



Special City Council Meeting
6:00 PM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2016
Conference Room
Farmington City Hall
23600 Liberty St
Farmington, MI 48335

DRAFT

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on October 17, 2016, in Farmington City Hall, Farmington, MI. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor William Galvin.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Sara Bowman	Councilmember	Present	
Greg Cowley	Councilmember	Present	
William Galvin	Mayor	Present	
Steve Schneemann	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Jeff Scott	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present

Director Christiansen
Director Demers
Superintendent Eudy
City Clerk Halberstadt
Assistant to the City Manager Knowles
City Manager Murphy
Attorney Schultz
Treasurer Weber

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Greg Cowley, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Jeff Scott, Councilmember
AYES:	Bowman, Cowley, Galvin, Schneemann, Scott

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Maria Taylor, 23750 Gill Road, expressed opposition to the proposed food truck ordinance. She cited reasons for her position.

Jordan Ceresnie, 33107 Hawthorne St., a food truck owner, expressed concern about the proposed food truck ordinance.

4. NEW BUSINESS**A. Consideration to Provide City of Farmington Residents the Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) Administered by Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency.**

Murphy provided information on WRAP.

Bowman clarified that this only applies to residential customers, that the Treasury Department is on board with the program, and that there is no cost to the city to participate.

Scott questioned whether the subsidy is sufficient to cover the water bill.

Eudy stated that WRAP provides financial assistance to qualified residents. He noted that during the time residents participate in the program their water bills that are in arrears would not be placed on tax roll.

Cowley sees no downside to the program.

Responding to a question by Galvin, Eudy advised residents need to apply to participate in WRAP.

Galvin inquired about how the public will be notified of the program. Eudy stated that literature will be included with the quarterly billing, and postings will be placed on the city website, Facebook page, etc.

Discussion followed regarding delinquent water bills.

Eudy noted this program does not apply to sewage bills.

Galvin suggested moving this item to the November regular agenda.

B. Consideration to Introduce an Ordinance to Amend the City's Special Events Article Regarding Food Trucks

Murphy presented proposed ordinance to address food trucks.

Schneeman asked how the proposed ordinance compares to those of other communities.

Schultz responded that some cities have ordinances where trucks can operate all year long, while others have designated areas. The proposed ordinance is on the other end of the spectrum with limited provision for mobile trucks. He is not aware of other communities with similar ordinances.

Schneeman noted that this is the first time the city is addressing use of food trucks and as a result, future changes may be necessary.

In reviewing the proposed ordinance, Schneeman asked why food trucks are limited to only three special event permits per year.

Schultz stated that it is to limit the number of events in a year based on the number of trucks that are available. He noted that a food truck as part of a special event does not count toward the permit limitation. He confirmed that there is no limit on food truck rallies in the ordinance.

Schneemann noted typo in Sec. 4-198, e-9, "within" should read "without." He summarized the proposed ordinance does allow for food truck rallies and provides businesses the opportunity to have food trucks. He stated the ordinance may be conservative, but it is the step in the right direction. It gives the city parameters under which to operate.

Schneemann asked about what might be missing from the ordinance. He questioned whether there is a desire to have a space where food trucks can operate all the time.

Discussion followed regarding limited space for food trucks in the downtown. Scott believes Shiawassee Park is underutilized and offers potential for food truck rallies. He would like to attract millennials to the downtown.

Responding to a question from Cowley, Murphy stated the fee amount has not been established. He stated it could possibly be \$100.

Cowley expressed support for food trucks in Shiawassee Park, but he is not a fan of them in the downtown. He believes food trucks take revenue from local restaurants. He thinks that there are enough events already. He sees no benefit to rallies in downtown. He thinks it will exacerbate parking in downtown even further. He expressed support for the proposed ordinance.

Bowman expressed support for food trucks in all areas of the city. She stated according to research, food trucks attract people who would otherwise not come to the community. She discussed food truck ordinances of some of the surrounding communities. She is glad the city is developing an ordinance; it will remove gray areas and will level the playing field. She would like to have a fee scale established that would require different fees for different circumstances. She would like to see the 3 special event limit changed to 4.

Galvin stated perspective and context is critical is looking at this ordinance. He stated it is important that the public realize that Farmington does not have a food truck ordinance and currently they are not allowed. He stated what the city is attempting to achieve with this ordinance is to provide a structured environment that will allow and expand this type of business.

Galvin used three guiding principles in looking at the proposed ordinance: 1) listen to citizens, 2) don't take anything away that is already in place, and 3) through this ordinance remove the need for policy making or city council approval as set forth in an administrative process.

Addressing public comment, Galvin believes this ordinance is not arbitrary, but rather it's based on considerable discussion and research. He noted it is generous and allows for many opportunities for food trucks in Farmington. He mentioned that the fee schedule would be discussed separately from the ordinance.

Discussion followed regarding the process for establishing a fee schedule.

Responding to a question from Galvin, Murphy advised the "150 people provision that would require Council approval" was eliminated from the food truck ordinance and is part of the special events policy.

Schneeman advised he would support changing the limitation from 3 to 4 events a year.

Galvin advised the Downtown Development Authority reviewed this provision and believed 3 events is consistent with what is currently in practice.

Scott questioned whether there is a demand for 4 events per year. He stated businesses using food trucks are not designed to support them. He noted adding more events would place a larger burden on bathroom facilities, etc.

Move to introduce Ordinance C-782-2016 to amend the City of Farmington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 4, Article VI, Special Events, to cover the use of food trucks as presented. [SEE ATTACHED ORDINANCE].

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jeff Scott, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Sara Bowman, Councilmember
AYES:	Bowman, Cowley, Galvin, Schneemann, Scott

5. OTHER BUSINESS

No Other Business was heard.

6. COUNCIL COMMENT

No Council Comment was heard.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the Meeting.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Greg Cowley, Councilmember
SECONDER: Jeff Scott, Councilmember
AYES: Bowman, Cowley, Galvin, Schneemann, Scott

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

William E. Galvin, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Approval Date: _____