 **City Council Meeting**

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

**23600 Liberty Street**

**Farmington, MI 48335**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

A meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on February 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 7:00 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 | Present |  |
| Maria Taylor | Councilmember | Present |  |

**City Administration Present:**

City Manager, David Murphy

Assistant City Manager, Chris Weber

City Clerk, Meaghan Bachman

Public Safety Director, Bob Houhanisin

City Treasurer, Jaime Pohlman

City Attorney, Tom Schultz

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion by Balk

Seconded by Parkins

Resolved, move to approve the agenda with the amendment of adding a report from the Public Safety Director.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

**REPORT FROM PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR**

Bob Houhanisin, Director of Public Safety updated the Council on an incident that took place on February 2, 2025. The Farmington Public Safety Department responded to an assault in progress the evening of February 2, 2025. Upon arrival, officers discovered a 47-year-old female victim who had been shot. She was immediately placed in the care of the Farmington Hills Fire Department for medical attention, but unfortunately, did not survive her injuries. The suspect, a 51-year-old male, retreated into the residence and took his own life. Director Houhanisin expressed condolences to both families during this difficult time. He also thanked his department, the Farmington Hills Police and Fire Departments, along with the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department, who played a critical role in assisting Farmington with this situation.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cathy Bilger of 19170 Augusta, Livonia, presented the Mayor and Council with a certificate for the Bicentennial Year.

Hayley Orzech of 21020 Robinwood voiced concerns regarding executive orders from the President of the United States.

**4. Committee Interviews:**

a. Kevin Daniels, Pathways

b. Rob Card, Emergency Preparedness Committee

Motion by Taylor

Seconded by Balk

Resolved, move to appoint Rob Card to the Emergency Preparedness Committee for a partial term expiring on February 1, 2026

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

**5. CITY HALL LAND USE OPTIONS (LIBRARY/SCHNEEMANN REQUEST)**

This item was for discussion only. Councilmember Schneemann presented three high-level potential options for expansion/new facilities that would include City Hall, Police, Library and a parking structure.

**6. WOMEN’S PARK PHASE II PARTIAL PAYMENT**

Motion by Taylor

Seconded by Schneemann

Resolved, move to approve the first payment for phase II of the improvements to Women’s Park as presented in the amount of $17,250.00. Payment is made to Wilson–Swykert Lawn and Landscape Maintenance.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Balk, LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

**7. LOAN TO CIVIC THEATER**

Motion by Balk

Seconded by Taylor

The General Fund has a loan to the Civic Theater in the amount of $154,000 that was due on January 1, 2025. The Civic Theater does not have the ability to repay the loan currently. It was recommended Council extend the due date to June 30, 2026. This should give the theater enough time to evaluate their operations.

Resolved, move to approve the extension of the Civic Theater loan from the General Fund to

June 30, 2026, with interest charged at 4%.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor, Balk

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

**8.** **CONSIDERATION TO AMEND FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 BUDGET**

Motion by Balk

Seconded by Parkins

At the January 21, 2025 council meeting, Council approved a contract for a new salt storage shed. The contract amount is significantly less than what is currently included in the budget. This budget amendment adjusts for the decrease. Also at the January 21, 2025 council meeting, Council authorized entering into a grant agreement with Oakland County for Fitness Courts. This budget amendment provides funding for the fitness courts.

Resolved, move to adopt Budget Amendment Resolution #6, amending Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor, Balk, LaRussa

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

**9.** **CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF FITNESS COURTS FOR SHIAWASSEE PARK AND FLANDERS PARK**

Motion by Taylor

Seconded by Balk

On August 19, 2024, the City Council approved a resolution stating that the City would like to collaborate with NFC on a project in the City. On behalf of the City, Mayor LaRussa and City staff/consultants put together a proposal for two separate Fitness Courts in the City—a larger one at Shiawassee Park and a smaller one at Flanders Park. A depiction of what those might look like is attached. The total project cost per NFC’s funding estimate is $472,500. Currently there are promises of grants of:

* $90,000 from Priority Health
* $200,000 from Oakland County Parks

That leaves the city with a possible cost of $182,500, unless offset by grants from others. The requested action is for City Council to consider approving the purchase of the Fitness Courts considering the factors stated in the agenda item and at a cost not to exceed $182,500.

Resolved, move to approve the purchase of two Fitness Courts in the City—a larger one at

Shiawassee Park and a smaller one at Flanders Park.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Schneemann, Taylor, Balk, LaRussa, Parkins

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

City Manager David Murphy spoke of the upcoming MML Capital Conference, and he discussed the cost estimate for the design of Thomas Street.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public spoke.

**11. COUNCIL COMMENT**

Mayor LaRussa presented Councilmember Taylor with the Farmington Bicentennial emblem in recognition of her year-long leadership and commitment to the Bicentennial.

The Mayor noted Senator Slotkin and Congresswomen Stevens noted community project funding is possibly starting up soon. Some potential qualifying projects would be sidewalk on Thomas Street, water & sewer projects, infrastructure projects and police/fire vehicles.

Mayor LaRussa noted a meeting with the Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner, Oakland County Treasurer, and Commissioner Miller about potentially installing a revolving fund that municipalities could use. He also noted a correspondence received from GLWA regarding water and sewer rate increases.

Mayor LaRussa spoke of upcoming SEMCOG outreach in Pontiac on February 25th and encouraged all to learn more about the tools they offer for community outreach. He also noted the Regional Showcase Award Nominations are due in March and suggested Masons Corner or the streetscape as a possible nomination.

**12. Adjournment**

Motion by Balk

Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Joe LaRussa, Mayor

Meaghan K. Bachman, City Clerk