

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, August 1, 2005, in Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. 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 Campbell.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bush, Campbell, Knol, McShane, Mitchell.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**CITY ADMINISTRATION:** Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, Attorney Joppich, City Manager Pastue.

At the request of City Manager Pastue, Mayor Campbell called for a motion to amend the agenda in order to add a closed session following the discussion on code of ethics.

**08-05-175** MOTION by Mitchell, seconded by Bush, to amend the agenda to add a closed session following the discussion on code of ethics.

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Campbell, Knol, McShane, Mitchell, Bush.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**DISCUSSION – CODE OF ETHICS**

City Manager Pastue offered discussion points regarding the development of a code of ethics for the City of Farmington. He asked Council about what behavior should be addressed, including public behavior and/or receiving gifts that might influence decision-making; and toward what group(s) the policy should be directed.

Responding to a question, Attorney Joppich stated that there has been limited use by Farmington Hills of their code of ethics except where a possible conflict of interest has arisen. He noted that there are gray areas throughout the whole concept of ethics and that the Farmington Hills policy aides in refining those areas.

Knol inquired about a section in the Farmington Hills code prohibiting the solicitation of support for City sponsored events from individuals or firms that do business with the City and asked how it would be applied to events that typically receive outside support such as those sponsored by the cultural arts program.

Joppich responded that an ethics policy must be tailored to a City.

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Mayor Campbell questioned why the City needs an ethics policy when it has operated appropriately in the past under the guidance and advice of the City Attorney.

Councilmember Bush responded that she had originally brought up the idea of a City ethics policy to City Manager Pastue who had expressed his support. Pastue stated that such a policy could provide some direction and guidelines. He noted that some communities had developed a policy in response to a specific issue.

Knol stated that although issues regarding ethics had not arisen in the past, it might be beneficial to provide guidelines for new councilmembers. She stated that the perception of a conflict of interest is more probable in a small community.

Councilmember Mitchell asked if there was a specific issue or need that prompted discussion of an ethics policy. He stated that City officials could address any potential conflicts of interest as they arise. He noted that in the past councilmembers have recused themselves from discussion when there was a potential conflict of interest.

Councilmember McShane referred to a discussion she had with the Mayor of Naples, Florida. She stated that she was impressed with the policies of that city because they kept honest people honest. She noted that the City of Farmington has experienced gray areas in the past. She stated that an ethics policy promotes public confidence and increased accountability. She further stated that it is a map for people to use in the future.

McShane stated that she would like to hear about how other cities are addressing ethics concerns. She noted that an ethics policy would not be just for Council but for all elected or appointed officials. She stated that ethic standards should be clearly defined and communicated. She expressed her support for an ethics policy in Farmington.

Bush agreed with McShane and requested that the City review the policies of other cities.

McShane noted that some communities set up a board to research ethics policies.

Mayor Campbell stated that if Council concurred that there is a need for a policy, then the practices of other communities should be reviewed.

Mitchell, in referring to Farmington Hill's policy, stated that it contained too much information and recommended a more condensed policy for Farmington.

Discussion continued regarding the need and process for developing a policy.

Pastue suggested that Assistant City Manager Richards conduct a survey of other communities to determine the types of policies currently in place. He stated that a policy would need to be tailored according to the group(s) at which it would be directed.

Mayor Campbell suggested that Council review examples of policies from other cities to determine policy provisions that would be appropriate for Farmington.

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Discussion followed regarding policies that pertain to City employees.

Joppich advised that if a general policy is adopted it should dovetail with existing internal written policies. Campbell advised that a general policy should not supersede existing policies that have proven to be effective.

**CLOSED SESSION – LAND ACQUISITION**

Mayor Campbell requested a motion to enter into closed session.

**08-05-176** MOTION by Mitchell, seconded by Knol, to enter into closed session to discuss land acquisition.

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Knol, McShane, Mitchell, Bush, Campbell.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**08-05-177** MOTION by Knol, seconded by McShane, to adjourn the closed session.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council entered into closed session at 7:25 p.m. and returned to open session at 7:42 p.m.

**OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Council discussed the Memorial Day Parade; recruitment of a Downtown Development Authority Director; and managing the Warner Mansion on an interim basis.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**08-05-178** MOTION by Mitchell, seconded by McShane, to adjourn the meeting.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Arnold T. Campbell, Mayor

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Patsy K. Cantrell, City Clerk/Treasurer

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Susan K. Halberstadt, Recording Secretary