



**Budget Meeting**  
**6:00 p.m., Monday, April 27, 2020**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**23600 Liberty Street**  
**Farmington, MI 48335**

**FINAL**

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**BUDGET MEETING MINUTES**

A special budget meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on April 27, 2020, as a Virtual Meeting via Zoom, an electronic meeting platform. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976 and electronically as authorized by Executive Order 2020-15 signed by Governor Whitmer on March 18, 2020, in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, protect the public health, and provide essential protections to vulnerable Michiganders by limiting in-person contact and the number of people interacting at public gatherings.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Sara Bowman.

**1. ROLL CALL**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Sara Bowman	Mayor	Present	
David DeLind	Councilmember	Present	
Joe LaRussa	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Steve Schneemann	Councilmember	Present	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

**City Administration Present**

City Clerk Mullison  
City Manager Murphy  
City Controller Norgard  
City Attorney Schultz  
City Treasurer Weber

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Move to approve the agenda as presented.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	DeLind, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>AYES:</b>	LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Bowman, DeLind

### 3. CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET

City Manager Murphy presented the proposed FY2020/21 budget, including possible effects of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Schneemann asked Murphy for clarification about the referenced \$266,000 reduction in revenue due to the pandemic. Murphy and Director Weber explained that the effects of lost revenue really are not known and that the reduction cited was an arbitrary estimate. Weber indicated that it would be a while for firm numbers to be available and amounts are evolving. He referenced a prediction from a recent webinar that shared revenue collections might be down 50%. The City is tracking it on a month by month basis. Schneemann also asked about some specific Department of Public Works requests and their uses. Discussion ensued about whether renting a crane would be more cost efficient than purchasing a new one. Murphy also noted that by having reliable equipment, our workers would be safer and more efficient.

Taylor said she appreciated how the budget laid out different options for each specific fund. She requested input on who would make decisions and when decisions must be made about a COVID response. In response to Taylor's question about whether these decisions need to be made before the budget is approved in June, Murphy indicated that when options are needed after the budget has been approved, items would come to Council as requested budget changes. Weber explained when approvals might be brought to Council for various opportunities as a change and that each item might have a different time frame.

LaRussa commended the finance team for putting such a thorough budget together. He asked where Retiree Health Care and pension costs were recognized on the budget, and Weber explained that the RHC budget is sufficient for the next year, though adjustments might need to be made later depending on market performance. LaRussa noted that the Water and Sewer fund had a substantial balance and asked what the City might be saving up for. Murphy noted that City infrastructure is getting older, it is known that we will need to replace it, and that it acts as a contingency for large expenditures we know are coming. After further questions from LaRussa, discussion ensued about increase for contractual services in the Information Technology budget, what it might cost for Farmington to hire it's own City Assessor rather than contract the services through Oakland County, the gap between water the City sells and uses, the Street Fund from the DDA, and good news about increased Corridor Improvement Authority TIF capture.

At LaRussa's request, Council indicated that funding should be moved a year forward in the Capital Improvement Plan to build a Flanders Park playscape in the coming fiscal year. Discussion about where to adjust the budget to make that happen included using already planned contingency funds and redirecting funds already allocated to the Flanders Park walking path in this budget. Bowman summarized that there was a majority intention to move the playscape forward to this budget year and requested that administration make that adjustment before bringing the budget back to Council for approval.

DeLind asked if the Department of Public Works could find used equipment to meet their needs. More information was requested from Superintendent of Public Works, Chuck Eudy about the need for a crane and other equipment.

Bowman thanked Administration for all of the time, effort, and work needed to produce this year's budget, especially when a complete pivot was needed to accommodate the conditions of the current pandemic.

**4. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was heard.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steve Baumbach, 21144 Robinwood, thanked Council for adding a Flanders Park playscape to the budget.

Sarah Davies, 23120 Violet, reported on the cancelling of the Great Farmington Cleanup because of the times, two birthday parades assisted by Farmington Public Safety attendance, and commented on Flanders Park.

**6. COUNCIL COMMENT**

DeLind thanked City Controller Amy Norgard, Director of Finance and Administration Chris Weber, and City Manager Dave Murphy for doing a great job on pulling together the budget and being good sports while fielding all of Council's questions.

Bowman reiterated DeLind's gratitude and noted that councilmembers rely on the expertise of City administration and staff and are never let down.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Move to adjourn the meeting.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Schneemann, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

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Sara Bowman, Mayor

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Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: May 18, 2020