



Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, January 6, 2020
Conference Room
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on January 6, 2020, at 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, MI. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Bowman.

1. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Sara Bowman	Mayor	Present	
Joe LaRussa	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Steve Schneemann	Councilmember	Present	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present

Superintendent Eudy
City Clerk Mullison
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Schultz

2. Approval of Agenda

Move to approve the regular meeting agenda as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Schneemann, Councilmember

3. Public Comment

Fred Sewell, 24008 Earl Court, questioned the intent and funding of the Oakland Street project.

4. Consideration to Adopt Resolution Approving the 2020 DDA Community Events Calendar, Temporary Liquor License Applications, Street Closures and Sidewalk Shopping Dates

Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority Kate Knight requested that Council approve the 2020 community events calendar for the DDA, including a public art event in February, two Ladies Night Out dates, Art on the Grand, both Rhythms in Riley Park and Lunch Beats concert series, Harvest Moon Celebration in September, and Small Business Saturday in November. A Rhythms Beer Garden Pop Up and new fall programming opportunities such as bonfires and films were described, as was Sidewalk Shopping on any event day during 2020. She pointed out improvements for growing events and emphasized cultural draws in community gathering spaces.

LaRussa was excited to see the additions but noticed the absence of programming around the Founders Festival. Knight said that they are waiting to see what support the Greater Farmington Chamber of Commerce sponsored event would need. Taylor said she participated in a recent DDA informational fieldtrip to Bill's Beer Garden in Ann Arbor and asked Knight about what the proprietor had said about the community aspect of his venue, particularly pertaining to families and children. Knight said he indicated it was family/pet friendly and very low key. Taylor responded that it seemed like a scene right out of Downtown Farmington. Bowman thanked Knight for her work on this scheduling and asked about any burden additional usage of the property and increased amount of events might bring. Knight said that the DDA will have the park shined up and ready at the end of any event. Bowman also asked Superintendent Eudy if the Department of Public Works had staffing for extra events. Eudy responded that between DDA contractors, volunteers, and DPW staff he was comfortable with the increased use of the downtown. Bowman asked Knight about legal ramifications for liquor sales and restrictions and was assured that open beverages would only be allowed within a certain area and that details are still being hammered out. She cited collaboration with the Farmington Public Safety Department and indicated that their concern was to make any event safe and family friendly. In response to a question by LaRussa, Eudy explained how clean up staffing is planned. Knight added that the DDA contracts and plans for cleanup and does not rely on volunteers.

Move to adopt resolution approving the 2020 DDA community events calendar, temporary liquor license applications, street closures, and designated sidewalk shopping dates as presented.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem

5. Sanitary Sewer Discussion

Early in November 2019 City administration was informed by Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) and one of their engineering firms (CDM Smith) that they had noticed an increase in Farmington's sanitary sewage flow volume beginning in Fiscal Year 2018 and continuing into Fiscal Year 2019.

Eudy gave an overview of the water system and the possible reasons for the increased flow including a dry weather I/I increase coming from rain events, seeping in over weeks that could

result in increased flow rates over past years. He indicated that over-development was not an issue, nor were problems with river crossings. It was determined that a 14% increase in rainfall was the issue. The financial impacts of increased sanitary sewer flow volumes to Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) will most likely affect water costs each year.

Taylor asked about the impact of residential footing drains and Eudy responded that 65-70% of homes in Farmington have footing drains that connect to the sewer system, creating a problem for flow. Other communities have annual footing drain disconnect programs to ease the problem, and Farmington may have to look at doing the same kind of program. Taylor asked whether residents even knew their homes were affecting the water system by having footing drains, and Eudy said that some do. Pre-1970 construction was connected to the sanitary sewer system and noted that footing drain disconnect programs are very intrusive to homeowners as well as being expensive. Schneemann asked for clarification on the figures and Eudy agreed the increased flow would result in about a 2% increase on costs.

In response to a question by LaRussa, Eudy said that the increased flow was not a failure in the system. Discussion ensued about funding and at what percentage an investment is warranted to correct the system as well as when an update would be triggered. Schneemann clarified Farmington's ordinance requirements. In response to a question by Bowman, Eudy said rate increases might possibly be felt by residents in March.

6. Consideration to Accept the Resignation of Council Member Bill Galvin

Murphy requested that Council accept the resignation of Councilmember Bill Galvin as submitted to the City Clerk on December 16, 2019.

Move to accept the resignation of Council Member Bill Galvin.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Schneemann, Councilmember

7. Discussion of Process for Vacant Council Position

Murphy asked Council to decide on a process to notify for and fill the vacancy created by Bill Galvin's resignation. He suggested that the Clerk's office put notice in the Farmington Observer for the January 12, 2020 publication and in the Farmington Press on January 15, 2020, as well as post the opening on social media beginning Tuesday January 7, 2020 with the application and questionnaire available at the Clerk's office and on line, due by 4:30 pm on January 17, 2020. He had included in materials submitted to the Council the process used in 2013 and 2011 as well as a proposed time line for this appointment. He stressed that the process would be up to Council to set, and discussion about details followed. Bowman asked that council consider the 60 day limit before decision going to election

After discussion, Council set the following schedule for notification, application, and appointment:

Tuesday, Jan 7	Applications and questionnaires available in Clerk's office
Tuesday, Jan 7	Publish notice on website and in social media, Farmington Voice

Sunday, Jan 12	Publish notice in Observer & Eccentric
Wednesday, Jan 15	Publish notice in Farmington Press
Thursday, Jan 23 (noon)	Applications Due
Thursday, Jan 23	Applications delivered to Council via email
Wednesday, Jan 29	Discuss interview process and screen applications
Monday, Feb 10	Interviews (additional dates may be added for interviews if needed)
Tuesday, Feb 18	Appointment

Schneemann asked administration to disseminate this revised schedule to Council as soon as possible.

More discussion followed about the content of the questionnaire intended to accompany the application. Schneemann suggested deleting a question pertaining to whether the applicant planned on running for Council at the next Council election and most agreed. Question 3 was rewritten and refined.

Move to approve the process just outlined by Mr. Murphy to fill the council vacancy.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Schneemann, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember

8. Scheduling of March Board of Review

City Manager Murphy requested that the March Board of Review, typically held on March 10 and 12, be moved to March 17 and 19 in order to accommodate the Presidential Primary Election held on March 10, 2020. Council Chambers is generally used for Board of Review hearings, and it is also used as a precinct in elections.

Move to schedule the March 2020 Board of Review on March 17 and 19, 2020.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember

9. Other Business

LaRussa asked Eudy about the cost of moving the ice rink chiller each year and was informed that it costs approximately \$300 each time the chiller is moved. An additional annual storage cost of \$600 is also applicable.

10. Public Comment

Bill, PO Box 857, commented on Spectrum services and his difficulty getting in touch with Spectrum with problems.

Joy Montgomery, 22750 Maple Street, asked about the timing of Council vacancy interviews and suggested that Council be flexible for candidates.

Mike Biddle, 21259 Larkspur Street, commented on the sense of civic duty required to interview for Council.

Fred Sewell, 24008 Earl Court, thanked DPW for what they do on the roads, in the parks, and in the city.

11. Council Comment

LaRussa noted that Council had to address something that was urgent and commended his fellow councilmembers for getting the work done to set a process for appointing a new member.

12. Adjournment

Move to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Schneemann, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: January 21, 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.