



**Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, August 17, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on August 17, 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 7:00 p.m. by Mayor 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

Director Christiansen
Director Demers
Superintendent Eudy
City Clerk Mullison
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Schultz
Director Weber

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Accept City of Farmington Board and Commission Minutes
- B. City of Farmington Minutes
 - a. July 20, 2020 Special
 - b. July 20, 2020 Regular
 - c. August 6, 2020 Special
- C. Farmington Monthly Payments Report
- D. Farmington Public Safety Monthly Report
- E. Accept the resignation of Jessica Bomarito from the Library Board
- F. Reappointment of Bob Hahn to the Library Board

Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

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

4. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Move to approve the regular agenda as presented. **

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

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Library Board Appointments

After each councilmember stated two choices from the field of five and their reasons for their choices, Council chose two appointees to fill vacancies on the Library Board to represent Farmington.

Move to appoint Megan Stryd to the Farmington Community Library Board of Directors for a term ending June 30, 2023.**

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

Move to appoint Michele Kelly to the Farmington Community Library Board of Directors for a term ending June 30, 2022.**

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

B. Historical Commission appointments

Council expressed excitement for qualified applicants and appointed both available candidates to the commission.

Move to appoint to the Farmington Historical Commission Jill Keller for a 3-year term ending March 31, 2023 and Robert Senn for a 3-year term ending March 31, 2023.**

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

C. Consideration to appoint a delegate for the Annual MML Convention September 29 – October 2, 2020

City Manager Murphy requested that Council name a delegate to represent Farmington during the virtual 2020 annual meeting of the Michigan Municipal League.

Move to appoint Sara Bowman as Farmington's delegate for the annual MML meeting September 29-October 2, 2020 and Joe LaRussa as the alternate.**

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

D. Purchase of LUCAS 3 Chest Compression System with FY 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program; Proposed Public Safety Capital Expenditure Budget Amendment

Director Demers described critically needed equipment that would be used to reduce the chances of exposure to coronavirus for officers performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

to patients in cardiac arrest. Demers projects that respiratory and cardiac arrest calls will increase during the COVID-19 pandemic as research has shown that cardiac damage is present in as many as one in five COVID-19 patients, leading to heart failure among those who show no signs of respiratory distress.

The Fiscal Year 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) program allocates funds to local public safety departments to assist in their efforts to prevent, prepare and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. Under this program, the department is eligible to receive funding in the amount of \$12,342. The department received preliminary approval from the Michigan State Police Grants and Community Services Division that the LUCAS 3 system was eligible for funding under the CESF program. The purchase will only proceed once it is confirmed that the total amount of funds will be allocated.

LaRussa approved the innovative idea and was happy that funds might be available for this. Schneemann clarified that the majority of the cost would be covered by a grant, though the City would be taking responsibility for about \$844.00 of the cost. Bowman asked that a demonstration or YouTube video be made available to share with Council and the public.

Move to approve purchase of LUCAS 3 Chest Compression System and accessories in the amount of \$13,185.41 and approve Budget Amendment #1 to the FY 2020/21 budget, increasing Public Safety expenditures by \$13,186 and Federal Grants by \$12,342.**

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

E. Consideration to accept Change Order No. 2 and Construction Estimate No. 3 for the Bel-Aire Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project to Pipeline Management Company

Superintendent Eudy explained that currently the project is under budget by \$60,000-\$70,000. City Administration and OHM is recommending to include additional segment cleaning, CCTV, and lining to maximize the amount of footage to be lined. Up to \$25,000 of the \$108,000 contingency funds could be used to cover the overage.

In response to a question by Schneemann, Eudy said over 50% of sewers in that area will have been lined, which includes the Twin Valley subdivision. He estimated that it would take another 20 million dollars to update the whole City sewer system. DeLind asked about cost savings if the project continued on with already mobilized teams. Eudy said that remobilization costs were minor, and the schedule needed to be followed. Eudy said that this relining will give another 50 years of life expectancy for the system. Bowman thanked Eudy for finding ways to exceed the normal lifespan of the pipe.

Move to approve Change Order No. 2 and Construction Estimate No. 3 for the Bel-Aire Sanitary Sewer Lining Project in the amount of \$219,735.96 to Pipeline Management Company Incorporated of Milford Michigan.**

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

F. Change Order No. 2 & Construction Estimate No. 3 for the Mayfield Street Reconstruction

Eudy requested Council approve a change order that includes a credit for changing from crushed limestone to crushed concrete aggregate base, and the additional installation of 3 yard drain emitters to reduce the amount of storm water from the storm water system from a private property, as well as approval for a construction estimate for work completed by V.I.L. Construction from July 1, 2020 until July 28, 2020 with an additional retainage held. Work this period includes balance of mobilization, traffic control and maintenance, balance of water main and services, aggregates, storm sewer and drainage materials.

LaRussa inquired about the completion timing and Eudy reported that it should be done by September 10th. Discussion ensued about the use of crushed concrete instead of limestone substrate. Jess Howard of OHM weighed in, assuring councilmembers that the crushed concrete was acceptable and that the cost would go down with no compromise to the quality of the road at all.

Schneemann asked engineers and city administration to always use absolute best practices and to err on the side of using the best materials and technologies in future.

Move to approve payment to V.I.L. Construction Incorporated for Change Order No. 2 & Construction Estimate No. 3 in the amount of \$540,993.70 for the Mayfield Street Reconstruction.**

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

G. Consideration to approve Change Order No. 2 and Construction Estimate No. 4 for the Shiawassee Streambank Stabilization

Eudy reported on the completion of the Shiawassee Streambank Stabilization begun in 2018. Tree removals, live stakes, stone rip rap, erosion control, drainage structure adjustment, turf establishment, and soil erosion permit fees are included in this payment.

Move to authorize Change Order No. 2 and Construction Estimate No. 4 and payment to Macomb Pipeline & Utilities.**

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

H. Discuss next steps for Special Events on city-owned property

Murphy revisited the topic of use of the City parks and property rentals as it relates to recommended guidelines for gathering in a pandemic. He recommended beginning to allow gatherings/rentals with fifty people or less at parks and the Governor Warner Mansion, but to refrain from allowing functions at Riley Park because all events there must be open to the public. With direct proximity to Grand River, he thought more people could just walk up and make social distancing virtually impossible.

Schneemann said that if the Governor's order allowed one hundred people, he thought Farmington should also allow that. He suggested that Farmington does not have any better science than the State does and that the City should follow along with the State guidelines. Murphy stated that he had suggested fifty rather than one hundred as a limit so that there would be less chance of an event accidentally exceeding the limit. Schneemann said that City guidelines should be clear on the event application, the rules need to be enforced, and the application needs to be clear about consequences. He said it was great that Council is looking for ways to bring back some normalcy. He indicated support for including Riley Park into consideration because it's supposed to be attractive to people, and activity in our town attracts people here.

In response to a question by LaRussa, Demers explained what enforcement needs would be required in order to verify that the rules have been upheld at approved events. He said that best practice starts with direct communication with each event's organizer, making sure that they are well aware of the requirements of the Governor's Executive Orders and making sure they are aware of the consequences of their actions.

Discussion ensued about allowing Swing Farmington to open under the City's prior approval, and whether a more restrictive guideline set now would obligate the City to enforce differently than they were obligated to under the Governor's Orders.

Taylor indicated that she was not in favor of reopening anything for Special Event use, renting park facilities, or opening the Governor's Mansion yet. She cited health risks for older volunteers as one reason. She would like to maintain the status quo as the City shouldn't be encouraging gathering.

Schneemann reiterated that he thought that the City should not be instituting stricter guidelines than the State.

Bowman said that the administration was trying to be conservative and that these are not normal times even though we all want them to be. She liked the idea of following the Governor's guidelines, but would like to figure out how to enforce those guidelines to keep residents' health, safety, and wellbeing foremost. She indicated that she was comfortable with opening Shiawassee and Drake Parks and not comfortable with events at Riley Park Yet. She reminded the public that Farmington parkas have been open throughout the pandemic and that just the reservation of specific areas had been suspended for the time being. She would like to see the outside grounds of the Warner Mansion able to be used.

DeLind noted that we were all in uncharted territory, and that he was not comfortable with City sanctioned events yet.

Council directed administration to reopen reservations for Shiawassee Park and the Governor Warner Mansion grounds in accordance with State guidelines. Special Event applications will be reviewed on an individual basis.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Pavlik, 34016 Edmonton Street, Farmington Hills, owner of Sunflour Bakehaus, thanked the Library Board for eliminating materials fines and commented on bullying within the Library Board.

Jim White, 33204 Oakland Street, President of the Farmington Community Library Board, thanked all who applied for the open positions and thanked Council for making thoughtful appointments. He is looking forward to reaching out to the new members.

Jennifer Chiles, 33760 Shiawassee Street, supported library comments made by Jeff Pavlik. She also commented about speeding on Shiawassee Street between Farmington Road and Grand River.

Joe O'Connor, 33431 Shiawassee, agreed with Jennifer Chiles about speeding, and also spoke against Bill Largent on the Library Board.

Eric Bruns, 29732 Linden, Farmington Hills, spoke against Bill Largent on the Library Board.

Kelly Goldberg, 29995 High Valley Road, Farmington Hills, spoke in support of the library. She asked City Council to exert whatever pressure they have to remove Largent.

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMENT

DeLind expressed ardent support for library staff and recounted the ways his family has benefitted from and had positive interactions with the library. He noted that some of the current discourse is inflammatory, and rhetoric being expressed by some is not improving the community. He hoped that a more civil approach to discourse and view of staff could arise as new board members begin their tenure.

Taylor read her recent Facebook post calling for the resignation of Library Board member Bill Largent into record as her comment. She wished best of luck to the two newly appointed Library Board members.

LaRussa added supporting comments for the library staff. Despite the murky set of circumstances, the library staff continue to carry themselves with professionalism and the dutiful service they have always provided. He called it unfortunate to have to act on a situation that, through no fault of ours, that Council has to deal with. He reminded Council that they need to reinstate the practice of an annual visit from all of Farmington's Boards and Commissions to update Council of the status of their goings-on. LaRussa announced that Ladies Night Outside, sponsored by the DDA, would occur on Thursday, August 20th. He also asked administration where an old Code of Ordinances should be donated.

Schneemann expressed support for library staff. He has great respect for how they the libraries are run. He shouted out support for Farmington Library Board members presently serving; current Board President Jim White, Bob Hahn, and the two newest members Megan Stryd and Michelle Kelly. He believes that a full representation from Farmington will bring a healing and a righting of the direction of the Library Board.

Bowman recalled the rather full agenda and reviewed several accomplishments from this evening. City Council appointed three new members to three different boards, as well as appointing two new members to the Farmington Community Library Board. She stated that she was proud of the quality of people stepping forward to serve, and that it was Council's role to speak through these appointments by appointing individuals who are put through a rigorous interview process to determine the best fit. Council got to hear them, ask questions of them, and get to know them before making decisions as to who to nominate. She was proud of the work Council did to be able to make all of the appointments at this meeting, and stated that by focusing on the job and focusing on what these boards and commissions are designed to do is how Farmington will move forward and how Council will be heard.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned 9:24 p.m.

Sara Bowman, Mayor

Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: September 21, 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.