

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING (VIA TELECONFERENCE)
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
OCTOBER 19, 2020 – 6:00PM

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

Council Members Present: Barnett, Boleware, Bridges, Knol, Newlin and Steckloff

Council Members Absent: Massey

Others Present: City Manager Boyer, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Mekjian, Directors Mondora, Monico, Randle, Schnackel and Seimer, and City Attorney Joppich

CITY MANAGER RECRUITMENT

City Manager Dave Boyer explained that staff is suggesting as an option to hire Michigan Municipal League (MML) to facilitate the search for a new City Manager due to his retirement.

City Attorney Joppich outlined the options available through Michigan Municipal League and mentioned that MML is willing to have a facilitator and contracts available for the next City Council meeting if that is the desire of City Council.

Discussion was held on the timing and need to move quickly on this matter but members also wanted to make sure they had time to hear from the facilitator.

Mayor Barnett suggested having the facilitator attend a study session meeting on October 26, 2020 to discuss the options with City Council and for the contract to be part of the regular agenda for consideration. She added that if City Council was not ready to take action at that time, the item could always be removed from the agenda.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Karen Mondora, Director of Public Services, provided a road construction update that included 2020 accomplishments, a road program recap and update on the city's overall road PASER ratings. She also discussed 2021 Major and Local Road Construction Projects.

Discussion was held on materials used and bidding process. Director Mondora indicated that staff relies upon Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) specifications that are annually updated based on best practices for regions and they consult with engineers who will assist in recommending the best material. She noted that material testing is also conducted throughout the project. For local road project, the city will bid out both asphalt and concrete and City Council awards the project.

ORDINANCE UPDATES

Attorney Joppich discussed proposed ordinance amendments with City Council that included amending:

- Chapter 12, "Fire Prevention and Protection" to add a Cost Recovery Review Board
- Chapter 6, "Animals," Article III "Dangerous Animals," amending the definition of "Dangerous Animal," adding a right of appeal to Circuit Court, requiring affidavits to confirm

death or transfer of location or ownership of dangerous animals, and clarifying other definitions and language.

- Chapter 17, “Nuisance,” Article II “Noxious Vegetation and Lawn Grass Growth Control” to add definitions for “shrub” and “shrubby”, replace civil penalty with civil infraction and require maintenance of shrubs and shrubby.

City Council discussed the proposed ordinance amendment to require the maintenance of shrubs and shrubby. Some concerns were expressed regarding the proposed height limitation before certain weeds would be addressed as this would not help the situation that one resident had with poison ivy growing from her neighbor’s lawn onto hers across the ground. Several Council members also felt that Item (d) on Page 2 is unenforceable and would agree with removing this requirement. This item would require homeowners to “trim all shrubs and shrubby on their property no less than one time per year such that all shrubs and shrubby on the property have a geometrical shape or represent the shape or form of a person, animal, or thing other than a natural growing untrimmed shrub”.

Staff suggested that the two ordinance amendments to add a Cost Recovery Board and to add and clarify language for Dangerous Animals are included on the next agenda for consideration of Introduction by City Council and that the amendment requiring the maintenance of shrubby should come back to another study session for further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk