



**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m., Monday, September 18, 2023**  
**Council Chambers**  
**23600 Liberty Street**  
**Farmington, MI 48335**

**FINAL**

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## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on September 18, 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 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Bowman.

### **1. ROLL CALL**

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

#### **City Administration Present**

Finance Director Weber  
Public Safety Director Houhanisin  
City Clerk Bachman  
City Manager Murphy  
City Attorney Schultz

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Melissa Flores, 33507 Alta Loma Street, voiced concerns regarding an experience with Superior Ambulance after her emergency transport to the hospital. She noted the charge was over \$3000 and her insurance, BCBS could only covered under \$500 for the transfer because BCBS is out of network with Superior Ambulance. She noted other residents were also charged similar rates and asked Council to consider addressing this issue.

Donald Kenely, 23101 Lakeway, voiced concerns regarding a crosswalk that was installed in the middle of the sidewalk and although it is needed, his home is the only one

effected. He further noted more sufficient notice of this project would have been appreciated. He also thanked Council and administration for their hard work.

Joan Schmid, 24049 Colchester, spoke of concerns with rodents, specifically rats within her neighborhood. She asked for a resolution on what can be done to enforce the ordinances that require properties to be kept up to code for property maintenance.

Mike Sweeney, of the Emergency Preparedness Commission, introduced the August Tip of the Month: Communications. He advised the community to sign up for emergency alert communications and have clear communication plans with family.

Dustin Holly, Superior Ambulance Service, spoke to Council to address concerns regarding the services provided to residents. He noted Superior has made attempts to discuss billing rates with BCBS on multiple occasions without reaching an agreement. Mr. Holly would speak again later during the meeting.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **A. City of Farmington Minutes**

- a. **August 21, 2023 Special**
- b. **August 21, 2023 Regular**
- c. **September 5, 2023 Regular**
- d. **CIA: August 2023**
- e. **DDA: August 2023**
- f. **Historical: August meeting canceled**
- g. **Parking: No September Meeting**
- h. **Pathways: August 2023**
- i. **Planning: September meeting canceled**
- j. **ZBA: September meeting canceled**
- k. **Library: August 2023 - draft**
- l. **Commission on Aging: May 2023**
- m. **Farmington/Farmington Hills Arts Commission: May 2023**
- n. **Commission on Children, Youth and Families: June 2023**
- o. **Emergency Preparedness Committee: May 2023**

##### **B. Public Safety Monthly Report**

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember

**5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA**

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Balk, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Special Event request: Holly Days and Light up the Grand Parade**

Melissa Andrade, Assistant to the City Manager, submitted this agenda item to approve the special event application for the 2023 Holly Days and Light Up the Grand Parade of December 2, 2023.

Susan Arlen of the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce presented a brief overview of Holly Days, highlights would include Kids Train, Gifts and Greens Market, Lighted Parade, Christmas Carolers and Santa at the gazebo and the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

**Move to approve the special event application for the 2023 Holly Days and Light Up the Grand Parade on December 2, 2023 \*\***

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

**B. Early Voting Agreement between Oakland County, City of Farmington and City of Farmington Hills**

Meaghan Bachman, City Clerk presented this agenda item to request approval of the Early Voting Agreement.

**Move to approve the Early Voting Agreement for Election Services between Oakland County, the City of Farmington, and the City of Farmington Hills and to authorize the City Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the City of Farmington \*\***

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

**C. Consideration to Amend Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget**

David Murphy, City Manager presented this agenda item. The budget amendment will allow to move funds from the 2022-23 fiscal year to the 2023-24 fiscal year.

**Move to adopt Budget Amendment Resolution #1 amending Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget**

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

**D. Amendment to Traffic Control Order – One way on Grace Street between Grand River Avenue and Shiawassee Road**

Director of Public Safety Bob Houhanisin presented this agenda item and the Transportation Improvement Authority (TIA) investigated as to whether traffic flow on Grace Street should be limited to one way, and the direction to be limited. The TIA determined that two-way traffic on Grace Street was not appropriate and recommended limiting vehicular traffic to only northbound. The TIA also provided recommendations for required signage to allow for enforcement of the one-way traffic. Parking on Grace Street should also be limited.

After some discussion it was decided to table this item until the Council is able to communicate this change with the residents and gather more information. \*\*

**E. Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance C-810-2023 to Amend Chapter 20 Offenses Against Public Safety, Section 20-228 Discharging in the City**

Director of Public Safety Bob Houhanisin presented this item as a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading that will allow for an amendment to the ordinance. Section 20-228 currently prohibits the discharge or a firearm, air rifle, air pistol or bow and arrow in the city, except when lawfully acting in the defense of persons or property or the enforcement of law or at a duly established range, which has been approved by city council. A proposed amendment was introduced and approved for First Reading removing the reference to property. The version for second reading and adoption addresses some of the comments and questions from the First Reading and proposes the general use of the phrase “lawful self-defense” as a fully-encompassing phrase simply referring to statutory and common law authority that law enforcement officials and others would rely on in assessing conduct.

**Move to adopt Ordinance C-810-2023, to amend Chapter 20 of the Code of Ordinances, Offenses Against Public Safety, Section 20-228, Discharging in the City. SECOND READING \*\***

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

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mayor Bowman welcomed Director Houhanisin to provide an update on a medical response time concern. Public Safety Director Houhanisin provided an update on the progress since the incident occurred with response time. He noted the corrective action that was taken to resolve the issue and reported no such incidents have occurred since the corrective action was made.

Director Houhanisin mentioned the billing issues that residents are reporting from BCBS and Superior Ambulance. Mr. Holly from Superior Ambulance was invited to address the Council. He informed the Council that he requested proposals from other ambulance agencies, however the cost was significantly higher. Mr. Holly of Superior Ambulance was invited to speak by the Mayor and asked if he could provide any additional detail about BCBS or if there are any other providers that reflect the same billing concerns. Mr. Holly explained the process and noted that Superior Ambulance has made attempts to discuss billing rates with BCBS on multiple occasions without reaching an agreement over the past two years. He encouraged residents to reach out to BCBS directly with the concerns of the invoicing rates because Superior Ambulance has limited options with BCBS rates. More discussion took place between the Council and Superior Ambulance with concerns on the billing rates.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Anderson, 23916 Grace Street, spoke in favor of the Traffic Control Order on Grace Street and voiced concerns. Mr. Anderson spoke again a few minutes later regarding the poor condition of the road on Grace Street and hoped to have it replaced soon.

Kim Beckwith, 33455 Adams Street, she informed Council that she made the initial request for the Traffic Control Order on Grace Street. She spoke in favor of the order and voiced concerns.

The resident at 23930 Gray Street spoke in favor of the Traffic Control Order on Grace Street.

Susan Arlen, 2300 Gill Road, spoke regarding the ambulance service and asked Council to consider another agency for the services.

**9. CITY COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilmember Taylor clarified she is not opposed to the Traffic Control Order on Grace Street, but rather tabled it because she would like to be sure the residents are aware and informed of the changes.

Councilmember Schneemann thanked the residents who spoke during public comment and assured the residents that the administration will be working hard to address the various concerns.

Mayor Pro Tem LaRussa noted hearing from the community is important to the Council. He reassured the public that decisions are made after being fully informed and make changes with the best judgement and work to improve issue as needed. Mayor Pro Tem also thanked Superior Ambulance for speaking to the residents and Council.

Mayor Bowman noted the decision to table the Traffic Control Order was to be sure all of the information is received, and the proper time is given to review the various documentation. Mayor Bowman spoke of the discussion with Superior Ambulance and mentioned that it was high level and will continue to investigate all options. She noted challenges are ahead and will continue to review all the options. Mayor Bowman spoke of the Harvest Moon Festival and thanked everyone who attended the event. She noted it went well and thanked the Public Safety, DPW and all participants for making it a successful event.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned 8:22 p.m.

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Sara Bowman, Mayor

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Meaghan K. Bachman, City Clerk

Approval Date: 10-16-2023

\*\*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.