



Regular City Council Meeting
 7:00 p.m., Monday, July 19, 2021
 Council Chambers
 23600 Liberty Street
 Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on July 19, 2021 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
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

Director Christiansen
 Superintendent Eudy
 City Clerk Mullison
 City Manager Murphy
 City Attorney Schultz (left at 7:47 pm)
 Director Warthman (left at 7:18 pm)

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. June 21, 2021 Regular
 - b. July 6, 2021 Special
- C. Farmington Monthly Payments Report**
- D. Farmington Public Safety Monthly Report**
- E. Fourth Quarter Building Department Report**
- F. Department of Public Works Quarterly Report**

G. Accept resignation of Rachel Gallagher from Downtown Development Authority

Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

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

4. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Move to approve the regular agenda as presented.**

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

6. PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Safety promotions: Deputy Director, Commander and Sergeant

Public Safety Director Warthman presented three members of the Public Safety Department to be recognized for recent promotions. He stated that the three public safety officers that were promoted have continually held themselves to a higher standard and have bought into the culture of the department which is often described as the "Farmington Way".

Sergeant James Wren has served in Farmington for almost ten years as a Public Safety Officer, a Detective with Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team, and as Farmington's Fire Marshal. He has received several awards and citations during this time, and Warthman stated that he was confident that Wren would excel in his first supervisory role with the department.

Commander Patrick Spelman has been a member of the Department since 2004 and has worked as a Public Safety Officer, a detective for the Special Operations Division as well as for Farmington, he has served as a Sergeant for the last five years. He has earned five lifesaving awards, thirteen Citation Awards, and many Unit Citations, Professional Excellence Awards, and a merit award.

Deputy Director Paul (Bob) Houhanisin began his service to Farmington as a Public Safety Officer in 2004, moved up to Sergeant in 2009, became a Patrol Commander in 2014, and has served as Special Operations Division Commander since 2019. He has been a firearms instructor, a field training officer, and a training coordinator for the department and is a graduate

of the Eastern Michigan University School of Staff and Command. Warthman stated that Houhanisin’s pride in the professions of law enforcement and firefighting was evident and would serve him well for years to come.

Bowman congratulated the three officers being promoted as well as Warthman, commending him for the overwhelming depth of talent on the force and their continued excellence through difficult times. She said that the newly promoted officers had the full support of Council and the community as they moved into their new roles.

B. Public Hearing: Principal Shopping District

Downtown Development Director Knight introduced the renewal of the Principal Shopping District.

Move to enter a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering a Principal Shopping District Special Assessment.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Schneemann, Councilmember

Public hearing was opened at 7:19 pm. No public comment was heard.

Public hearing was closed at 7:20 pm.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration to approve resolution to move forward renewing the Principal Shopping District Special Assessment and direct the City Assessor to prepare a special assessment roll for the district

Knight requested approval to move forward with the special assessment for the Principal Shopping District. She outlined successful uses of the special assessment and noted future uses for the funds.

Move to approve Resolution No. 3 to move forward with renewing the Principal Shopping District Special Assessment and direct the City Assessor to prepare a special assessment roll for the district.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	DeLind, Councilmember
AYES:	LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Bowman, DeLind

B. Consideration of the second amended resolution designating The City of Farmington "Syndicate" Social District and Defining the Commons Area to include extended hours and all eligible license holders

Knight recommended amending the previous Resolution establishing a Social District to update the hours and the business list to include all eligible licensees within the established boundaries.

Discussion ensued about specific licensees, possible new tenants within the district, assistance for businesses who wish to apply for the special license, and the lift the Social District has been for those businesses who have participated. If approved, she said the time change will be posted on the existing signs for the District. Council appreciated Knight's work on shepherding this project through.

Bowman noted that the first six months of the Social District have remained incident-free and that there has been nothing but support from Public Safety, positive comments from the businesses and pedestrians involved, and that it is all working as intended.

Move to approve the Second Amended Resolution designating Social Districts containing commons areas and adopting a management and maintenance plan in order to allow certain on-premises liquor licensees expanded use of shared areas for consumption of alcohol pursuant to Public Act 124 of 2020.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	DeLind, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember
AYES:	Schneemann, Taylor, Bowman, DeLind, LaRussa

C. Consideration to authorize an increase in Civic Theater wages to bring them up to market levels

City Manager Murphy stated that the theater has come to the point where it needs to significantly increase wages to attract and retain employees. Restaurants, grocery stores, and municipalities are offering better compensation than the theater, and an increase will allow the theater to recruit with more competitive wages as well as allow retention of current good employees.

Murphy also mentioned that a grant to the Farmington Civic Theater was recently approved through the US Small Business Administration. In response to questions from LaRussa about the cost of the requested employee wage increase irrespective of the help of the grant, Murphy agreed to look into the fiscal budget impact. Bowman was happy to see grant money come through and said that she understands that these wage increases are necessary at the service industry level.

Move to authorize an increase in Civic Theater wages to bring them up to market levels.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [4-1]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	DeLind, Councilmember
AYES:	Taylor, Bowman, DeLind, Schneemann
NAYS:	LaRussa

D. WRC – Farmington Evergreen District 471 Agreement

Superintendent Eudy introduced a representative from the Oakland County Water Resource Commissioners Office who summarized recommendations to communities served by the former Evergreen-Farmington Sanitary District Sewer (EFSDS) to convert to the Evergreen-Farmington Sanitary Drain District (EFS).

Move to approve and authorize the Mayor or City Manager to execute the Evergreen-Farmington Sanitary Drain Drainage District Chapter 20 Section 471 Agreement.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Schneemann, Councilmember
AYES:	Bowman, DeLind, LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor

E. Consideration to approve construction estimate and payment for local street crack sealing program

Eudy summarized the progress of the 4-year rotating pavement crack sealing and parking lot sealcoating schedule and requested approval for work done to date.

Move to approve Construction Estimate and Payment No. 1 to Wolverine Sealcoating for Local Street Crack Sealing Program **

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	DeLind, Councilmember
AYES:	Taylor, Bowman, DeLind, LaRussa, Schneemann

F. Consideration to ratify payment for landscaping improvements at Public Safety/City Hall

Eudy recommended payment for improvements to the east & west side Public Safety/City Hall entrances as well as installed landscaping.

Move to ratify payment to Willson/Swykert Landscaping for landscaping improvements at Public Safety/City Hall.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember
AYES:	Bowman, DeLind, LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary-Jeanne Shore, Interim Director of the Governor Warner Mansion, updated Council on coming classes and events at the Mansion.

9. CLOSED SESSION – CITY MANAGER’S REVIEW

Move to enter closed session for purposes of the City Manager’s Review.

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

Council entered closed session at 7:47 p.m.

Move to exit closed session.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem

Council exited closed session at 8:32 p.m.

Move to approve the Third Amendment to the City Manager’s Employment agreement with one modification: under recitals, the fourth whereas to read whereas employer has also agreed to increase employee’s severance pay from six months to nine months effective immediately with one additional month added for each additional year, total severance not to exceed 12 months.

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

10. CITY COUNCIL COMMENT

LaRussa explained why he voted against authorizing an increase in Civic Theater wages to bring them up to market levels. He stated that he was not opposed to the proposal, but rather the urgency of the topic without understanding the consequences of unbudgeted spending.

Taylor requested again to be presented soon with options for having remote public comment available during in-person Council meetings.

Bowman commented on the success of the recent Founders Festival.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned 8:38 p.m.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: August 16, 2021

**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.