



Special Council Meeting
6:00 pm, Wednesday, March 22, 2023
Council Chambers
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

SPECIAL JOINT CITY COUNCIL AND DDA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council and Downtown Development Authority Board was held on March 22, 2023 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 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Sara Bowman.

1. ROLL CALL

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

DDA Board Members Present

Sara Bowman
Todd Craft
Chris Halas
Heather Lyon
James McLaughlan
Thomas Pascaris
Claire Perko

DDA Board Members Absent

Linda Deskins
Donovan Singleton

Others Present

DDA Executive Director Knight
City Clerk Mullison
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Saarela
Director Weber

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Move to approve the agenda as presented.

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

3. AMENDMENT TO CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT SERVICES FROM OHM

Matt Parks, of OHM Advisors (OHM) explained that OHM has been administering the Farmington Road Streetscape project since it began last summer. This project is funded with federal Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant monies and requires an elevated level of service in terms of testing, inspection, and overall administration compared to local jobs. The original proposal provided assumed all construction would be completed in late 2022, which was not the case. OHM has provided a revised hourly not-to-exceed budget for the remaining proposed work noted in the proposed attached agreement.

Discussion centered around faulting MDOT for the extension of the schedule and sending a request for reimbursement, spreading the “pain” of the cost with the contractor and city engineers, and responsibilities for the overage. Saarela suggested looking at the agreement with MDOT to see if there is a clause to claim or recover some cost and said that she would look into how other municipalities are handling delays with MDOT. LaRussa asked Parks to put a letter together for LaRussa’s attendance at the MML Transportation committee on Friday.

Bowman noted that grants and federal funding always come with strings and she wanted to be clear that the City legal advisors were only responsible for a letter and some research and would come back to this group before any litigation or other expense was contemplated.

Move to approve amended proposal for construction engineering services for an amount not to exceed \$144,600 to be split evenly between the City and the DDA.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [4-1]
MOVER:	Schneemann, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Balk, Councilmember
AYES:	Taylor, Balk, Bowman, Schneemann
NAYS:	LaRussa

Move to approve amended proposal for construction engineering services for an amount not to exceed \$144,600 to be split evenly between the DDA and the City.**

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Halas, DDA Boardmember
SECONDER:	Perko, DDA Boardmember
AYES:	Bowman, Craft, Halas, Lyon, McLaughlan, Pascaris, Perko
ABSENT:	Deskins, Singleton

4. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was heard.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

6. BOARD & COUNCIL COMMENT

Balk says progress on the project was looking stunning and she appreciated the work done. She agrees that the extension of the cost stinks but thinks that collectively the DDA and Council should be proud of the project.

Bowman reminded the combined bodies that this has been 12-15 years in the making, but soon the community will forget the pain and enjoy the beauty of it. She reiterated that the community gets grant money that comes with strings that we just do not have control over and we will do our best to mitigate.

Halas agreed that it was changing the vibe and making Farmington Road walkable and how we envisioned it to be. He acknowledged that this was painful, but it was a small inconvenience in the long haul.

Craft welcomed the new DDA board members and thanked them for allowing themselves to be thrown right in the water. He wanted to think this project had always been on the radar, and is setting the tone for what needs to come next. He noted that these two bodies have worked well together in the past and that a lot of things will get done together in the future.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Schneemann, DDA President
SECONDER:	Taylor, DDA Boardmember

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: April 17, 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.