

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER
APRIL 8, 2024 – 7:30 PM

The regular session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Bridges at 7:31pm.

Council Members Present: Aldred, Boleware, Bridges, Bruce, Dwyer and Knol

Council Members Absent: Rich

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Lindahl, Assistant City Manager Mondora, Directors Brockway, Harvey, Kettler-Schmult, Rushlow and Schnackel, Police Chief King, and City Attorney Joppich

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Angie Smith, resident and Farmington Public Schools Board member, led the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem provided the following message:

Good evening community members – thank you for joining us this evening. To those observing Ramadan, Ramadan Kareem.

The City recognizes and appreciates the desire of those observing Ramadan and we want to ensure that community members who wish to participate in tonight’s public comment are able to both share their concerns and break their fast.

We are also aware of an effort to hold a second outdoor iftar near City Hall. Typically, this type of gathering is not permitted in the area in which the group set up ahead of the last council meeting, as this serves as the main entranceway to City Hall and is an access point during emergencies.

However, City Manager Gary Mekjian has asked City staff to designate an area near City Hall for the potluck this evening that will allow for a safe gathering and ensure unimpeded access to all attending the Council meeting.

Further, City Council has implemented a change, moving public comment to the end of the meeting.

The intent for these arrangements is to allow time for those observing Ramadan to participate in public comment, following iftar and evening prayer.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA

MOTION by Dwyer, support by Boleware, to approve the agenda as published.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS FROM CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS

WALLED LAKE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS BOND PROPOSAL PRESENTATION

Julie Omer, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, provided a brief overview of the bond proposal on the upcoming May 7, 2024 Special Election ballot. She noted that the bond is designed to provide significant upgrade and renovations at every school throughout the district with no additional costs to taxpayers.

INTRODUCTION OF JACOB RUSHLOW, NEW DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES

City Manager Mekjian introduced the new Director of Public Services Jacob Rushlow, noting that he brings more than 23 years of engineering and public services expertise gained in both the public and private sectors, most recently serving as assistant director of public works for the City of Livonia. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Toledo and is a graduate of the Michigan Public Service Institute at Central Michigan University.

Director Rushlow stated that he looks forward to working with council and serving this community.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION PRESENTATION: UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Brian Golden of the Historical Commission provided a presentation on the Underground Railroad exhibit featuring panels that highlight the history of the underground railroad in Oakland County, the panels will be on display at Farmington Hills City Hall, for the month of April.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Kathie Brown and Alex Clar of the Beautification Commission provided Council with the 2023 Annual Report.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Bruce, support by Boleware, to approve the consent agenda as read.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, AND KNOL

Nays: NONE

Absent: RICH

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Councilmember comments or announcements.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

The City Manager provided the following update:

- Thanked staff for the work done for the State of the County Address at The Hawk, it was a great event
- Acknowledged the Firefighters that delivered a baby in the passenger seat of a car
- Congratulated Police Chief King on his appointment to the Governors Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE C-2-2024 AMENDING THE FARMINGTON HILLS CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 17, "NUISANCES," ARTICLE VII "PERFORMANCE STANDARDS," SECTION 17-101, "NOISE," FOR PURPOSES OF ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION 17-101(E)(2) TO PROHIBIT NOISE, THAT IS AUDIBLE ON ADJACENT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY, EMANATING FROM THE ENGINE OF ANY PARKED OR STANDING COMMERCIAL TRUCK OR TRACTOR TRAILER WHILE LOADING OR UNLOADING, OR WHILE WAITING TO LOAD OR UNLOAD, ITS CARGO, IF SUCH VEHICLE IS PARKED OR STANDING FOR SUCH PURPOSES FOR A PERIOD OF MORE THAN TWENTY MINUTES; AND APPROVAL OF SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION.

Director of Planning and Community Development, Charmaine Kettler-Schmult, explained that this ordinance was before Council at their last meeting and tonight it is before them for a second reading.

MOTION by Boleware, support by Aldred, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the ENACTMENT of Ordinance C-2-24 amending the Farmington Hills Code of Ordinances, Chapter 17, "Nuisances," Article VII "Performance Standards," Section 17-101, "Noise," for purposes of adding a new subsection 17-101(e)(2) to prohibit noise, that is audible on adjacent residential property, emanating from the engine of any parked or standing commercial truck or tractor trailer while loading or unloading, or while waiting to load or unload, its cargo, if such vehicle is parked or standing for such purposes for a period of more than twenty minutes; and approval of summary for publication.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, AND KNOL
Nays: NONE
Absent: RICH
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE C-3-2024 AMENDING THE FARMINGTON HILLS CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 18, "OFFENSES," ARTICLE V "OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC PEACE," FOR PURPOSES OF REPEALING SECTION 18-165, "LOADING OR UNLOADING OF TRUCKS;" AND APPROVAL OF SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION.

Director Kettler-Schmult explained that this ordinance was before Council at their last meeting and tonight it is before them for a second reading.

MOTION by Knol, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the ENACTMENT of Ordinance C-3-2024 amending the Farmington Hills Code of Ordinances, Chapter 18, "Offenses," Article V "Offenses Against Public Peace," for purposes of repealing Section 18-165, "Loading or Unloading of Trucks;" and approval of summary for publication.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, AND KNOL
Nays: NONE
Absent: RICH

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE C-4-2024 TO AUTHORIZE THE CONVEYANCE OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY, PARCEL 22-23-02-153-009 TO EVERALD SMALL; AND APPROVAL OF SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION.

Director of Economic Development, Cristia Brockway, explained that this ordinance was before Council at their last meeting and tonight it is before them for a second reading.

MOTION by Aldred, support by Dwyer, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the ENACTMENT of Ordinance C-4-2024 to authorize the conveyance of certain property, parcel 22-23-02-153-009 to Everald Small, an individual; and approval of summary for publication.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, AND KNOL

Nays: NONE

Absent: RICH

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

MOTION by Knol, support by Bruce, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby confirms the Mayor's recommendation to appoint the following individuals to various City Boards and Commissions:

Commission on Community Health

	Length of Term:	Term ending:
Yvette Stines	3 Years	February 1, 2027

Yvette will fill the regular vacancy left by Cheryl Patel who resigned.

Economic Development Corporation

	Length of Term:	Term ending:
Vivianne Rousseau	Unexpired Term	February 1, 2027

Vivianne will fill the regular vacancy left by Susan Arlin who resigned in 2024.

	Length of Term:	Term ending:
Cassie Clark	Unexpired Term	February 1, 2029

Cassie will fill the regular vacancy left by Lew Cantor who resigned in 2024.

Committee to Increase Voter Participation

	Length of Term:	Term ending:
Jim Molnar	Unexpired Term	February 1, 2027

Jim will fill the alternate vacancy.

Farmington Area Arts Commission

	Length of Term:	Term ending:
Craig Nowak	3 years	February 1, 2027

Craig will fill the regular vacancy left by Joy Gradin who resigned in 2022.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

CONSIDERATION OF SELECTION OF THE VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE VOTING DELEGATE FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SEMCOG).

Councilmember Boleware stated that she was confused as to why this item was on the agenda as she was appointed voting delegate for SEMCOG in January 2022 with no term limit, so she would like an explanation as to what the process is for appointments as delegates to SEMCOG.

Discussion was held on who currently holds the positions of voting delegate and alternate delegate, the process of selecting those positions, if a vote was necessary this evening and if it was a requirement that the position of alternate delegate be the mayor.

Attorney Joppich stated that if no action was taken this evening, Councilmember Boleware would remain voting delegate. He added that the bylaws of SEMCOG do not specify that either of these positions be filled by the mayor.

Discussion was held on postponing this item to a future meeting and it was consensus of Council to vote tonight.

Councilmember Bruce expressed his interest in the alternate position.

Mayor Pro Tem Bridges nominated Mayor Rich for the alternate position.

Motion by Councilmember Knol to close nominations for alternate delegate. Mayor Pro Tem Bridges declared the nominations closed.

A VOICE VOTE WAS CALLED ON THE ALTERNATE DELEGATE POSITION:

- COUNCILMEMBER BRUCE: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER AND KNOL
- MAYOR RICH: MAYOR PRO TEM BRIDGES

Attorney Joppich stated that Council previously approve Councilmember Boleware as voting delegate, however, Council could reaffirm that to make the record clear.

Councilmember Boleware expressed that she would like to be reaffirmed to the position of voting delegate and would also like to discuss the selection process for SEMCOG delegates at a future study session.

Motion by Councilmember Bruce to close nominations for voting delegate. Mayor Pro Tem Bridges declared the nominations closed.

A VOICE VOTE WAS CALLED ON THE VOTING DELEGATE POSITION:

- COUNCILMEMBER BOLEWARE: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER AND KNOL

Mayor Pro Tem Bridges stated for clarification purposes that the SEMCOG voting delegate would be Councilmember Boleware and the alternate delegate would be Councilmember Bruce.

CONSENT AGENDA

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE SALARY INCREASE REQUESTED BY THE CITY MANAGER IN FOLLOW-UP TO CLOSED SESSION REVIEW.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the salary increase requested by the City Manager in follow-up to closed session review.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, AND KNOL
Nays: NONE
Absent: RICH
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FOR THE FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY OUTDOOR FAMILY PARTY TO BE HELD ON JULY 29, 2024.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves a Special Event Permit for the Farmington Community Library Outdoor Family Party to be held on July 29, 2024 at the Farmington Community Library located at 32737 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- There will be plenty of parking for all attendees on the property
- The applicant is expecting approximately 500 participants
- There will be a designated area for the Petting Farm on location
- The applicant has not asked for assistance from the Police Department and there are no issues with emergency vehicle access
- A Farmington Hills Fire Department Ladder Truck will be on scene
- No parking within 20' of any tent
- Egress shall be maintained throughout the building
- Fire lanes shall not be blocked or restricted
- Event shall comply with minimum Fire Prevention Code requirements
- All applicable permits shall be applied for through the Building Department
- The insurance certificate will be updated prior to the event

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, AND KNOL
Nays: NONE
Absent: RICH
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE FAIRWAY HILLS DRIVE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO FONSON COMPANY, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$905,887.88. CMR 4-24-36

MOTION by Bruce, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Fairway Hills Drive Reconstruction Project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Fonson Company, Inc., in the amount of \$905,887.88, and;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED; the City Manager and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, AND KNOL
Nays: NONE
Absent: RICH
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE TRESTAIN ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO NAGLE PAVING COMPANY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$443,996.59. CMR 4-24-37

MOTION by Bruce, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Trestain Road Rehabilitation Project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Nagle Paving Company, in the amount of \$443,996.59, and;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED; the City Manager and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, AND KNOL
Nays: NONE
Absent: RICH
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR A SEASONAL PARKS LABORER.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves an employment request per Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Luke Saucedo as a Seasonal Parks Laborer for the Special Services Department. Luke is the son of Agnes Saucedo, who is employed as a Human Resources Aide for Human Resources.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, AND KNOL
Nays: NONE
Absent: RICH
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2024.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the special study session meeting minutes of March 18, 2024.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, AND KNOL
Nays: NONE
Absent: RICH
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2024.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the study session meeting minutes of March 25, 2024.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, AND KNOL
Nays: NONE
Absent: RICH
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2024.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the regular session meeting minutes of March 25, 2024.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, AND KNOL
Nays: NONE
Absent: RICH
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Angie Smith, Farmington Public Schools Board Member, thanked the City Council for their support and the City Manager for listening to learn and being supportive of the schools.

Pam Gerald, Farmington Hills, congratulated the Police Chief on his recent appointment to the Governor's committee. She mentioned that she is in the process of scheduling another Town Hall meeting with the Southfield and Farmington Hills Police Chiefs, and she spoke of her concerns with Homeowners Associations selective enforcement of rules.

Attorney Joppich stated that the general rule is that the city does not enforce Homeowner Association rules or restrictions, however, on some city applications there is notice that the applicant should check with their HOA prior to doing the work.

Paul Huyck, Farmington Hills, spoke of his time on the 2020 Visioning Committee and urged residents to take the deer management online survey that was put out by the DNR.

Keith Harris, Southfield, stated that he appreciates the professionalism of the Police Chief and City Council.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

The City Attorney report was received by Council.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Bruce, support by Knol, to adjourn the regular session City Council meeting at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Lindahl, City Clerk