



Special/Study Session Meeting
6:00 p.m., Monday, July 16, 2018
Conference Room
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

STUDY SESSION MINUTES

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on July 16, 2018, 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 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Steve Schneemann.

1. ROLL CALL

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

City Administration Present

City Clerk Halberstadt
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Schultz
Controller Norgard

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Move to approve the agenda as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Bowman
SECONDER:	Councilmember Galvin

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Bogus, 32276 Valley View Circle, expressed support for the millage increase proposal with emphasis on capital improvements.

Paul King, representing United Methodist Church, expressed concern regarding parking relative to the Maxfield Training Center development.

4. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR MILLAGE INCREASE

Murphy stated Attorney Schultz put together the ballot language with resolution, based on the discussion at the May 31 Council meeting. The proposal provides for one ballot

question with 1.5 mils going to capital improvements and 1.5 mils for general operations.

LaRussa would like to modify the language regarding the split between capital improvement and general operations. He noted there are numerous capital improvement projects that need to be addressed in the City. He would like to spend more on capital improvements by increasing it to at least 2.0 mils. He supports changing the ballot language to read “at least” in referring to millage for capital improvements.

Schultz confirmed that the ballot proposal language can be modified as requested by LaRussa. He noted Council can decide each year how the 3.0 mils should be applied.

Taylor also expressed support for applying more of the millage to capital improvements.

Galvin doesn't believe Paragraph 2 of the resolution fully explains the City's financial challenges. He expressed the need to state why the city is requesting the millage increase, with emphasis on pension liability due to cuts by the state. Schultz stated the language could include “and the need to address and reflect pension cost.”

Schneemann expressed support for the proposed changes to the resolution and ballot question.

LaRussa proposed changing the proposal to say “not less than two” for capital improvement. He believes pitching a 2.0 mil increase for the capital fund is an easier sell to the public than explaining an increase to the general fund. Taylor concurred with this proposal.

Discussion followed regarding how adjustments to millage spending could be made throughout the year.

Bowman believes the current language of the ballot question provides Council flexibility in the way the millage will be used. She does not support locking into 2.0 mils for capital improvement and 1.0 mil for the general fund.

Taylor believes citizens would appreciate knowing exactly where the majority of funds will be spent. She believes applying 2/3 of the proposed millage increase to capital improvements will excite the residents.

Murphy could support applying only 1.0 mil to the General Fund, but noted it would not rebuild the fund balance.

Galvin expressed support for the ballot question as stated. He stated the importance of providing flexibility to future Councils, noting unexpected financial challenges that have arisen.

Schneemann stated LaRussa's proposed changes to the ballot question give Council the flexibility they need.

5. DISCUSSION TO INSTRUCT THE PARKING COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE DATA-DRIVEN PARKING SOLUTIONS IN THE WARNER, SCHOOL AND THOMAS STREET AREA

Murphy advised a number of concerns were expressed at the last Planning Commission meeting regarding parking and traffic concerns relative to the Maxfield Training Center (MTC) site. He would like to see the Parking Advisory Committee look into this issue and return to Council with ideas or suggestions. He spoke with the developer and requested they conduct a parking study before returning to the Planning Commission. He would like to see the Parking Committee and the developer's engineers work together.

Schneemann asked if the Parking Committee should be tasked with this before final plans are presented. Murphy stated that something will go on the site at some point and congestion will be an issue, therefore the Parking Committee should be involved.

Galvin stated that it is important for Council to show citizens that a dialogue is taking place regarding parking concerns related to the MTC development.

Bowman appreciates the fact that the Parking Committee will be involved, however she is unclear how the study will be done. She would like a traffic study done and a determination of whether streets will be closed or changed to one-way. She is interested in looking at different options.

LaRussa thinks this is a good exercise. He would like to have guide rails and deliverables set in place, as to the number of spaces, etc.

Schneemann supports involving the Parking Committee, but wants to make sure that information is based in data and not just anecdotal. He would like to identify the problems with emphasis on how the church will be affected.

Galvin does not expect much from the Parking Committee as far as reports are concerned. He doesn't feel there is enough data at this point. He feels the dialogue is a good first step. He would like Kevin Christiansen to attend the next Parking Committee meeting to give his insight as Economic and Community Development Director.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Move to add a second Public Comment to the agenda.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Councilmember Galvin
SECONDER:	Councilmember Taylor

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Karl Miller, Chairman of the United Methodist Board of Trustees, shared concerns regarding the general parking situation in Farmington. He also expressed concern about parking relative to the plans for the development at MTC.

8. COUNCIL COMMENT

LaRussa stated that the funding partner for the KaBOOM grant selected Iron Bell Trail in Orion for the enhanced build. The standard build is still an option for Farmington.

Schneemann thanked LaRussa for the update and would be open to further discussion regarding KaBOOM at a later date.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Councilmember Taylor
SECONDER:	Councilmember LaRussa

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Steve Schneemann, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Approval Date: August 20, 2018