



Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, April 18, 2022
Council Chambers
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on April 18, 2022 at Farmington City Hall, 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 p.m. by Mayor Bowman.

1. ROLL CALL

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

City Administration Present

Superintendent Eudy
DDA Executive Director Knight
City Clerk Mullison
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Schultz
Director Warthman
Director Weber

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Accept City of Farmington Board and Commission Minutes
- B. City of Farmington Minutes
 - a. January 29, 2022 Study Session
 - b. March 21, 2022 Regular
 - c. April 4, 2022 Regular
 - d. April 6, 2022 Joint DDA Special
 - e. April 6, 2022 Study Session
- C. Farmington Monthly Payments Report
- D. Farmington Public Safety Monthly Report
- E. Power Middle School Band and Orchestra Concerts
- F. Proclamation: Mental Health Awareness Month, May 2022
- G. Board and Commission Reappointments
- H. Special Event Application: Festival on Mason Lawn
- I. Oakland County West Nile Grant Resolution
- J. Department of Public Works Quarterly Report

Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Balk, Councilmember

4. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Move to amend the regular agenda, moving item 7F to 7A and adjusting all other items accordingly.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

6. PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Safety Annual Report

Director Warthman presented the 2021 Farmington Public Safety Department Annual Report. Highlights included excellent response times, superior public safety services, personnel training, and new community policing initiatives. Warthman spoke about what programs are on the

horizon and mentioned difficulties in hiring in this employment environment. Personnel, departmental accomplishments, and awards, and 2021 statistics were also presented.

LaRussa thanked Warthman and said he always looks forward to hearing the Public Safety report every year.

**B. DDA Presentation: Activate Mason Corner –
Northwest corner of Grand River Avenue and Farmington Road**

Executive Director Knight presented plans for activating the corner in front of the Masonic building. She presented a comprehensive vision, some schematic designs, and talked about communicating that vision. The Farmington Downtown Development Authority's intent is to remove the static planter that is a visual barrier to the building and add use to the space as a gathering plaza, public space, and possible cultural event venue. Knight went over a timeline from demolition to activation, spanning several years.

LaRussa thanked Knight for her great ideas and Grissom Metz for design support and asked for context about retaining some of the hardscape. Knight gave some possible uses and suggested that all that could be reused would be. In response to a further question from LaRussa, Knight said that it remains to be seen whether the space could be programmed. She noted that if so, it would be in partnership with the Masons.

Taylor asked whether the fence would be retained and whether existing landscaping will be kept. When informed that the fence and light posts would remain, Taylor said that this would be a good use of the space.

Bowman noted that she has had an opportunity to see this idea from DDA Board side and said that the ideas presented were great including using the area as a vantage point for streetscape. She appreciated the fine use of resources and said that Farmington is fortunate to have so many design professionals on design committees. Knight said that the project might be a good opportunity for crowd funding as the space is improved.

Taylor asked how the community will be notified that these are improvements are going on and not just another demolition. Knight listed all of the communications and ideas for sharing the vision for the plaza, including that this is just a first phase.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Bond Authorization Resolution for 2022 Capital Improvement Bonds

Director Weber requested that Council adopt a Bond Authorization Resolution for the 2022 Capital Improvement Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000. The resolution was prepared by the City's bond counsel: Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone. He stated that the bonds would be utilized to fund the Farmington Road Streetscape Project, as well as bond issuance costs, and the sources for repayment of the bonds will be the Capital Improvement Millage Fund and DDA TIF Capture. Weber specified that bonds will be awarded to the bidder

whose bid produces the lowest interest cost to the city. He observed that this resolution is the only remaining approval from Council needed to issue the bonds and that City Administration intends for the bonds to be issued on May 11, 2022.

LaRussa asked how the numbers presented in the recent Joint meeting with the DDA Board compared to the totals that will be bonded. Weber explained that bonds would encumber the Capital Improvement fund, and that those funds might not be available for other projects. He said he was committed to the Streetscape project, but would like to ask his colleagues if they were interested in encumbering less, yet still leaving the contingency in.

Discussion ensued about risks and benefits of bonding less than is asked, about other uses for any extra monies that were bonded and must be used on Farmington Road, and options on funding. Taylor indicated that she would like to budget for what the actual numbers are, agreeing with LaRussa. Bowman said that full bonding would help prioritize the whole Farmington Road area.

After further discussion about future potential projects, flexibility issues, possible additional grant monies, and input from Jeff Aronoff of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone about the bonding timeline, Council moved toward a resolution.

Bowman stated her reasoning for asking for the full bond offering. She noted that this project has been a long time coming, it languished because of lack of funding, and she didn't want to be hit with that again. She indicated that she wanted Council to take full advantage of the bond opportunity and didn't want to piecemeal associated projects for the next ten years.

A motion for an amount not to exceed \$2,800,000 was made by Taylor and seconded by LaRussa. More discussion followed the motion. Aronoff suggested making the previously proposed motion to bond \$3,000,000 which would match the resolution in hand now, and then a separate action could be made later to direct the authorized officers to conduct the bond sale at \$2,800,000 if that was what Council determined was best. Bowman requested that Council wait for a determination on the exact amount of the bond until a full Council was available. LaRussa withdrew his support and Taylor withdrew the motion.

Bowman requested that the separate action be brought back to Council on their next meeting scheduled for April 25, 2022.

Move to adopt resolution authorizing the issuance of 2022 Capital Improvement Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember
AYES:	Balk, Bowman, LaRussa, Taylor
ABSENT:	Schneemann

B. Beautification Committee Appointment

Council previously interviewed Colleen Coogan, Christina Clark, and Lynne Mullins to fill one vacancy on the Beautification Committee Board. Colleen Coogan subsequently withdrew her application in favor of joining another board. This is a new Board position and would expire on June 30, 2025.

Move to appoint Christina Clark to the Beautification Committee Board for a term ending June 30, 2025.**

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

C. Consideration to approve replacing outdated IT Cables throughout City Hall in preparation for the new phone system

City Manager Murphy explained that when the carpet was replaced in the Clerk/Treasurer's office area the cables for the phone and computers were found to be frayed, old and in poor condition. Farmington Hills IT helped facilitate a quote to replace the old cables throughout city hall. He noted that there is money in the budget to replace the cables; and the replacement of the cables will help prepare for new phones which are in the 2022/2023 budget and planned for installation in the new fiscal year.

Move to approve the proposed agreement with Hi-Tech, with oversight by Farmington Hills IT, to install new cat 6 cables, additional ports and wall mounts in preparation for the new phone system in the amount of \$22,125.79 plus a 10 percent contingency for a total amount of \$25,000.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Balk, Councilmember
AYES:	Bowman, LaRussa, Taylor, Balk
ABSENT:	Schneemann

D. Request to approve the purchase of surveillance cameras for the Sundquist Pavilion at Riley Park

Director Warthman announced that a grant was received to pay 50% of the purchase and installation of surveillance cameras in downtown Farmington. Two would be outdoor rated and of higher resolution than the present cameras, making identification of individuals and actions easier. The grant will also include the installation of two new high definition (HD) surveillance cameras that will be mounted on the north and south side of the pavilion, providing 180-degree video coverage.

Move to approve FY 2021/2022 budget request to purchase two replacement surveillance cameras for the interior of the Sundquist Pavilion and two new surveillance cameras for the north and south side of the Sundquist Pavilion in the amount of \$12,014.40 with 50% of that cost (\$6,007.20) coming from a MMRMA Risk Avoidance Program Grant.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Balk, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember
AYES:	LaRussa, Taylor, Balk, Bowman
ABSENT:	Schneemann

E. Second Reading and Adoption: Special Ordinance to Consolidate Election Precincts and revise the precincts previously established in Special Ordinance C-628-96 pursuant to State law and City Charter

Clerk Mullison presented the second reading of a Special Ordinance to consolidate six election precincts into five, with corresponding boundary revisions. She requested adoption of the ordinance.

Move to adopt a Special Ordinance to Consolidate Election Precincts and revise the precincts previously established in Special Ordinance C-628-96 pursuant to State law and City Charter.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Taylor, Balk, Bowman, LaRussa
ABSENT:	Schneemann

F. Consideration to approve OHM proposal for City Hall infrastructure assessment

Murphy requested approval of a thorough study of the condition of City Hall. He stated that having this type of report would help City Administration make more informed decisions about the repairs and maintenance to the building with fewer surprises.

LaRussa asked about the option of having a 360-degree camera tour of the building and was told that it was not included in this agreement in order to keep costs down. Bowman thanked administration for engaging OHM to help get ahead of some of the findings.

Move to approve the proposed agreement from OHM to conduct a condition assessment study for city hall for a not to exceed amount of \$19,000.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Balk, Councilmember
AYES:	Balk, Bowman, LaRussa, Taylor
ABSENT:	Schneemann

G. Consideration to award annual Crack Sealing/Over Band Contract to Wolverine Sealcoating

City Administration and Orchard Hiltz & McCliment (OHM) has developed a 4-year rotating pavement crack sealing/over band schedule for major and local streets within the community. This is the second year the City of Farmington has participated with several other like sized communities to solicit the RFP for those services. The City of Wixom established and coordinated the RFP and has recommended to award the RFP to Wolverine Sealcoating. Superintendent Eudy requested allocation of \$50,000 in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget to conduct the crack sealing/over banding.

Bowman thanked Eudy for participating with other municipalities so that Farmington can get a better rate for the size of our municipality.

Move to award Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Crack Sealing/Over Band contract to Wolverine Sealcoating per the RFP pending City Council approval the Fiscal Year 2023 budget and allow City Administration to execute the contract in the amount of \$45,000, subject to any minor amendments to the final form of the City Manager’s office and the City Attorney’s office.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Balk, Councilmember
SECONDER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Bowman, LaRussa, Taylor, Balk
ABSENT:	Schneemann

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

9. CITY COUNCIL COMMENT

LaRussa commented on his SEMCOG General Assembly participation and handed out a presentation to focus on details about what he learned. Topics in the handout primarily focused

on electric vehicles, the adoption of the SEMCOG budget, and mapping tools. LaRussa touched on TAP grant funding changes and EV infrastructure.

In response to LaRussa's further comment about appreciating his council colleagues' indulgence in the desire for deliberation he might have in meetings, Bowman stated that discussions and diverse viewpoints are what Council was elected for and that she appreciated the opportunity to talk things through.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Balk, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember

Meeting adjourned 8:38 p.m.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: May 16, 2022

**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.