

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING (VIA TELECONFERENCE)
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
August 24, 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, Massey, Newlin and Steckloff

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Boyer, City Clerk Smith, Director Gardiner and City Attorney Joppich

DISCUSSION ON PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ORDINANCES

Ed Gardiner, Director of Planning and Community Development, reviewed with City Council the city's property enforcement policies and procedures, typical enforcement categories and how sections of the city are assigned to inspectors. Director Gardiner also suggested several code amendments that his staff felt would be helpful in their enforcement efforts, including the following:

- Tarped vehicles may only be stored in a garage.
- No trash cans stored in front yard or any area viewed by street.
- Vehicles only allowed to be parked on a hard surface not grass.
- No pop-up tents/garages or related accessory structures for more than 60 days.
- Landscape in front yard must be maintained.

Concerns expressed by members of Council included:

- The reach and frequency of inspections
- The need for stronger enforcement, particularly with blight (overflowing charity bins, garbage, potholes in parking lots, overgrown shrubs and falling fences, etc)
- A resident who has had issues with poison ivy growing into her yard from her neighbor's yard

Council questioned the need for additional inspectors to keep up on code enforcement.

A breakdown of enforcement as to whether it was self-initiated by a city inspector or was initiated through a complaint was requested of staff.

Director Gardiner indicated that city was not providing for code enforcement during COVID and when city hall was closed, but his department has been actively providing enforcement since re-opening. He touched on the use of tablets in the field that helps with real time entry of information and allows for more efficiency with paperwork. Director Gardiner stated that the overflowing charity bins are already being addressed through the current ordinance.

The following was requested of staff:

- Contacting the resident who had the issue of poison ivy in her yard
- Addressing the overflowing donation bins at 12 Mile and Farmington Roads
- Comprehensive approach to code enforcement

The issue of grow operations in homes was also discussed.

Mayor Barnett suggested a study session on the issue and reviewing a possible zoning code amendment that would allow grow operations in only certain areas of the city.

It was indicated that some of the suggested amendments by staff mentioned by Director Gardiner could be too restrictive on areas of the community and there were concerns with enforceability.

Based on discussions during the study session, City Manager Boyer stated that the code enforcement division would focus on strong enforcement of current ordinances and that the areas of concern would be closely monitored. A study session on grow operations and possible zoning code amendment would be scheduled in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:13PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk