



Special Council Meeting
6:15 p.m., Thursday, August 6, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

FINAL

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on August 6, 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 2020-129 signed by Governor Whitmer on June 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 6:16 p.m. by Mayor Sara 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

City Clerk Mullison
City Manager Murphy (arr. at 7:00 pm)
City Attorney Schultz

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Move to approve the agenda as amended, with the addition of a Closed Session for purposes of considering confidential written communication from the City Attorney, as well as a new Item 3 – Update from Library Board President James White, moving everything else down one item.

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

3. UPDATE FROM JAMES WHITE

Library Board President James White updated City Council with the current situation relating to the state of the Farmington Library Board. He summarized actions taken relating to the pandemic and the hiring of a new director, described how Plante Moran would be taking over the Library accounting department, covered personnel ideas and having to furlough staff because of the extended pandemic. Pandemic losses, needed work on buildings and grounds, and working on reopening plans are concerns being tackled by the current board. Staff is working on materials returns, quarantining the returned materials, and expanding curbside pick up to a grab and go service. He stated that “we need to heal, between board and staff”, and noted that they need a full board to do that.

Bowman asked for a high level description of the hierarchy. White described the appointed board, library director, and library staff.

4. LIBRARY BOARD INTERVIEWS

City Council interviewed five candidates for two openings as representatives of Farmington on the Library Board. Michael DeCenso, Patricia Girbach, Michele Kelly, Megan Stryd, and Ann Pelepchuk were questioned during fifteen minute interviews about their interest in the library operations and their background qualifications.

5. HISTORICAL COMMISSION INTERVIEWS

City Council interviewed two candidates for two open seats on the Farmington Historical Commission. Jill Keller and Robert Senn each had fifteen minute interviews for appointment.

Bowman deferred a decision on both the Library Board and Historical Commission appointments to the August 17th regular meeting in order to have time to consider all of the interviews.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Bowman let Council know about movement forward for Founders Festival organization and planning. She has met with our City Attorney, the City Managers of Farmington and Farmington Hills, the Mayor of Farmington Hills, and other leaders in the communities. Bowman asked whether the remainder of Council wanted her to continue the discussion and whether Council had specific directions for that conversation. DeLind asked for time to consult with Murphy to come up to speed, as he had to be absent for the meeting where this was first discussed. Schneemann said that he approved of pursuing a 501c3 for next year’s festival and also that we should engage in additional discussion for sustainability for future of the festival. LaRussa agreed that it was good to have a dialog on the longer strategic alternatives and that Council owes it to the community to have that dialog. Taylor concurred. It was requested that time be set aside as an agenda item at the next meeting for deeper discussion by Council.

City Attorney Schultz summarized the process of applying for a nonprofit corporation and agreed to begin that process as a preliminary action to Council's decision about direction for organizing the Festival. Discussion continued about the City's role in the process, and Bowman agreed to continue discussions with interested parties in the meantime.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

8. COUNCIL COMMENT

LaRussa invited Jim White back to answer several more questions he had after listening to library board candidates' interviews. They discussed having an inconsistent board, so many resignations, and no institutional knowledge retained. White stated that the board has to reach out to staff and make them feel valued. LaRussa asked what the best way for Council to support the library and the library board was, and White answered that both city councils has been very supportive, and that there had been some interest in the idea of the board becoming an elected board. LaRussa thanked him for his service.

Taylor also asked White about the library budget and property tax revenue. She informed White about the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund.

DeLind thanked all who interviewed for appointed positions tonight and reminded them that, if not selected for these positions, there would still be many places to serve within our community.

9. CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY

Move to enter closed session for purposes of considering confidential written communication from the City Attorney.

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

Mayor Bowman called a five minute recess to move to another Zoom meeting for the closed session portion of the meeting.

Council entered closed session at 9:05 p.m.

Move to exit closed session.

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

Council exited closed session at 9:47 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT**Move to adjourn the meeting.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: August 17, 2020