

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
AUGUST 27, 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, Knol, Lerner, Massey, Rich and Steckloff

Council Members Absent: Bruce

Others Present: City Manager Boyer, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Mekjian, Director Mondora and City Attorney Joppich

WINTER MAINTENANCE OF SIDEWALKS

City Manager Boyer explained that based on previous discussions on this issue, staff focused on areas where the majority of businesses were located along major bus routes. He noted that the challenge is that in some areas both sides of the street are not business so there would be some cost to the city to maintain the residential portions in the identified areas. He stated that Attorney Joppich has outlined two approaches to address winter sidewalk maintenance; one by way of resolution and the other would be to adopt an ordinance. Staff is also seeking direction from Council on amount of snow fall to include in either the resolution or ordinance.

Attorney Joppich explained that the ordinance would mandate the areas identified to do winter sidewalk maintenance and the resolution would establish a voluntary compliance program encouraging businesses in those areas to participate. He reviewed the provisions of both the ordinance and resolution with Council and pointed out that both contained a purpose or explanation for treating the designated areas differently than other areas of the city and focused on bus routes and public health, safety and welfare. He stated that staff was seeking further direction on the amount of snow and/or ice accumulation required to trigger the program. He mentioned that both the ordinance and resolution also included that property owners are asked to remove the snow and ice within 48 hours after the end of each snow and/or ice accumulation.

Council reviewed both the ordinance and resolution and the consensus was that they preferred the resolution at this time to try and encourage businesses to comply with the winter road maintenance and concurred that the accumulation to trigger the program should be 4 inches the same criteria the city uses to plow local roads and that businesses should be asked to comply within 48 hours after the end of each snow and/or ice accumulation.

It was noted that the resolution would be provided to all businesses in the area along with a letter.

Council requested the following:

- Costs for the city to maintain sidewalks abutting residential portions in the designated areas
- A copy of the resolution be provided to SMART to encourage them to maintain the areas near the bus stops that are under their control
- Information on the program be provided to the Chamber of Commerce to include in their e-newsletter

- To add the following language (as underlined) to the 2nd to last paragraph of the resolution:
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, after the 2018-2019 winter season and each subsequent winter season, City Council intends to review the report under (7) above and evaluate the effectiveness of this Program . . .

DPW EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION

Karen Mondora, Director of Public Services, explained that the Department of Public Works has transitioned to swap loader vehicles that have 1 chassis but can accommodate different front loaders, which provides the Department more flexibility and is more cost effective.

A short video was presented on how the vehicles work and City Council and staff went outside to view some of the vehicles in person.

ADJOURNMENT:

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk