



Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, February 6, 2023
Council Chambers
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on February 6, 2023 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 7:07 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	Present	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Absent	

City Administration Present

Superintendent Eudy
City Clerk Mullison
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Saarela

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Move to approve the agenda as presented.**

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Todd Lipa, C.A.R.E.S Executive, commended the Farmington DPW on the quality of response to recent snow events.

Jason Hoskins, new State Representative for Farmington, was looking forward to hearing what has been happening in Farmington. He offered his contact information to Council if they needed anything.

4. PRESENTATION: DTE

Representatives for DTE updated Council on progress toward better service for Farmington residents. Present were Jennifer Whitteaker, Government Relations Director for Oakland County; Stephanie Beres, Director of Regional Relations Group; Gil Salazar, Director of Operations for the Southwest Region; Joe Masallam, Vice President of Operations, and Tony Ignasiak, Engineering Supervisor for the Southwest Region.

Masallam said that Farmington outages are a priority for the regional administration and spoke of details from last year, noted fewer outages, and recognized what a hard time Farmington had in the summer of 2021 from heavy storms. Farmington had a much better year last year because of outage improvements, completed tree trimming, equipment upgrades, and recent maintenance functions. Ignasiak noted which circuits have had increased load, and what happens for users when the circuit is affected. Whitteaker said that she will be the point person for complaint calls from City Administration and from residents. When asked about tree trimming, Masallam stated that the work was done by arborists and all cutting was inspected for completion and accuracy.

Schneemann asked about tree trimming in specific areas and LaRussa dove deep into requests for follow up with DTE. LaRussa’s requests included reports on specific indices related to DTE performance in Farmington, that DTE bring regular updates to Council, that DTE assess and report on the feasibility of converting overhead lines to underground, and that DTE provide cost information for property owners for service drop burial.

5. OPTOMIST DAY PROCLAMATION

Nicole Blackmon, President of the local Optimist Club, requested that Farmington declare the first Thursday of February Optimist Day.

Move to make the first Thursday of February Optimist Day.**

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

6. WARNER HOME EXTERIOR REPAIRS

Superintendent Eudy described the progress on the Governor Warner home exterior repairs and requested payment to R. Graham for work to date.

Move to approve Payment No. 3 to R. Graham Construction LLC of Farmington Michigan in the amount of \$8,550.00 for the Exterior Repairs at the Governor Warner Mansion.**

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

7. SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS

A. C.A.R.E.S Duck Race

C.A.R.E.S Executive Todd Lipa has applied for this event as a means to raise funds for the C.A.R.E.S food pantry. Some tents along with two rides and a DJ are planned for this event, and because the fund raiser involves “betting” on the winning duck, a state gaming license is required.

Move to approve the Special Event Application for CARES Duck Race to be held in Shiawassee Park on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023 from 2 – 8 p.m., and, in conjunction, to approve the Local Governing Body Resolution for Charitable Gaming Licenses for this event.**

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

B. Library Events: Truck-a-Palooza, Family Fun in Riley Park, Pavilion Story Time

Maria Showich-Gallup, Interim Head Librarian with the Farmington Community Library Farmington branch, presented Council with three special events requests for summer activities.

Move to approve Farmington Community Library 2023 Special Events: Applications for: Pavilion Story Time, Thursdays at Riley Park on June 15, 22 and 29; and July 6, 13, 21 (relocate to Warner Mansion because of Founders Festival) & 28 from 11 a.m. until noon; and Family Fun in Riley Park, Wednesday evenings on June 21, July 5, 19 (relocate to

Gazebo in front of Farmington Place (adjacent to School Street) because of Founders Festival), and August 2, 2023 with set-up time starting at 6 p.m. and the actual concert

from 7 until 8 p.m. and Truck-a-Palooza, Tuesday, June 20, 2023, from noon until 2 p.m. in the parking lot across the street from the Library.**

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: LaRussa, Mayor ProTem
SECONDER: Balk, Councilmember

C. VegMichigan

Tom Progar of VegMichigan applied to host an event that has been an annual occurrence since 2019.

Move to approve the Special Event Application allowing VegMichigan Free Festival to be held on Sunday, Sept. 10 from 11 a.m. until 5 pm in Riley Park and the Sundquist Pavilion.**

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

8. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH OAKLAND COUNTY FOR ASSESSING SERVICES

City Manager Murphy explained the need for appointing the County Equalization Director as the Designated Assessor for the City in the event that the State Tax Commission invokes the Designated Assessor process to perform duties on behalf of the City.

Move to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Oakland County for a Designated Assessor and authorize the Mayor to sign the Agreement.**

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

9. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was heard.

10. CITY COUNCIL COMMENT

LaRussa updated Council on the SEMCOG SPARK Grant that the City as applied for which is running behind schedule. He also spoke about the DTE-related letters referred to earlier in the meeting.

Balk complimented LaRussa on how calmly he presented himself during the discussion with DTE.

Bowman gave a quick update on a traffic/speeding issue on Slocum Street that had been brought to Council previously. That resident was responded to personally, data was collected, and a full traffic study is planned. City Manager Murphy and Director Houhanisin have both been active in this response.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned 8:02 p.m.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: March 20, 2023

******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.