

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER
APRIL 14, 2025 – 7:30 PM

The regular session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Rich at 7:31PM.

Council Members Present: Aldred, Boleware, Bruce, Dwyer, Knol, and Rich

Council Members Absent: Bridges

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian; Assistant City Manager Mondora; City Clerk Lindahl; Directors Aranowski, Brockway, Kettler-Schmult, Rushlow, and Schnackel, and City Attorney Joppich

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Betty Burrell, who celebrated her 100th birthday on March 12, 2025.

Mayor Rich offered the following comments regarding Betty Burrell:

“On this milestone birthday we want to thank you for being a valued member of the Farmington Hills community. Your presence and contributions over the years have helped make Farmington Hills the wonderful place it is today, and we are so grateful that you chose to raise your children in Farmington Hills and call the city home since the 1960s. You also helped shape the lives of countless youth from Farmington Hills, providing safe activities like creating a skating rink in your backyard and volunteering as a Girl Scout leader. And by the way, Betty was a Rosie the Riveter for real.

“Betty continues her love for bowling by bowling in two leagues each week and being a member of the Women's Bowling Association, USBC, all with an amazing average of 121. I met her on one of her league events and watched her bowl a 130. Amazing!

“Our city thrives because of residents like Betty who share kindness and dedication with everyone around them. Your role in shaping the character of Farmington Hills is so deeply appreciated.

“We hope that your special day and this year ahead brings you joy, laughter, and time spent with family and friends. May the year ahead be filled with health, happiness, and wonderful memories. Once again, happy birthday and thank you for being such a cherished part of our Farmington Hills community.”

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA

MOTION by Dwyer, support by Boleware, to approve the agenda as published with the removal of item #6.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

The following proclamation was read by Councilmember Boleware and accepted by Farmington Community Library Director Kelley Siegrist. Others present included FLC Board President Ernie McClellan, Jr., Treasurer Kathie Brown, Trustee Sharon Snodgrass, and Trustee Steven Snead. Mr. McClellan offered remarks regarding the breadth of current library programs and invited everyone to visit the library.

**PROCLAMATION
In Recognition of National Library Week
April 2025**

- WHEREAS,** libraries spark creativity, fuel imagination, and inspire lifelong learning, offering a space where individuals of all ages can explore new ideas and be drawn to new possibilities; and,
- WHEREAS,** libraries serve as vibrant community hubs, connecting people with knowledge, technology, and resources while fostering civic engagement, critical thinking, and lifelong learning; and,
- WHEREAS,** libraries provide free and equitable access to books, digital tools, and programming, ensuring that all individuals—regardless of background—have the support they need to learn, connect, and thrive; and,
- WHEREAS,** libraries partner with schools, businesses, and organizations, connecting the dots to maximize resources, increase efficiency, and expand access to essential services, strengthening the entire community; and,
- WHEREAS,** libraries empower job seekers, entrepreneurs, and lifelong learners by providing access to resources, training, and opportunities that support career growth and economic success; and,
- WHEREAS,** libraries nurture young minds through story times, STEAM programs, and literacy initiatives, fostering a lifelong love of learning; and,
- WHEREAS,** libraries protect the right to read, think, and explore without censorship, standing as champions of intellectual freedom and free expression; and,
- WHEREAS,** dedicated librarians and library workers provide welcoming spaces that inspire discovery, collaboration, and creativity for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Theresa Rich, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim that the library is an essential part of Farmington Hills, even as National Library Week ends. I encourage all residents to visit the

Farmington Community Library throughout the year to explore its resources and celebrate all the ways that the library draws us together as a community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS FROM CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS

There were no announcements/presentations.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Rich acknowledged emails received regarding deer population management in the City.

Mayor Rich also acknowledged an invitation to Council from the Jain Society of Greater Detroit to attend an event marking Mahavir Janm Kalyanak.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce, to approve the consent agenda items #7 through #21 as read by Mayor Pro Tem Dwyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

MOTION by Boleware, support by Knol, to approve the consent agenda items #22 & #23 as read by Mayor Pro Tem Dwyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: BOLEWARE

MOTION CARRIED 5-1.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no consent agenda items for discussion.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Rich stated that she attended a meeting with mayors from across Michigan as part of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. She reported that a bipartisan group of 225 mayors from across the country had sent a letter to congressional leadership outlining key priorities intended to strengthen federal-local partnerships and address critical issues. These priorities included the preservation of tax-exempt municipal bonds and continued funding for programs such as Meals on Wheels. Mayor Rich indicated she would provide a copy of the letter to the Council.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

City Manager Mekjian reported that the Costick swim pool is closed until further notice due to a mechanical failure. The part is on order.

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) 2025-2026 PROJECTED USE OF FUNDS. CMR 4-25-50

Community Development and Special Projects Coordinator Emmanuel presented the proposed use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the 2025-2026 program year. The presentation as part of the federally required public process for the City's annual action plan.

Notice of the hearing and 30-day public comment period was published in the *Oakland Press* and posted on the City's website and social media platforms.

All CDBG expenditures benefit low and moderate income persons as defined by HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development). Income limits and eligible funding areas are determined annually by HUD.

While HUD has not yet issued the final allocation for 2025-2026, the City anticipates receiving the same funding as the previous year, estimated at \$365,398. Additionally, approximately \$50,000 in program income is expected from the repayment of home repair loans, bringing the total projected budget to \$415,398.

Proposed PY2025-26 Budget:

Housing Rehabilitation: \$312,898

This includes home repairs for approximately 17 existing single-family homes, along with staff salaries, fringe benefits, and administrative costs related to rehabilitation.

Public Services – \$42,500

In compliance with HUD's 15% cap on public service expenditures, funding will support nonprofit organizations classified as public service providers, including South Oakland Shelter (operating as Lighthouse), Haven, Cares, and Common Ground.

Program Administration – \$60,000

This is within HUD's 20% administrative cap and covers staff salaries and fringe benefits, legal notices, printing, auditing services, office supplies, and financial support for the Fair Housing Center of Metro Detroit.

Public Hearing:

Mayor Rich opened the public hearing . No members of the public indicated they wished to speak, and Mayor Rich closed the public hearing and brought the matter back to Council for discussion and/or action.

MOTION by Aldred, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Community Development Block Grant Program Year 2025-2026 budget to include: 1) \$312,898 for Housing Rehabilitation, 2) \$42,500 for Public Services activities, and 3) \$60,000 for Program Administration. Any change in funding amount will be reflected in an adjustment to the Housing Rehabilitation activity; and

FURTHER RESOLVES that the City Manager be authorized to prepare and submit an application for Community Development Block Grant funds to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) within sixty days of the date allocations are announced but no later than August 16, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES C-2-2025 AND C-3-2025 TO AUTHORIZE THE CONVEYANCE OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY, PARCELS 22-23-34-408-003 (VACANT LAND) AND 22-23-408-008 (VACANT LAND), TO CLAUDIO RODRIGO AGUILERA QUEZADA AND LUISA NAYELI CRUZ; AND SUMMARIES FOR PUBLICATION. CMR 4-25-51

Director of Economic Development Brockway presented this request for approval of the two ordinances as described authorizing the conveyance of two City-owned parcels of vacant land to Mr. Claudio Rodrigo Aguilera Quezada and Mrs. Luisa Nayeli Cruz. The first reading of the ordinances took place at the March 24th City Council meeting. The properties are each proposed to be sold for \$5,000. Deposits for each parcel have been received, and the City Attorney's Office has drafted the necessary sale documents. Upon Council's approval, the purchasers will proceed to closing and will combine the acquired lots with their existing residential parcels.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Aldred, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the second reading and adoption of Ordinance Nos. C-2-2025 and C-3-2025 authorizing the conveyance of Parcel Nos. 22-23-34-408-008 and 22-23-34-408-003 to Claudio Rodrigo Aguilera Quezada and Luisa Nayeli Cruz for the sum of \$10,000, and authorizes the City Manager to sign the quit claim deeds and any other documents necessary for closing and conveying said properties to Claudio Rodrigo Aguilera Quezada and Luisa Nayeli Cruz, conditioned upon and subject to compliance with the terms of the Purchase Agreement between Claudio Rodrigo Aguilera Quezada and Luisa Nayeli Cruz and the City.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: BRIDGES

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

TRANSMITTAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2025/2026 - 2030/2031 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN. CMR 4-25-52

Director of Planning and Community Development Kettler-Schmult presented the formal transmittal of the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for fiscal years 2025/2026 through 2030/2031, as required by the City Charter. The CIP had been reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission at its March 20, 2025 meeting. The transmittal was timed to coincide with preparations for the upcoming budget cycle, ensuring that Council has the plan in advance for review and integration into the budgeting process.

Council Member Aldred expressed appreciation for the CIP, noting its value in outlining a comprehensive, staged approach to capital investment across various departments, including public works, roads, and other major expenditures. He emphasized the importance of this long-term planning tool in informing the budget process. He reiterated a concern previously raised regarding the adequacy of funding for playground structures and playground accessibility improvements, stating that current allocations fall short of what is needed for the City's children and families.

Mayor Rich agreed with Council Member Aldred's concerns regarding the level of funding dedicated to playground structures, particularly for accessibility improvements. This issue would be addressed further during budget discussions and the Mayor requested that City Manager Mekjian be prepared for further discussion on this matter.

Mayor Pro Tem Dwyer commented on the length and complexity of the CIP, noting that at 56 pages, it would not be possible to review the document in detail during tonight's meeting. He suggested and reserved the possibility of scheduling a future study session to allow Council to thoroughly review and discuss the CIP, similar to the process undertaken by the Planning Commission.

MOTION by Aldred, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby accept the 2025/2026 – 2030/2031 Capital Improvements Plan.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

RECOMMENDED ACCEPTANCE OF BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION 2024 ANNUAL REPORT. CMR 4-25-53

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby receives and files the Beautification Commission 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Goals.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: BRIDGES

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF THE GATEWAY LANDSCAPING PROJECT AT ORCHARD LAKE ROAD AND THE I-696 INTERCHANGE TO RELIABLE LANDSCAPING, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,065,920.75, AND A CONTINGENCY OF \$110,000 FOR UNFORESEEN CHANGES AT THE CITY'S DISCRETION. CMR 4-25-54

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Gateway Landscaping project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Reliable Landscaping, Inc. of Canton, MI, in the amount of \$1,065,920.75, and a contingency of \$110,000 be approved for unforeseen changes at the city's discretion, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Manager and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE ELMHURST ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO FLORENCE CEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$707,504.55. CMR 4-25-55

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Elmhurst Road Reconstruction Project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Florence Cement of Shelby Township, Michigan, in the amount of \$707,504.55, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Manager and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE GRAMERCY COURT ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO GREAT LAKES CONTRACTING SOLUTIONS, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$690,731.87. CMR 4-25-56

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Gramercy Court Road Reconstruction Project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Great Lakes Contracting Solutions, LLC of Waterford, Michigan, in the amount of \$690,731.87, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Manager and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE HALSTED ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO MARK ANTHONY CONTRACTING, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,255,957.62. CMR 4-25-57

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Halsted Road Reconstruction Project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Mark Anthony Contracting, Inc. of Milford, MI in the amount of \$4,255,957.62, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Manager and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR THE CONCRETE REPLACEMENT, CATCH BASIN REHABILITATION AND SUMP PUMP CONNECTION PROGRAM TO OLSON CEMENT WORK, INC. IN THE APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF \$782,962.50 FOR A ONE (1) YEAR TERM WITH OPTIONAL RENEWALS. CMR 4-25-58

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to award the bid for the Concrete Replacement, Catch Basin Rehabilitation and Sump Pump Connection Program to Olson Cement Work, Inc. for a one (1) year term in the approximate amount of \$782,962.50 with four (4) additional one (1) year renewal options at a 3.5% increase per year not to exceed the annually budgeted amount, beginning in year two (2), upon mutual consent of the City and vendor.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A QUIT CLAIM DEED TO SFO PARTNERS LLC TRANSFERRING OWNERSHIP OF RIGHT-OF-WAY. CMR 4-25-59

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the execution and delivery of the quit claim deed to SFO Partners LLC to clear the title issue and allow for the proper sequencing of ownership transfer for the proposed road right-of-way. This will ensure that the City only accepts the right-of-way after all required infrastructure improvements have been completed and approved.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR A CONCESSIONS ATTENDANT. CMR 4-25-60

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves an employment request per Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Alexa Bailey as a Concessions Attendant, who is related to an employee of the City, Stan Bailey, who works in the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR A YOUTH CENTER SITE SUPERVISOR. CMR 4-25-61

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves an employment request per Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Julia Lincourt as a Youth Center Site Supervisor, who is related to an employee of the City, Olivia Lincourt, who is a Camp Counselor for Special Services.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR AN ICE ARENA ATTENDANT. CMR 4-25-62

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves an employment request per Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Luke Combs as an Ice Arena Attendant, who is related to an employee of the City, Sheri Combs, who is a Skating Director for Special Services.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR TWO LIFEGUARDS. CMR 4-25-63 AND CMR 4-25-64

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves an employment request per Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Adam Saganski as a Lifeguard, who is related to an employee of the City, Ivy-Elizabeth Saganski, who is a Lifeguard for Special Services.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves an employment request per Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Cooper Bishop as a Lifeguard, who is related to an employee of the City, Jace Bishop, who is a Lifeguard for Special Services.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR A CAMP INSTRUCTOR. CMR 4-25-65

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves an employment request per Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Alexander Kelly as a Camp Instructor, who is related to an employee of the City, Elizabeth Kelly, who is an employee in the Recreation Division of Special Services.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR A GUEST SERVICES COORDINATOR. CMR 4-25-66

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves an employment request per Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Amber Warju as a Guest Services Coordinator, who is related to an employee of the City, Nathalia Damasceno, who is a Tech in the Makerspace for Special Services.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR A BUILDING ATTENDANT/ZAMBONI DRIVER. CMR 4-25-67

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves an employment request per Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Gavin Sibley as a Building Attendant/Zamboni Driver, who is related to an employee of the City, Michele Sibley, who is a On-Ice Skating Coach for Special Services.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: BRIDGES
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF ONE E35 R2-SERIES BOBCAT COMPACT EXCAVATOR FOR FARMINGTON HILLS PARKS AND GOLF MAINTENANCE FROM DOOSAN BOBCAT NORTH AMERICA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$58,530.64. CMR 4-25-68

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$58,530.64 for one (1) E35 R2-Series Bobcat Compact Excavator, to Doosan Bobcat North America and to take delivery of the equipment via Carleton Bobcat of Motor City as an authorized dealer.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: BRIDGES

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2025.

MOTION by Boleware, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council study session meeting minutes of March 24, 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: BRIDGES

Abstentions: BOLEWARE

MOTION CARRIED 5-1.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2025.

MOTION by Boleware, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council study session meeting minutes of March 24, 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: BRIDGES

Abstentions: BOLEWARE

MOTION CARRIED 5-1.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Karen Peper confirmed that her email sent earlier today had been received by City Council.

Robert Tarakis, Holly Hill Drive, spoke on behalf of himself and neighboring residents regarding the City's changeable illuminated sign along 11 Mile Road. The sign's constant scrolling messages, abrupt color changes, and fluctuating brightness levels create a persistent and avoidable disturbance, particularly at night. The sign's illumination intrudes into nearby homes, disrupting residents' sleep and potentially impacting property values. Despite some City efforts to reduce brightness, the improvements have been minimal, and repeated requests to have the sign turned off from dusk to dawn have been denied. He submitted videos demonstrating the sign's impact from his and neighbors' perspectives and urged the Council to reconsider turning off the sign during overnight hours when traffic along 11 Mile is reduced.

City Manager Mekjian apologized for the disruption caused by the sign and assured Mr. Tarakis that the City will revisit this issue.

Thomas Progar, Flanders Street, opposed deer culling. He claimed that such efforts often fail to produce long-term reductions in deer populations, as seen in cities like Stevens Point, Wisconsin. He said that culling often requires ongoing, costly efforts with little success. However, if culls were approved, he suggested sharpshooters should be used to prioritize public safety. On the other hand, he argued that addressing distracted driving, which contributes significantly to deer-related accidents, could be a more effective solution. He also recommended better enforcement and public education regarding the City's deer feeding ban.

Kimberly Korona, Flanders Street, was opposed to the use of lethal methods to control the local deer population, arguing that violence toward wildlife is often ineffective. She advocated for non-lethal alternatives, including public education campaigns on deer-vehicle collision prevention, Lyme disease, deer-proofing strategies, and the existing feeding ban, citing Rochester Hills' mailing program as a model. She also recommended using electronic signage and adjusting speed limits in high deer traffic areas, along with expanding green spaces to provide safe habitats. She urged Council to reject lethal measures, stating that many residents value coexistence with wildlife but may not have voiced their views.

Eric Kraus, resident, proposed a change to Ordinance 34-4.14, Commercial Vehicles. He explained that he and his wife operate a food truck business using an enclosed trailer that resembles a standard car trailer without external equipment such as ladders or attachments. The trailer complies with all existing ordinance regulations, including weight limits, axle count, and vehicle type, except for its height, which is approximately ten and a half feet, exceeding the current eight-foot limit outlined in the ordinance. The trailer serves as the primary means of transportation for their business and requires a truck for towing. Mr. Kraus requested that the ordinance be amended to permit such vehicles to be stored on residential property.

Mayor Rich asked City Manager Mekjian to look into this issue.

Mayor Rich acknowledged the following persons who had submitted public comment in writing: Alyssa Harold, Carol Schuler, Carole Heinrich, Chris Bixby, George Curran, Irwin Moyna, Julien Solomon, Michael Yandora, Sheila Walters, Todd Greenlee, Kristin Dillon, Christa Linderer, Frederick Flock, Brian Petrak, Kelly Kokenos, Lynn Halton, Michael Flees, Patrick Attard, Shelly Gower, Jim Snyder.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

The Attorney was received by Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Rich noted that the next City Council meeting will be on April 28 on the second floor of The Hawk.

The regular session of City Council meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Lindahl, City Clerk