



Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, December 3, 2018
Conference Room
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on December 3, 2018, at 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 pm 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

Supervisor Eudy
City Clerk Mullison
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Saarela

2. Approval of Agenda

Move to approve the regular meeting agenda.

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

3. Public Comment

No comment was heard.

4. Special Event Application – Founders Festival

Mary Martin, Director of the Greater Farmington Chamber of Commerce, requested that Council review and consider moving the 2019 Founders Festival to Shiawassee Park. She detailed the changes planned and introduced Gino Gravinski, GFCC Board of Directors and Julie Law, 360 Event Productions. Martin summarized the footprint of the 2018 festival in order to explain why changes were being considered. She cited paring down the crafters and vendors and not taking up parking in the downtown as detrimental to holding the Festival in the downtown area. The new Fido Fest, the kid's stage and family activities, robotics, and education for kids were at the park and were successful.

Parking and lighting were main issues as the GFCC explored at the proposed change for the 2019 Festival, but both Farmington Public Safety and Farmington DPW were consulted before these changes were submitted. The Public Safety cost would be cut if the Festival was only in Shiawassee Park. Martin also suggested that sponsors are more interested in the festival being in one area to concentrate exposure.

Parking at Our Lady of Sorrows is being considered. The GFCC has already gained permission to use parking behind the Farmington Public Schools Administration Building and possibly at Farmington High School. Senior citizen shuttles are being considered. Martin also suggested downtown parking be utilized along with navigating the stairs to the park.

Communications will go out to the general public about any approved changes as soon as possible. Businesses in the downtown will also be notified of changes in January. Restaurants might be able to coordinate participation either by using shuttles to their establishments or by having a presence in the park itself.

Other benefits to the proposed change include keeping Farmington Road open and avoiding associated costs. In the proposed plan only Shiawassee Street would be closed in a limited section between Farmington Road and Power Road.

Schneemann noted that a resolution for approval was on hand, but that it was just an approval of the Special Event application.

LaRussa thanked Martin and her associates for all the work she had previously done, and asked if the event had made money last year. Martin replied that the 2018 Festival had broken even, but the two previous years did not. LaRussa asked about the mini-celebrations that have been in conjunction with the festival such as the Methodist Church Ice Cream Social and whether they would still be welcome to be involved. Martin responded that the GFCC would not manage the other elements and suggested that they should also have to go to Council for their own Special Event application. She also stated that the large parking lot would be reserved for vendors to store and restock merchandise after a question from LaRussa. He also raised a question about children playing at the playscape while over 21 events are occurring. LaRussa offered to help facilitate getting the fireworks added back to the schedule.

Schneemann noted that having the festival just in downtown Farmington is a recent formulation so the proposed plan is not an unprecedented sort of move.

Bowman reminded Council that Martin had just finished a success in the recent Holly Days event. Bowman stated that Farmington residents put much emotional stock in Farmington events. She noted that his might be a change to a traditional Festival, but that there have been many new events and opportunities happening in downtown Farmington in recent years to keep

interest and compensate in that area. She cited how this new plan would take several problems off the table for both businesses and participants. She commented that she does not think that it should be the Chamber's responsibility to support all the non-profit participation in the festival. She supported trying the proposed 2019 Festival plan for a year to see what happens.

Taylor asked what kind of feedback Martin had gotten from businesses about past Festivals and about moving to Shiawassee Park. Martin responded that the Chamber always heard from those who were unhappy and who had not felt supported by the Chamber. Martin also stated that she did not think that those negative responses had pushed them down this path, but rather the success of the events in the park last year. Taylor also asked if there was an overlying theme for the Festival. Martin agreed that it was a good point and that the Festival was struggling with identity. She said that it was more of an entertainment event rather than any labeled event. Martin thought that this festival would allow them to accommodate more family-type opportunities. Taylor questioned the ecological impact of the Festival on the park itself and Martin stated that the park stayed stable last year with three days of rain and she has consulted with Farmington DPW on possible environmental impacts.

Galvin appreciated that Martin had brought up the identity of the Festival and he would like both businesses and residents to be asked about what they would like to see happen for future Festivals. He suggested that this is a significant change and that a survey might both communicate and receive information from the community. He stated that the biggest concern is that many people identify the Festival with the downtown and that moving the Festival to the park might be too much to ask from residents. Martin appreciated his comments and cited other problems with having things both in downtown and in the park. She asked Galvin what specifically he would intend with a survey, and Galvin suggested SurveyMonkey or another web survey tool to let residents and businesses bring their thoughts to the Chamber. He said that he thought Martin might get pushback from residents this year. Martin agreed that they could do a survey but sees a time crunch in adding that portion to their preparations. She also reminded Council that the Chamber is a business organization and they had to consider the good of their members.

Discussion ensued about the difficulties of past events and how to solve them for this Festival.

Schneemann reminded all that the Council represents only the citizens of Farmington and discussed the difficulties of a survey that had been suggested earlier. He also addressed the connectivity between downtown and the park and that this is something Council has been trying to improve for quite a while. He reminded Martin that the City plans on improving infrastructure, but that it might not happen by this Festival. Galvin asked whether we wait for an event to be a catalyst to promote change or wait until we have better connectivity to have an event.

Schneemann invited thoughts from each Council member. Galvin understands that festivals like this must always change to stay fresh and he stated that he would never vote against the Founders Festival. Bowman reminded the Chamber members that they don't always hear from those who are happy with the event and that even though the Festival isn't the same, it should go ahead. LaRussa referred to the competitive challenge noted and acknowledged that he is in favor of the change. Taylor expressed her support and suggested that the Chamber bring back just one element from past festivals to be able to include a nostalgic element. Schneemann said many enjoyed the festival, particularly the Fido Fest, and encouraged the GFCC to evolve the event.

Move to adopt resolution approving the 2019 Founders Festival which includes approving event locations, authorizing road closures and applications for temporary liquor licenses. **

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	LaRussa, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Bowman, Mayor Pro Tem
ROLL CALL:	Bowman, Galvin, LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor

5. Consideration to Adopt Oakwood Cemetery Crypt Lot Fees

Superintendent Eudy presented the history of the development of proposed crypt lots.

Bowman questioned whether any prior interest had been expressed and whether the costs are competitive. LaRussa cited cemetery trends for multiple use and Eudy explained that was not the intent of this project. Schneemann asked why the suggested fees are below market value for similar offerings. He suggested that the costs be made comparable with other communities that have comparable crypts.

Murphy suggested Administration could do more research and bring it back with adjusted fees. Schneemann directed him to do so for the next Council meeting.

6. Council Liaison Updates on Boards and Commissions

Schneemann requested that those serving as appointed members of Boards and Commissions give a synopsis of their groups' work. Each council member summarized current projects and concerns of each group they are associated with.

Within Galvin's discourse on the Roads Committee Schneemann directed Murphy to look at upcoming roads projects and what committee to go through before Capital Improvement Planning begins.

7. First Reading of Proposed Pedestrian Crosswalk Ordinance

City Manager Murphy explained why this topic was referred to as a first reading again and City Attorney Saarela explained the changes made to the original offering. LaRussa questioned what he perceived as vague language about crossing. He asked for clarification to tighten up the intent of the language. Taylor cited a prior conversation with Director Demers about perceived intent of pedestrians and indicated that she would like to see pedestrian intent indicated by them stepping into the crosswalk. Bowman liked the change from yield to stop. Schneemann asked that the ordinance be weighted heavily toward pedestrian safety. He would like not only strong crosswalk rules but strong enforcement. Discussion ensued about not being able to regulate or determine intent. Saarela suggested not trying to regulate intent, but more indicate physical placement as demonstrated intent. Murphy messaged Demers and he indicated that he would prefer to retain the language as presented to make enforcement more effective.

LaRussa suggested adding “crossing or who have started to cross” to the description. Schneemann disagreed and suggested that this language is just like what is in the present ordinance. He suggested counsel look at Suttons Bay crossing ordinances.

Move to approve first reading of amendment to Chapter 31, “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Article II, “Motor Vehicle And Uniform Traffic Codes,” Division 2, “Uniform Traffic Code,” of the City Of Farmington Code Of Ordinances to add Section 31-55, “Pedestrians; Right-of-way in Crosswalk”

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

8. Discuss Renting Riley Park Ice Rink

City Manager Murphy stated that requests have been made to rent out the Riley Park Ice Rink for private events. He stated that it would only be for off peak hours and requested that Council consider allowing rental for possible revenue gains which would help to offset costs. Council questioned why this was not already allowed, and were reminded that only public events are allowed at Riley Park. Saarela suggested that this would be an amendment to the Special Event Policy. Bowman suggested a deposit be considered and that liability should be considered. Galvin asked about what rate is being considered. Discussion ensued about how the rules might apply. Galvin asked administration to look at the charges of similar venues.

9. Schedule Date for Board and Commission Re-Appointment Interviews

Murphy explained that term expiration of members on certain boards has already been reached and that plans should be made to reengage and interview board and commission members for re-appointment. Discussion followed about process and timing. Council directed Murphy to plan at least two meetings in January through mid-March to accomplish necessary interviews.

10. Other Business

LaRussa asked for help about emails from GWLA Water Partnership. Saarela stated that she attends these meetings and that Public Service Superintendents are involved. LaRussa also expressed concern about Council attendance or coverage at an upcoming Michigan Municipal League seminar on the passing of Proposal 1. Taylor stated she would be attending.

11. Council Comment

No Council Comment was heard.

12. Adjournment

Move to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Steve Schneemann, Mayor

Mary Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: December 17, 2018

**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.