

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL - COMMUNITY ROOM
APRIL 25, 2022 – 6:00PM

The study session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Barnett at 6:03pm.

Council Members Present: Barnett, Boleware, Bridges, Bruce, Knol Massey and Newlin

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Valentine, Police Chief King and City Attorney Joppich

AMENDMENTS TO SMOKING LOUNGE ORDINANCE

City Attorney Joppich mentioned that at the last City Council study session, Police Chief King provided an overview of occurrences at area Hookah lounges that included statistics and details; and at that time City Council provided staff with some direction on proposed amendments to the current smoking lounge ordinance.

Attorney Joppich reviewed the proposed amendments to the ordinance with Council pointing out that in order to make significant changes to any ordinance there needs to be good rationale for doing so. He stated that much of that has been summarized in the purpose and intent paragraph to include specifics regarding statistics and incidents so it is clear as to why these amendments were made.

The following suggestion was made:

- Page 1, 8th sentence – suggested that the word “rate” is changed to “number” or “rash”

Discussion was held on Page 8, Paragraph (h) regarding the ability to deny a license on the basis of certain incidents having occurred within a 12-month period. Council consensus was the wording was fine as written since it was a reason that staff may deny a license and there was no requirement for staff to deny a license on that basis.

Attorney Joppich pointed out that the proposed amendments would require a special permit to allow for the smoking of hookah within the smoking lounge establishment and with such permit, additional conditions, which he reviewed with Council.

Considerable discussion was held on the hours of operation in light of the time that the majority of incidents occur as reported by the Police Department, hours of operation for hookah lounges in other communities and whether communities have been sued with regard to imposed hours of operation. City Attorney Joppich confirmed he could find no cases where communities had been sued for that reason.

Discussion was held on aggressive enforcement by other communities and the manpower and time that this would take. It was suggested that the city require establishments to have security guards with wands to scan for weapons. Chief King assured Council that his department would actively enforce the ordinance as long as they had the backing of City Council to do so but cautioned that requiring security guards to scan for weapons could potentially create other issues.

Discussion continued on the hours of operation and the general consensus of Council was for all smoking lounges to close at 11pm.

City Council also requested more enforcement to provide safety for residents, other patrons and surrounding business owners.

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk