

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
SPECIAL JOINT STUDY SESSION MEETING
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL AND
BROADBAND TASK FORCE
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
MARCH 25, 2019

The special joint study session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council, Farmington City Council and Broadband Task Force was called to order by Mayor Massey at 6:04pm.

Farmington Hills Council Members Present: Bridges, Bruce, Knol, Lerner, Massey, Rich and Steckloff

Farmington Council Members Present: Bowman, Galvin, LaRussa, Schneemann and Taylor

Broadband Task Force Members Present: LaRussa, Lerner, Li and Seals

Members Absent: Aaron Paluzzi and Dan Paulson from the Broadband Task Force

Others Present: City Managers Boyer and Murphy; City Clerks Smith and Mullison, Assistant City Manager Mekjian, Director of Central Services Monico and City Attorneys Joppich and Schultz; John LaMacchia, Michigan Municipal League and representatives from 123Net and Charter Communications

BROADBAND TASK FORCE UPDATE

Richard Lerner and Joe LaRussa, City Council members and members of the Broadband Task Force, explained what municipal broadband was, why fiber optic is important and current broadband options for the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. They reviewed existing systems and discussed various business models for building a municipal fiber network and for operating a municipal broadband network and outlined potential costs to homeowners where available.

Recommendations from the Task Force moving forwarding included:

- Asking both Farmington and Farmington Hills to adopt resolutions supporting moving forward with developing a plan for a municipal broadband infrastructure program that would include broadband development as a long-term CIP program
- Review current ordinances and administrative rules and revise as needed to formalize broadband-friendly policies and standards
- Work with legislators to insure that the state does not impose restrictions on bid process or local control of municipal broadband infrastructure
- Pursue relevant alliances with other governmental entities
- Retain a municipal broadband consultant to assist in the development of a plan
- Identify customers in close proximity to fiber backbone with interest in becoming first to connect
- Develop a mid mile and last mile investment framework to facilitate development

Mayor Schneemann thanked the Task Force for their hard work. He excused the Farmington Council and staff at this time to return to their municipality for their regular meeting.

Discussion was held on the potential issues mentioned with meeting the terms of the Public Act. John LaMacchia, MML, explained that the discussion is about the expansion of broadband and providing better service but one perception issue is why let the public sector compete with the private sector. He stated that he feels many communities want to review this option but need the leadership to do so. He noted that the City of Holland gained support from the entire community by discussing the void in available service.

It was suggested that if this is reviewed further to also explore how service could be provided to all families including those that may be struggling financially.

Councilmember Lerner discussed the technology required for the installation and noted that the Committee members have taken the issue as far as they can and to take the next steps would require a professional consultant.

ADJOURNMENT

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:26pm

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk