the City Manager's Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget.\*\***

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

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Renee Murphy, 36287 Crompton Circle, Farmington Hills, gave her perspective on what is going on with the Library Board at this time.

Jeff Pavlik, 34016 Edmonton Street, Farmington Hills, spoke about what the community desires in a community library.

Joe O'Connor, 33431 Shiawassee, commented on the chaos at the library.

Mary Lou Stropoli, 37242 Chesapeake Road, Farmington Hills, spoke in support of Jim White as President of the Library Board.

Roxanna Barnett, 33700 Stocker Street, Farmington Hills, is in favor of keeping Jim White as President of the Library Board.

Bill Largent, 28331 Forestbrook Drive, Farmington Hills, continued with comments on other members of the Library Board.

Michael Shereda, 42028 Loganberry Ridge North, Novi spoke again about qualifications of current Board members.

Maria Showich-Gallup, 33791 Hamlin Court, commented on her feelings about what has been said about members of the board by other members.

Kelly Goldberg, 29995 High Valley Road, Farmington Hills, spoke about the greatest divide on the Library Board.

Lynne Marie Mangan, 24138 Tana Court, Farmington Hills, expressed hopefulness that the Library Board will move away from attacking people and toward working together.

## **9. CITY COUNCIL COMMENT**

Taylor apologized to Farmington appointees to the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees for attacks heard at this meeting. She stated that she was proud of the Farmington Trustees, proud of Board of Trustees President Jim White, and that she stands up for the choices Farmington trustees made at their last meeting.

LaRussa commented about factions in a public body. He said that board members lobbying against each other, making comments, and calling each other out is a troubling and concerning symptom of the dysfunction and lack of collaboration in the present circumstances. He reminded the public that this Council went through a deliberate and informed process to select and appoint Farmington's representatives on the Library Board. He also offered himself as a sounding board to any FCL Board member who would like to talk and embark on healing. He applauded the FCL Board for doing what it can to prioritize the things that are urgent and for showing up to do the work in spite of difficulties. He called for the Library Board to heal the factionalism and find a way to work together.

Bowman said the City of Farmington's four appointees to the Library Board have her full support. She noted that these are Farmington residents, volunteers that give their time, expertise, and particular expertise to be on a Library Board. She stated that, as Board members, they do not have the luxury to vote with emotion, and instead are tasked with the huge fiduciary responsibility of maintaining the library. She said that they also have the responsibility of working with the Library Director, whom they recently appointed. Council does not have oversight over the Library Board once they are appointed. The Library Board operates under its own statutory regulations, which is why Council put great effort into selecting the best people for those positions. She closed with a reminder that these are residents of Farmington.

**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 8:50 p.m.

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Sara Bowman, Mayor

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Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: May 17, 2021

**\*\***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.