 **City Council Meeting**

**7:00 p.m., Monday, March 3, 2025**

**23600 Liberty Street**

**Farmington, MI 48335**

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**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

A meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on March 3, 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 | Excused |  |
| Maria Taylor | Councilmember | Present |  |

**City Administration Present:**

Assistant City Manager, Chris Weber

City Clerk, Meaghan Bachman

City Treasurer, Jaime Pohlman

DDA Director, Kate Knight

City Attorney, Beth Saarela

City Attorney, Tom Schultz

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion by Balk

Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to approve the regular agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jose Morell of 23218 Prospect voiced concern regarding the traffic not stopping, speeding, and not fully stopping at the stop sign at, the intersection of Prospect and Shiawassee.

Victoria Kirby of 24935 Oakland asked Council to consider amending the ordinance to allow backyard chickens.

Della James of 33250 Freedom Road praised the Public Safety department, specifically the ambulance service, when she needed their assistance.

**4. Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors Interviews**

6:00 p.m.: Karlyn Kassidy

6:15 p.m.: Ula Kajtoch

6:30 p.m. Alison Butala – Unable to attend this meeting

6:45 p.m.: Abhijit Nikhade

No action was taken on this item

**5. Farmington Downtown Development Authority Reappointments**

Motion by Balk

Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to reappoint Farmington Downtown Development Authority Board Members

Todd Craft and Claire Perko each to another 4-term on the board, ending Feb. 28, 2029.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0

**6. Purchase of Computers**

Motion by Taylor

Seconded by Parkins

Resolved, move to Approve the Purchase of 13 Computers from Dell for $9,919.91 plus an additional $1,000 for price contingency.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Balk, LaRussa, Parkins, Taylor

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously 4-0

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

Assistant City Manager Chris Weber presented other business as follows:

* He announced the Ordinance Officer Scott Tippett is retiring. It was discussed that moving forward the position will include Building Inspector responsibilities along with Ordinance Enforcement. The position will also be full time.
* The Civic Theater was briefly discussed with options for its future that could possibly include a private entity managing the operations.
* A grant opportunity for local business owners, Fired and Fused was discussed
* Another grant was announced and awarded for improvements to bus stops around town. The grant is $80k with a $20K match from the city.

Mayor Pro-Tem Balk gave an update on communications with the upcoming Founders Festival.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public spoke.

**9. Closed Session: Discussion of acquisition of property**

Motion by Taylor

Seconded by Parkins

Resolved, move to convene into closed session at 8:26 PM to discuss acquisition of property.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: LaRussa, Parkins, Taylor, Balk

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously 4-0

Motion by Taylor

Seconded by Balk

Resolved, move to convene back into the regular council meeting at 8:46 PM>

Motion carried unanimously 4-0

**10. COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilmember Taylor thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Balk for for working with Events 360 for the Founders Festival.

Mayor LaRussa spoke of the SIFI Townhall meeting and noted he requested a map indicating the locations where construction crews would be working. He noted a map was sent to him, but didn’t include the information requested, so he is asking them for an updated map.

**11. Adjournment**

Motion by Balk

Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

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Joe LaRussa, Mayor

Meaghan K. Bachman, City Clerk