

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
JUNE 25, 2018

The Study Session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Massey at 6:05pm.

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

Council Members Absent: None

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATE

City Planner Mark Stec reviewed the status of various commercial and residential projects/developments in the City with Council.

WINTER SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE

City Manager Boyer stated that this issue was previously discussed by City Council and Attorney Joppich has drafted several versions of an ordinance for discussion.

Mayor Massey stated that he would first like staff to provide an overview of the public sidewalks and then for Council to discuss the options provided to Council.

City Manager Boyer stated that there is approximately 110 miles of sidewalk along major roads, which has been the main focus of discussion and there are many bus stops and areas of residential backing to office.

Councilmember Knol commented that many other communities have ordinances that include a certain amount of snowfall as a requirement for shoveling sidewalks but in the draft ordinances provided she noticed that it indicates that this would be required in the event of a snow emergency.

City Manager Boyer responded that the City is different than a downtown where snow emergencies are typically called due to on-street parking so they may need change that language to include a specific amount of snowfall.

Mayor Massey commented that another way to address this issue is through education with the businesses rather than by way of an ordinance that would have to be enforced.

Attorney Joppich explained that the draft ordinances provided were purely for discussion purposes as there are many potential ways to address this issue. He stated that if the city decides to address the issue for specific areas and not city-wide, it is essentially treating others differently so the ordinances address the basis for singling out specific properties.

Councilmember Bruce inquired about liability. Attorney Joppich replied that standard liability would apply meaning that one could not make the situation worse or they may be liable.

Mayor Massey asked that City Council receive a copy of the previous ordinance and how that was applied.

Councilmember Rich requested color-coded maps to coincide with each option provided. She also inquired about what other communities are doing that were not provided on the list to Council that would be similar in size to Farmington Hills such as Troy and Southfield. Attorney Joppich indicated he would check on those other communities.

Discussion was held on school efforts regarding sidewalk maintenance and possible discussions with the Farmington Public Schools, limiting this to the business districts and educational efforts.

Mayor Massey also requested the number of complaints received on sidewalk maintenance as he feels this would be helpful in determining if they are trying to fix something that is not an issue.

Councilmember Bridges requested a copy of the school policy on sidewalk maintenance.

It was clarified that the maps Council would like should include bus routes, bus stops and business districts (showing the bus stops within the business districts).

ADJOURNMENT:

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk