



Special Council Meeting
6:30 p.m., Monday, March 23, 2020
Council Chambers
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on March 23, 2020, in Farmington City Hall, Farmington, MI. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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	Absent	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present

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:	Taylor, Councilmember

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard

4. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT RESOLUTION FOR DRAKE PARK FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT

City Manager Murphy explained the need to approve two resolutions required to submit grant applications to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. These grants would commit matching funds for improvements to Drake Park. The Natural Resources Trust Grant could pay up to 75% of the project costs up to \$300,000.

LaRussa asked if matching funds were appropriately budgeted for both this grant and the following Recreation Passport Grant, and Murphy confirmed that they were. Discussion followed regarding details of budget and fund allocations. Bowman commented that it was good to talk about something other than the virus and she looks forward to making this grant happen in the coming year.

Move to Approve Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Resolution for Drake Park Facilities Improvement.**

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

5. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES RECREATION PASSPORT GRANT RESOLUTION FOR DRAKE PARK FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT

Murphy reiterated the need for these grants and explained that the Recreation Passport Grant Program could pay up to 50% of the project costs up to \$150,000.

Move to approve Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passport Grant Resolution for Drake Park Facilities Improvement.**

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

6. DISCUSS STATE OF MICHIGAN EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-15

City Attorney Saarela gave some options for Council to consider to allow holding public meetings virtually as allowed by Executive Order 2020-15. Council indicated that they wanted to hold their upcoming meetings remotely rather than cancel any.

Discussion was also held about going forward with plans to have a goal setting meeting currently scheduled for April 4th by holding it remotely. Discussion led to Council indicating that they would be willing to wait until after the EO 2020-15 expires on April 13th to see if there was a possibility to meet in person before the beginning of May. Murphy indicated that he would send

out goals from the last goal setting meeting with notes about how or whether they were accomplished.

7. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION DECLARING LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY (COVID-19)

Murphy introduced a resolution to declare a Local State of Emergency as a result of the COVID-19 virus, which is provided for in the State Emergency Act, Act 390 of 1976, MCL 20.401, *et seq.* A local state of emergency gives a municipality like Farmington various additional authority and options to deal with emergency situations and disasters. This resolution would declare a Local State of Emergency to be in effect until the Governor's State of Emergency is terminated or the City Council terminates the local state of emergency. Several items included in the resolution are confirming the appropriateness of the City Manager closing municipal buildings and facilities to the public, acknowledging his authority to determine staffing throughout this situation, authorizes the City Manager to do appropriate things during the emergency situation—some of which might otherwise come to City Council—to make sure that there is continuity in City business operations, and addresses public meetings held during the declaration.

City Attorney Saarela clarified items in the resolution and was available for Council questions. Bowman asked if there might be some Federal funds that could trickle down to Farmington as a result of this declaration, and Murphy reported that Farmington Hills and possibly Novi were also considering similar resolutions for that reason. LaRussa asked about the Emergency Support Plan put in place in 2015 and whether Murphy felt this was adequate to this scenario. Murphy explained that this situation could not be anticipated and the plan was not specific to this pandemic. He explained that it meant that reciprocal needs would be filled between municipalities for mutual service. LaRussa recommended revisiting the Emergency Preparedness Plan in the future to add this kind of scenario.

Move to approve Resolution Declaring Local State of Emergency (COVID-19).**

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

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Murphy talked about essential employee plans he is required to implement and other plans that have been considered, explaining current intent to keep employees as safe as possible. He also discussed a pay plan to keep employees “whole”.

Murphy noted that there might be budget process changes brought on by skeleton crew, and that the final document might not be as “pretty” as usual, but would be complete. Bowman instructed him to do the best that he could to include charts and graphs that will enable them to have a complete understanding of the analysis.

LaRussa asked about obligations to enforce non-essential businesses running and playscapes that were closed. Saarela answered that those were directives from other agencies and Farmington would not be enforcing them. LaRussa asked about a tip-line for residents to report non-compliance and was told that the non-emergency public safety line could be used.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

10. COUNCIL COMMENT

LaRussa read that the peak is coming in six/eight weeks, and that expectations are that short term deadlines will extend. He thanked everybody working on finding their way through this.

DeLind thinks it is prudent to keep the staff “whole” and is a testament to a well run city and respect for the workforce.

Taylor doesn’t anticipate this going away in three weeks even though he Governor’s Order expires. She is glad that Council is going forward to plan a goal setting meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: April 20, 2020

**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.