



Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 18, 2020
City Council Chambers
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on February 18, 2020, in 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

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Sara Bowman	Mayor	Present	
Joe LaRussa	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Steve Schneemann	Councilmember	Present	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present

Director Christiansen
Superintendent Eudy
City Clerk Mullison
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Schultz
Deputy Director Warthman

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by troop members from Boy Scout Troop #45 – Farmington High School.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Robert Herrera, Superintendent of Farmington Public Schools, reminded the community about the school bond proposal that will be on the March 10, 2020 ballot.

Stefanie Williams, 32129 Leelane, indicated strong opposition to holding Founder's Festival in Shiawassee Park.

Sheree Glynn, 23175 Farmington Road, presented signatures from businesses in support of holding Founders Festival in downtown.

Kevin Hunt, 23239 Violet, complained of a generator continuously running on the property behind a house he owns.

Michael Cowley, 33338 Grand River, representing John Cowley and Sons, would like to see downtown representation for the Founders Festival.

Jason Schlaff, 33336 Grand River, representing Farmington Brewing Company, indicated that having Founders Festival in downtown would help his business.

Randy Bruce, 28730 Lake Park Drive, Farmington Hills, spoke of his bid to be elected as State Representative for the 37th District in November.

Larry Sallen, 5753 Heatherfield Court, West Bloomfield, representing Clothes Encounters, opposes the Founders Festival being held in Shiawassee Park.

Patty Williams, 25407 Witherspoon Drive, Farmington Hills, spoke in favor of having Founders Festival in downtown.

4. APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Accept City of Farmington Board and Commission Minutes
- B. City of Farmington Minutes
 - a. 01-21-2020 Special DRAFT
 - b. 01-21-2020 Regular DRAFT
 - c. 01-29-2020 Special DRAFT
 - d. 02-03-2020 Regular DRAFT
 - e. 02-10-2020 Special DRAFT
 - f. 02-11-2020 Special DRAFT
- C. Farmington Monthly Payments Report
- D. Farmington Public Safety Monthly Report
- E. Farmington Quarterly Investment Report – 12/31/19
- F. Farmington Quarterly Financial Report – 12/31/19
- G. Farmington Quarterly Financial Report Court – 12/31/19

Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

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

5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Move to approve the regular agenda as presented.**

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

6. PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Proclamation: Hope for the Day's 2020 Suicide Prevention + Action Month

Mayor Bowman introduced the subject and read a proclamation naming September 2020 as National Suicide Prevention + Action Month in the City of Farmington.

B. Oakland County Water Resource Commission Corrective Action Plan for the Evergreen Farmington Sewage Disposal

Superintendent Eudy introduced Carrie Ricker Cox, Assistant Chief Engineer from OCWRC to provide a high overview of the Corrective Action Plan for the EFSD System.

Schneemann asked Eudy how our use of the wastewater disposal system was reduced over the last year with projections to decrease even further. Eudy responded that a past footing grate disconnect program assisted as did keeping up with repairs. LaRussa asked how the projected 4% decrease translated to lesser costs next year and Cox responded that it represents 4.1% of the \$372,618 paid in 2019-2020. She also indicated the timeline ahead and in response to a question by Bowman, indicated that this issue would come back to Council sometime in July or August. Eudy stated that to protect the environment, we have to make some changes to the sewer system, and the Oakland County project is the answer. Bowman asked if this was budgeted, and Eudy answered in the affirmative.

C. Special Event Application - Founders Festival

Connor Osborne, Executive Director of the Greater Farmington Chamber of Commerce, presented plans for the 2020 Founders Festival in Shiawassee Park from July 9-12. Included in the presentation were diagrams for vendors, food trucks inclusion, event areas, rides and games, and transportation/parking plans. He reminded Council of the reasons for last year's move to Shiawassee Park and spoke of weather, safety concerns, increased parking opportunities, and limiting road closings. The date moved a week earlier than usual for 2020 to get better weather and to avoid conflict with the Ann Arbor Art Fair. Osborne encouraged cross-promoting other activities in the downtown and elsewhere during the same weekend.

Schneemann thanked Osborne for the presentation and asked for clarification about his remarks that there has been Chamber collaboration with the City, the DDA, and the Farmers Market in regards to Founders Festival. Osborne cited concurrent events such as Farmers

Market, a beer tent pop up downtown, and already scheduled Rhythmz in Riley Park concert as cross promotion opportunities. LaRussa thanked Osborne and asked about how aligned the Founders Festival is to the mission of the Chamber. Osborne said that the Greater Farmington Chamber of Commerce's mission was to benefit the two cities businesses. LaRussa asked about what mechanism Chamber used to gain feedback from members about Festival details. Osborne replied that there had been no public hearings or forums, but it is discussed at the Board level. LaRussa noted that Osborne was new on the scene and that he appreciated Osborne's efforts to provide leadership during this contentious time. Duane Reynolds and Annette Campo, GFCC Board members, spoke to the volunteer nature of the Founders Festival when invited by Taylor to comment.

Taylor also noted that the weather in 2019 caused the park to turn into a mud pit and inquired how Osborne could justify having the festival in a flood zone again. He responded the weather was an anomaly and they are taking steps to be ready for bad weather this year. Bowman asked for comment from the Downtown Development Authority on earlier discussion about cross-promotion between the Festival and downtown events. DDA Executive Director Kate Knight said that open dialog with Osborne was ongoing. She listed potential events such as a pop up beer garden, a Rhythms in Riley Park concert, and downtown businesses participating with their own sales and events including sidewalk sales. She cited DDA members who have recently stepped up to plan and work but doesn't want the DDA to compete with or take over from Founders Festival. She encouraged merchants to come forward for programming.

Bowman observed that Osborne was new to his position and said she supported last year's change. She understood that bad weather was an issue for 2019's lack of success and said she appreciated that the GFCC is not all downtown members. The City and DDA are doing more to support businesses and community in recent years. Bowman suggested that the Chamber could improve from last year, such advertising the availability of shuttles more. She stated that past Founders Festivals were not all on one site but spread throughout the area and reminded the public that the City does not run the event; the Chamber of Commerce was coming to Council for approval of a special event application.

Schneemann suggested that Osborne take a few more weeks and come back with a different plan, taking into consideration what he has heard tonight. Osborne said he would like to see what this event looks like from the downtown viewpoint. Schneemann understood that the GFCC is currently in the last year of a contract with 360 Event Productions. Discussion ensued about logistics and ownership of other portions of Founders Festival. Osborne stated that he needs clarity on which parts of the Festival businesses would like back downtown.

Bowman asked if additional time would allow Osborne the chance to dialog with businesses about changes and reasons. Julie Law of 360 Event Productions stepped up to explain why they need a solid plan and need to get the event application approved as soon as possible.

LaRussa asked what the consequences of not getting approval tonight would be and Law explained a packaging plan for sponsorships would be impacted. If not approved at this

meeting, planners would have to go back and start over on several things. The footprint of the Festival is very important and it is a growing event. Law spoke of impact to businesses with a downtown set up and she couldn't promise revenue with more delay.

Bowman indicated that she would be more comfortable with a brief adjournment of the decision so that business owners and residents could have the opportunity to contribute thoughts and ideas about what aspects of the Festival they would like to be downtown. She acknowledged that putting off the approval of the site might be financially difficult for the Chamber and indicated that she did not want to delay planning for the Festival. Discussion ensued about last year's weather and about merchants in downtown not being happy about the change in 2019. The synergistic relationship between downtown and Festival was recognized, as was the belief that discussion between Chamber and Downtown businesses is necessary. Schneemann suggested that tabling the approval for additional collaboration would be helpful. LaRussa stated that he was the Council liaison with the Chamber and he offered to be the point person between Chamber and City to determine what the Chamber wants to make of this. It was eventually agreed that approval would be contingent on having a bigger conversation and go forward this year, with broader discussion for next year. Taylor reminded the public that it was the Greater Farmington Chamber of Commerce's event and that the approval at this meeting was only an event application to the City.

Move to adopt resolution approving the 2020 Founders Festival which includes approving event locations, authorizing road closures and applications for temporary liquor licenses with the addition of an engagement activity by the Chamber with downtown businesses, and feedback to be presented no later than the March 16, 2020 City Council meeting.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Taylor, Councilmember

Recess called by Bowman at 8:52 pm.

Meeting called back to order at 9:01 pm.

D. Special Event Application - VegMichigan

Tom Progar applied to host VegMichigan Festival in Riley Park on Sunday Sept. 13 from 10:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. He requested the same lot closures used for the Farmer Market. This will be the second year for this festival. Tom has invited many of the surrounding businesses to participate, including Chive Kitchen, Fresh Thyme, The Cheese Lady and more.

LaRussa said he and his family attended last year and it was a well-executed event and he was glad to have it back again. Bowman thanked Progar for bringing it back this year and was glad to see their outreach to local businesses.

Discussion ensued about getting approval for use of the parking lot.

Move to approve the Special Event Application allowing VegMichigan Free Festival to be held on Sunday, Sept. 13 from 8:00 am. Until 6:30 p.m. in Riley Park and the Sundquist Pavilion, subject to any further approvals needed of the current owner of the shopping center.**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration to approve bid of Hartwell Cement Co. for replacement of about 102 lineal feet of concrete curb on Shiawassee

City Manager Murphy said that, in response to resident concerns, the city engineers (OHM) reviewed drainage conditions along Shiawassee Road. OHM has recommended replacing approximately 102 lineal feet of curb and 100 feet of pavement to better divert water from the adjacent property. He stated that the City has already received bids for the work and that OHM recommends the bid from Hartwell Cement Company.

Schneemann asked Jessica Howard of OHM about the profile planned for the curb and asked how much higher it would be. She replied that the resident’s driveway would be pitched higher, not the curb raised. Asked if OHM would be monitoring curb shape in real time, Schneemann was assured that they will. Howard said that the planned work would improve but not eliminate the entire problem. Schneemann called the fix an expensive proposition, but noted that it was the right thing to do. He asked for the solution to be maximized. Howard said they would do everything they could to remove some of the runoff going down the resident’s driveway.

LaRussa asked about the VIL quote versus the Hartwell quote and Howard explained why Hartwell had been chosen. Bowman clarified that administration has been in contact with the affected resident.

Move to approve award of contract to Hartwell Cement Company in an amount not to exceed \$30,574.00 to remove and replace approximately 102’ of curb and 100’ of pavement.**

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

B. Consideration to Approve Grant Agreement between the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) and the Cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills

City Attorney Schultz explained that the MIDC is charged under the state law with developing uniform minimum standards in Michigan courts for providing indigent criminal defense services and that it is also responsible for ensuring compliance with those standards. As the two funding units for the 47th District Court, the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills are ultimately responsible for compliance with the minimum standards established by the Commission and are proposed to be the joint recipient of the grant as the “indigent criminal defense system” for the 47th District Court. City Council was asked to approve a Grant Agreement that lays out the terms and conditions of the MIDC’s grant for the 47th District Court indigent defense delivery system. Both Farmington and Farmington Hills are proposed to be parties to the Agreement; however, because Farmington is the entity through which the money to fund the 47th District Court runs, it has been designated as the fiduciary entity.

Move to approve and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Grant Contract with the State Michigan Indigent Defense Commission and Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs for October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020, with the understanding that any amendments favorable to the cities can be included in the final, signed version of the Agreement upon approval by the City Manager and City Attorney’s Office.**

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

C. Consideration to approve agreement for Arraignment-Only Attorney Services with Oakland County for MIDC program

Schultz explained that this was a related agreement with the previous item, but with Oakland County rather than the State of Michigan.

Move to adopt resolution approving the Interlocal Agreement with Oakland County for Appointments of Arraignment-Only Attorneys in the Oakland County Jail.**

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

D. Consideration to approve final payment to SLC Meter for meter installations

Superintendent Eudy requested final payment for this phase of meter installation. SLC Meter Service has conducted residential meter replacements at all homes north of Grand River, Floral Park, Chatham Hills and east of Gill Road and now Warner Farms. Approximately 2800 meters have replaced in the five projects. Next fiscal year Farmington Oaks & Meadows subdivision and sections of Woodcroft will be selected for meter replacements.

Schneemann asked if retention had been held since fifteen homes have not been addressed yet and Eudy replied that his department would be doing those installations themselves.

Move to approve final payment to SLC Meter for meter installation work completed February 1, 2020.**

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

E. Consideration to authorize DIN Engineering to provide HVAC design and inspection services at the DPW building and City Hall

Eudy explained why HVAC design and inspection for both the DPW building and City Hall was contracted to DIN Engineering to replace the 40 year old boiler and inefficient air handling unit at the DPW. Within the scope of the project, one roof top unit at City Hall will be replaced this fiscal year and a second unit will be replaced next fiscal year.

Schneemann questioned the breakout of the figures in the report and Eudy explained that though the wording in the write up needed further clarification, it included design, submittal, and reviews.

Move to authorize City Administration to enter into a contract with DIN Engineering to provide HVAC design and inspection services at the DPW building and City Hall.**

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

F. Consideration to appoint City Council Member

On February 10th and 11th, City Council interviewed nine candidates to who applied to fill a vacancy on City Council. The vacancy was left by a council member who resigned mid-term; council accepted that resignation at its Jan. 6, 2020 meeting.

Bowman explained the application and voting process in preparation for making an appointment to complete a term that ends in November, 2021. She requested that applicants not selected for this appointment consider serving in another capacity, as the need for qualified volunteers is always great

Bowman, LaRussa, Schneemann and Taylor began the voting process by filling out a slip listing their top three choices from the candidate pool. The City Clerk and City Manager tallied the votes and it was revealed that David DeLind and Joy Montgomery each received two top choice votes. LaRussa requested that the next time they voted it would be with a ranked choice voting method. Discussion ensued, and Council agreed to list their top five choices on the next ballot, allowing votes to be tallied with the ranked choice method. The City Clerk and City Attorney completed the ranking in the conference room and returned with the outcome of the vote. Mullison announced that the results of the first choice remained the same on the second vote, splitting the points, but that the consideration of the second choice, removing any outliers, determined that DeLind received four of the top eight votes and Montgomery received three.

Move to appoint David DeLind to City Council for a term ending in November, 2021.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Schneemann, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Bowman, Mayor
AYES:	Taylor, Bowman, LaRussa, Schneemann

8. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was heard.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Stefanie Williams, 32129 Leelane, commented again about wanting the Founders Festival to be a success.

10. DEPARTMENT COMMENT

Warthman answered LaRussa's question about historically low major crime by explaining that projections continue to support the trend.

Mullison made an announcement that the deadline for voter registration at any venue other than the local Clerk's office would be February 24th, but that registration could continue at the local Clerk's office up through Election Day with proof of residency.

11. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Schneemann commented on the appointment to Council made this evening. He was glad to see that Council could come to a unanimous consensus and congratulated Mr. DeLind. He noted that the fact it was a difficult decision was a good thing, as they met a rich and talented pool of candidates. He thanked all nine candidates who took the time to apply and interview. Commenting about the Founders Festival, he observed that there are strong, synergistic relationships between downtown and the Festival, and was disappointed at the disconnect he observed tonight. He hopes that the Chamber will consider engaging local businesses, and he is looking forward to March 16th for next report. He thanked the Mayor for guiding Council through all of this.

LaRussa said there was an outcry from the community to have a larger discussion about the Festival, and that it was high time to discuss the future of this event. He said that, emotion aside, everybody wants what is best for the Festival. He remarked that since he was the Council liaison to the Chamber of Commerce, he would be happy to be involved with that discussion. He encouraged all applicants who were not appointed to the City Council opening to serve in other areas.

Taylor congratulated newest council member and welcomed DeLind to Council. She commented that it was a disappointing night for those who loved having the Festival downtown, but she was encouraged by the kind of discussion she heard from fellow councilmembers and the public feedback. She noted that there was a big opportunity ahead as change shifts how the Festival is run.

Bowman welcomed David DeLind aboard.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned 10:38 p.m.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: March 16, 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.