City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., June 15, 2026
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on June 15, 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 7:02 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	Present	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present:
City Manager, David Murphy
Deputy City Clerk, Susan Alvey
Treasurer/Director of Finance, Chris Weber
Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk, Jazmin Briones-Guibord
DDA Director, Jessica Westendorf
DPW Director, Josh Leach
City Attorney, Tom Schultz

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Public Comment

Pat Hanson, 32745 Cloverdale, addressed Council on behalf of the Friends of Costick. Mrs. Hanson expressed concerns regarding potential changes being discussed by the City of Farmington Hills following the defeat of its parks and recreation millage. She noted that proposed changes could include treating Farmington residents as non-residents for recreation facilities and programs, resulting in higher user fees and delayed program registration. She encouraged both communities to work together to ensure continued access and equitable participation for Farmington residents who regularly utilize Farmington Hills recreation facilities.

4. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to approve the consent agenda as presented:

A. City of Farmington Minutes
B. Farmington Monthly Payments Report
C. Farmington Public Safety Monthly Report
D. Resolution to accept Oakland County West Nile Grant
E. Appoint Chris Weber as City Treasurer
F. SMART Agreement
G. Consideration of the GLWA (Great Lakes Water Authority) Member Partner Contract for Legal Services for the 3M and Dupont Public Drinking Water Settlements and the Corresponding Resolution of GLWA Member Partner the City of Farmington Authorizing the Execution of the Legal Services Agreement for the 3M and Dupont Public Drinking Water Settlements
H. Founders Festival Event Amendment

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

5. Approval of the Regular Agenda

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Parkins

Resolved, move to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0

6. Presentations and Public Hearings

6-A. Public Hearing – Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget

Council opened the public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget.

Motion by Taylor
Seconded by Balk

Resolved, to open the public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

No members of the public spoke during the public hearing.

The Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

6-B. Downtown Development Authority Budget Presentation

DDA Director Jessica Westendorf presented the Downtown Development Authority's proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget and reviewed amendments to the current fiscal year budget.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Increased revenues resulting from grants, travel reimbursements, and proceeds from the Make-A-Wave mural project.
- Continued investment in downtown placemaking projects and public art.
- A projected increase in downtown property tax revenues and continued support for redevelopment incentives.
- Planned capital improvements, including pedestrian enhancements at Grand River and Grove Street, streetscape improvements along Farmington Road, expanded outdoor seating opportunities, and landscape replacement.
- Progress on the Art Park Promenade project, including installation of public art, lighting, and community-created mural components.
- Opening of the DDA Retail Lab business incubator.
- Recognition of the City's receipt of the Great American Main Street Award and continued regional and national recognition for downtown revitalization efforts.

Council thanked Director Westendorf and the DDA Board for their continued work and congratulated them on the national recognition received by Downtown Farmington.

7. New Business

7-A. Consideration to Adopt the Downtown Development Authority Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget and Establish the 2026 Principal Shopping District Assessment

Following the DDA budget presentation, Council considered adoption of the Downtown Development Authority Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget and establishment of the 2026 Principal Shopping District assessment.

Motion by Schneemann
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, to approve the resolution adopting the DDA 2026/27 budget, as shown in the projected column of the attached report. assessment.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Balk, LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7-B. Consideration to Amend the Downtown Development Authority Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

Council considered amendments to the current fiscal year DDA Budget reflecting increased revenues and expenditures associated with grants, special events, and other budget adjustments presented by the DDA Director.

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Parkins

Resolved, to approve the resolution amending the Downtown Development Authority Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor, Balk
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7-C. Governor Warner Mansion Addition Project – Construction Manager Selection

City Manager David Murphy presented the recommendation from OHM Advisors and MCD Architects to retain Shaw Construction and Management as Construction Manager for the Governor Warner Mansion Addition Project. Five firms submitted proposals for consideration.

Councilmember Balk expressed appreciation to OHM Advisors, the Governor Warner Mansion Committee, Councilmember Schneemann, and all individuals who contributed significant time and effort to planning the project. She acknowledged the extensive research, public input, and volunteer work invested throughout the process and expressed confidence that the project reflects the City's commitment to preserving the historic property while serving the community.

Following discussion, Council amended the motion to make approval subject to final contract approval by the City Manager's Office.

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, to approve Shaw Construction and Management as Construction Manager for the Governor Warner Mansion Addition Project, subject to final contract approval by the City Manager.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor, Balk, LaRussa
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7-D. Consideration to Extend the Civic Theatre Loan

City Manager Murphy explained that the Farmington Civic Theatre currently has an outstanding loan from the City's General Fund in the amount of $154,000, which was scheduled to mature on June 30, 2026. Because the theatre is not currently able to repay the loan, administration recommended extending the repayment date by one year to June 30, 2027.

Motion by Parkins
Seconded by Balk

Resolved, to approve the extension of the Civic Theater loan from the General Fund to June 30, 2027, with interest charged at 4%.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Schneemann, Taylor, Balk, LaRussa, Parkins
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7-E. Authorization for Temporary Liquor License – Founders Festival Kickoff Event

City Manager Murphy requested approval of two resolutions authorizing application for a one-day Michigan Liquor Control Commission Special License to serve beer and wine during the Historical Commission's Founders Festival Kickoff event at the Governor Warner Mansion.

Councilmember Balk thanked the Historical Commission for its efforts in organizing the event and noted that last year's kickoff successfully encouraged greater community use of the Mansion grounds.

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, to approve: 1) Resolution to Authorize the Special License for the Pre-Founders Day Community Event at Warner Mansion on 7/15/26; and 2) Resolution to Authorize the Application for a Special License and to Appoint the City Manager as Authorized Officer on behalf of City Council.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Balk, LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7-F. Residential Cross Connection Inspection Program

Department of Public Works Director Josh Leach presented a proposed five-year agreement with HydroCorp to implement a Residential Cross Connection Control Program, as required following a sanitary survey conducted by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Approximately 300 residential inspections would be completed annually, allowing the entire community to be inspected over a ten-year cycle.

Council discussed homeowner notification procedures, public outreach efforts, appointment scheduling, and methods to assure residents that inspectors are authorized representatives working on behalf of the City.

Motion by Taylor
Seconded by Balk

Resolved, to approve a five-year agreement with HydroCorp, Inc. to administer the Residential Water System Cross Connection Inspection Program.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor, Balk
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7-G. Adoption of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget and Millage Rates

City Manager Murphy presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget and millage rates, noting a revised allocation of the Capital Improvement Millage while maintaining the overall proposed millage rate.

Council thanked City Administration for its extensive work in preparing the annual budget and acknowledged the significant time and effort devoted to the budget development process.

Motion by Taylor
Seconded by Balk

Resolved, to adopt the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget and establish the millage rates as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor, Balk, LaRussa
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7-H. Amendment to Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

City Manager Murphy presented year-end budget amendments reflecting routine adjustments necessary to close out the current fiscal year.

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Parkins

Resolved, to adopt the resolution amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Schneemann, Taylor, Balk, LaRussa, Parkins
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7-I. Amendment to Residential Refuse and Recycling User Charge

City Manager Murphy presented the proposed Residential Refuse and Recycling User Charge for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The fee covers refuse collection, recycling, yard waste, household hazardous waste services, administrative costs, and fall leaf collection. Council confirmed that the compost collection program would continue.

Motion by Taylor
Seconded by Balk

Resolved, to adopt the resolution amending the Residential Refuse and Recycling User Charge, effective July 1, 2026.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Taylor, Balk, LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7-J. Amendment to Water and Sewer Rates

City Manager Murphy presented proposed amendments to the City's water and sewer rates following increases approved by the Great Lakes Water Authority. The proposed rate adjustments will help fund future infrastructure improvements and proactive maintenance.

Council discussed the importance of investing in aging infrastructure and noted that preventative maintenance is significantly more cost-effective than emergency repairs.

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, to adopt the resolution amending Chapter 11 of the City Fee Schedule to revise Water and Sewer Rates, effective July 1, 2026.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Balk, LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Parkins
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7-K. Consideration to Amend the Non-Union Pay Plan

City Manager Murphy presented the proposed amendment to the City's Non-Union Pay Plan, reflecting the 3% wage adjustment included in the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget.

Motion by Taylor
Seconded by Parkins

Resolved, Move to adopt resolution amending employee administrative manual and non-union pay plan, effective July 1, 2026

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor, Balk
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7-L. Consideration to Adopt Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Corridor Improvement Authority, 47th District Court and Joint Agency Budgets

City Manager Murphy presented the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budgets for the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Corridor Improvement Authority, 47th District Court, and the City's Joint Agency budgets with the City of Farmington Hills.

Council discussed the City's contributions toward several joint agencies, including the Commission on Aging, Commission on Community Health, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and SMART services. It was noted that these appropriations demonstrate the City's continued financial participation in shared regional services.

Motion by Taylor
Seconded by Balk

Resolved, Move to adopt Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget Resolution for the 47th District Court, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Corridor Improvement Authority and Joint Agency Budgets.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor, Balk, LaRussa
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7-M. Consideration to Amend the Corridor Improvement Authority Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

City Manager Murphy presented amendments to the Corridor Improvement Authority Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget reflecting additional grant revenues and increased Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenues. The amendments increased revenues only and did not impact expenditures.

Motion by Taylor
Seconded by Balk

Resolved, to amend the Corridor Improvement Authority Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Schneemann, Taylor, Balk, LaRussa, Parkins
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7-N. Consideration to Amend the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

City Manager Murphy presented amendments to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Budget, including revenue and expenditures associated with the proposed Farmington Place Brownfield redevelopment project and related consulting services.

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, to amend the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Taylor, Balk, LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7-O. Consideration to Adopt Budget Amendment Resolution No. 9

City Manager Murphy presented Budget Amendment Resolution No. 9, which recognizes additional engineering revenues and corresponding expenditures resulting from increased development activity, including the Hillside Towns and Legion Square projects.

Motion by Taylor
Seconded by Parkins

Resolved, to adopt Budget Amendment Resolution No. 9 amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Balk, LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7-P. Request to Approve Purchase of Police Tasers

Public Safety Director/Chief O'Halloran presented a request to purchase twenty-three (23) TASER Model 10 units, related equipment, software, and training materials. The current TASER units are approximately nine years old and no longer under warranty. Approval prior to June 30 would secure current pricing while allowing delivery after July 1 within the new fiscal year budget.

Council discussed replacement of the existing equipment and the availability of an extended warranty.

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, Approve the Fiscal Year 26/27 request to purchase twenty-three (23) Taser Model 10's, software and training materials in the amount of $115,533.60 from Axon Enterprises Incorporated.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor, Balk
Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

8. Public Comment

No members of the public addressed the Council.

9. City Council Comments

Councilmember Schneemann shared highlights from his recent visit to Farmington's sister city in Italy. He expressed appreciation for the hospitality extended by the community and noted the opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the two cities.

Mayor Pro Tem Balk recognized her husband as they celebrated their thirty-fifth wedding anniversary and thanked him for his continued support of her public service.

Mayor LaRussa:

- Congratulated Deputy Chief Todd Anderson on his retirement and thanked him for twenty-five years of dedicated service.

- Recognized Assistant City Manager Chris Weber on his appointment as Treasurer following Jaime Pohlman's departure.
- Thanked the Farmington Elks for hosting the annual Flag Day ceremony.
- Announced that SEMCOG would be visiting downtown Farmington later in the summer for an economic development tour.
- Shared additional observations from the recent sister city in Italy, and expressed appreciation for the growing international partnership between the two communities.

City Manager Murphy introduced summer intern Hayden, welcomed him to the City, and thanked the Finance Department, department heads, and City staff for their extensive work in preparing the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Balk
Seconded by Taylor

Resolved, move to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0

Joe LaRussa, Mayor

Susan Alvey, Deputy City Clerk