

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
APRIL 24, 2017

The Study Session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Massey at 6:00pm.

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

Council Members Absent: Bruce

Others Present: City Manager Boyer, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Mekjian, Directors Gajda and Gardiner and City Attorney Joppich

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Director of Finance Dave Gajda reviewed the City's proposed 2017/18 budget with Council noting that the taxable value is increasing by 2.6% compared to FY 16/17. He mentioned that the city expects to continue to receive reimbursement from the State in FY 17/18 for the loss of personal property taxes due to the exemptions of the phased-out personal property to date. He noted that the city will be impacted for the second year in a row by the Headlee Millage Rollback in FY 17/18 in its Road, Parks and Recreation and Public Safety Millages. Mr. Gajda explained that although taxable value is projected to grow by 2-3% annually over the next six years, the limits on the property tax revenue growth due to the interaction of Headlee and Proposal A, will temper this improvement going forward and it is estimated that beginning in FY 20/21 the city's operating millage will be required to be rolled back.

Director Gajda discussed the FY 17/18 General Fund Revenue budget and breakdown of that budget by revenue source that is increasing by \$1,347,000 or 2.5% compared to FY 16/17. He noted that 66% of this fund is comprised of property taxes and state shared revenue. He also discussed the FY 17/18 General Fund Expenditure Budget and breakdown by Expenditure Functions/Departments that is proposed to be \$1,318,000 or 2.3% higher than FY 16/17. The proposed budget maintains City services along with a consistent support level for the City's Capital Improvement Program.

Director Gajda stated that the City's Assigned Fund Balance at June 30, 2018 is estimated to be \$14.9 million. Assignments are made primary for future capital improvements and future contributions to other city funds and the Employee's Pension and Retiree Health Care Systems. The Unassigned Fund Balance at June 30, 2018 is estimated to be \$13.2 million or 23% of the Total General Fund Expenditures. Mr. Gajda explained that the city will need to establish a Financial Forecasting Model to assist in continuing the positive General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance trend.

Director Gajda discussed the tax rate history and city-wide capital expenditures and expected revenue growth.

Discussion was held on several revenue growth scenarios in order for the city to maintain its target fund balance.

Councilmember Rich inquired about the pension and healthcare funds. Director Gajda responded that the city's health care is currently 100% funded and the pension is approximately 84% funded.

Councilmember Bridges questioned that given the expected decline in revenue what should the city consider as far as reductions in expenditures for this budget.

Mr. Gajda explained that the proposed budget as prepared maintains the level of service in the city and the real variable is what the city would contribute to capital projects. He noted that the city has not issued any debt for quite some time and they could do so with some of the proposed drain projects. He feels this option should be considered.

Mayor Massey thanked Director Gajda for the presentation and it was noted that the budget would be presented at a regular meeting for consideration by Council.

DISCUSSION ON DEER FEEDING

City Manager Boyer explained that there has been a lot of discussion on the deer population in the community and a survey was conducted. One suggestion was to ban deer feeding in the community and this was a measure that the city could take to help reduce the pattern of deer coming back to the area.

Councilmember Bridges inquired if this was the city's response to the survey conducted and if the survey showed there was an issue.

Mr. Boyer stated that this is one step in addressing the concern of the deer population and the survey did show that accidents were up slightly; but the community was split on whether they felt the deer population was a "problem" or not. He added that the city knows where the deer are and this is not only a city issue but a regional issue and why the city was hoping to get some direction from the DNR.

Mr. Bridges concurred with addressing this on a regional basis.

Councilmember Lerner stated that he feels there is an issue when people are taking it upon themselves to shoot deer in areas they should not. He also mentioned that there were 75 deer noted in 1 square mile.

Mr. Boyer added that the DNR approach is that disease will eventually control the population but the city does not feel that is an appropriate approach.

Mayor Massey clarified that the city is attempting to do something to help the situation that is within their control and a ban on deer feeding was discussed at the Council's goal session. A draft ordinance was provided to Council and staff would like to get some feedback on the proposed ordinance.

Attorney Joppich noted that the ordinance contains a provision for a warning for a first violation in order to provide education to the community. A subsequent violation would be a misdemeanor under the ordinance and consistent with other similar ordinances.

Mayor Massey added that the survey indicated that the majority of people favored a ban on deer feeding.

Councilmember Rich expressed concern with a violation being a misdemeanor and whether feeding of animals would rise to the level of a misdemeanor.

Attorney Joppich reiterated that this was included as it was consistent with other similar ordinances.

Councilmember Bridges commented that he does not have an issue with the proposed ordinance but would like to see some data to support that there is a problem in Farmington Hills with regard to the deer population so that he could support the ordinance.

Councilmember Knol felt that residents should not be feeding any wild animals as this disrupts the cycle of nature.

The consensus was to have the ordinance presented at a future regular Council meeting for consideration.

DISCUSSION ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Attorney Joppich explained the proposed ordinance is a draft based on the discussions held at the past several study sessions when this issue was discussed. He confirmed language in several sections as previously discussed and noted that some boards and commission were noted by reference in the ordinance as they were established under state law, a separate ordinance, etc.

Attorney Joppich mentioned that the One-Family Review Board was included in the ordinance for now but there have been discussion about including those functions within the Zoning Ordinances as part of a future amendment and if approved, this Board could be eliminated.

Councilmember Rich suggested extending the grace period to the end of the year – December 31, 2017, rather than a period of 6 months for implementation of the ordinance by the boards and commissions. She also inquired what assurances were in place that the Commission for Energy and Environmental Sustainability (CEES) was be included as a committee under the Parks and Recreation Commission as discussed.

Attorney Joppich noted that the previous minutes reflected that this would be handled administratively.

Mayor Massey suggested that this is also mentioned at the time when the Ordinance is introduced at a regular meeting.

Councilmember Bridges inquired if staff felt there would eventually be another cable commission between Farmington and Farmington Hills. City Manager Boyer stated that the two cities are only sharing PEG channels and are operating separate cable divisions and he does not believe there would be a joint commission in the future.

Mayor Massey noted that *Section 2-183. – Members; appointment* under the Citizens Corps Council for Emergency Preparedness should contain some of the same language as Section 2-173 with regard to joint commissions and where the members should come from.

Attorney Joppich confirmed that should be included.

The consensus was to have the ordinance presented at a future regular Council meeting for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT:

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk