

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER
MARCH 24, 2025 – 7:30 PM

The regular session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Rich at 7:38PM.

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

Council Members Absent: Boleware

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian; Assistant City Manager Mondora; City Clerk Lindahl; Directors Aranowski, Brockway, Brown, Kettler-Schmult, Schnackel, and Sullen-Winn, Fire Chief Unruh and City Attorney Joppich

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by former Mayor Barry Brickner.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA

MOTION by Bridges, support by Bruce, to approve the agenda as published.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS FROM CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS

PRESENTATION OF THE FARMINGTON AREA ARTS COMMISSION 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Farmington Area Arts Commission Vice Chair Jeff Dutka made remarks and presented the Farmington Area Arts Commission 2024 Annual Report. Farmington Area Arts Commission Chair Lesa Ferencz; Commissioners Celeste McDermott, Nora Mason, Lindsay Janoch, Bree Schwartz, Don Fritz, and Claire Perko; and volunteer Keith Janoch were also present. Mr. Dutka noted that the dedication ceremony for the Scrupture Tree in front of The Hawk will be June 25 at The Hawk Summer Kickoff.

Oakland County Commissioner William Miller made brief comments related to state and federal infrastructure funding.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, to approve the consent agenda as read by Mayor Pro Tem Dwyer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE
Absent: BOLEWARE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no consent agenda items for discussion.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Bridges reported that Council members had attended the National League of Cities conference and met with U.S. Senators and Congresswoman Haley Stevens. A key topic of discussion was the importance of preserving access to municipal bonds, which remain essential for financing infrastructure projects; Farmington Hills recently issued approximately \$28.5 million in such bonds. Council Member Bridges emphasized that Farmington Hills is in a strong position compared to many other cities, highlighting its excellent services, public safety, sound financial management, and AAA bond rating, and he thanked the City's management which did an excellent job of managing the City and carrying out Council's directives.

Council Member Bridges relayed communications from residents and Pastor DuJuan Fisher to appropriate City staff and also passed on the name of someone who is looking for ways to collaborate with the City relative to mobility opportunities.

Mayor Rich congratulated American Legion Post 346 Commander Marya Davis who received the Quilt of Valor for her work with the veteran community.

Mayor Rich wished resident Betty Burrell a happy 100th birthday.

"Walk the Hawk" will be April 8 and April 13 at noon, on the track, or if the weather is inclement, on the third floor of The Hawk.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

City Manager Mekjian highlighted the following:

- Yard waste pickup resumed starting April 7.
- SMART would be holding a meeting at The Hawk on April 30 at 5:30pm, regarding the SMARTer Mobility Draft Network.

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF A LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION FOR \$500,000 FOR THE HERITAGE PARK PLAYGROUND AND PARKING ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS, AND A RESOLUTION TO MAKE AVAILABLE A LOCAL MATCH THROUGH FINANCIAL COMMITMENT AND/OR DONATION(S) OF \$750,000. CMR 3-25-35

Director of Special Services Ellen Schnackel introduced the request for approval of a resolution to submit a \$500,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant application to support playground and parking

accessibility improvements at Heritage Park. Claire Perko, Farmington Hills resident and landscape architect with Spalding DeDecker, was also present.

Council Discussion

Council Member Knol expressed support for replacing the aging playground equipment and asked whether a fence could be added around the playground and splash pad area for safety, especially for families with young children.

Director Schnackel said that this request had also been raised during the March 17 public input session. The proposed improvements would occur in phases: the current grant would support Phase 1, including the new playground equipment and accessible parking, while future Phase 2 would focus on splash pad enhancements, and a fence would be considered at that time. The City has already allocated \$750,000 from the Parks Millage for Phase 1 and will seek additional grant funding for Phase 2.

Council Member Bridges praised Heritage Park as a regional attraction and asked if the visitor count was known. Director Schnackel said that based on cell phone pings, the park had over 758,000 visitors annually.

Public Hearing

Mayor Rich opened the public hearing. No public comments were received, and the hearing was closed.

Further discussion and motion

Council Member Aldred stressed the importance of sizing facilities properly, including parking capacity, to avoid overcrowding. Simply adding more parking without expanding facilities may contribute to overcrowding. He spoke of the importance of considering future development of similar facilities in other areas of the City. He thought the project demonstrated thoughtful planning and applauded the scaled-down parking lot design.

Mayor Rich asked if the upgrades would include equipment designed for children with special needs and those who are neurodivergent. Landscape Consultant Perko confirmed the plan includes a variety of accessibility features, including sensory-friendly zones, inclusive play equipment, appropriate signage, and surfacing that allows caregivers and children of all abilities to access the equipment and participate together. Ms. Perko further explained that the project would significantly improve parking accessibility, adding ADA-compliant spaces in both the gravel lot and the new lot, and ensuring accessible pathways to key amenities such as the play area and pavilion.

MOTION by Aldred, support by Bruce, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes submission of a Land and Water Conservation Fund application for \$500,000 and further resolves to make available a local match through financial commitment and/or donation(s) of \$750,000 of a total \$1,250,000 project cost, during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF SECOND AMENDMENT TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (“PUD”) 1, 2015 - DRAFT AGREEMENT - “COREWELL EMERGENCY SIGN” – REPLACEMENT OF FREESTANDING SIGN AT GRAND RIVER AVENUE. CMR 3-25-36

Director of Planning and Community Development Charmaine Kettler-Schmult was present on behalf of this request. Kevin Shul, Corewell Health, was also present.

Director Kettler-Schmult explained that the PUD plan and accompanying site plan had been approved at a previous meeting. Approval of the amendment language in the draft agreement is the final step in the approval process.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the second amendment to the agreement for Planned Unit Development 1, 2015, Corwell Emergency Sign – Replacement of freestanding sign at Grand River Ave.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CONVEYANCE OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY, PARCELS 22-23-34-408-008 AND 22-23-34-408-003, TO CLAUDIO RODRIGO AGUILERA QUEZADA AND LUISA NAYELI CRUZ. CMR 3-25-37

Director of Economic Development Brockway explained that the City received the two RA-3 residentially zoned parcels (.40 and .43 acres) from Oakland County in September 2011 due to tax foreclosure. The applicants have made a \$750 deposit toward the \$10,000 purchase price (\$5,000 for each parcel), and City staff have been working with the City Attorney to prepare closing documents. The property value was also reviewed in consultation with the City Assessor.

MOTION by Knol, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the introduction of an Ordinance authorizing the conveyance of property 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 deed and any other documents necessary for closing and conveying said property to Claudio Rodrigo Aguilera Quezada and Luisa Nayeli Cruz, conditioned upon and subject to their 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, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF POLICY REGARDING SPONSORSHIP OF EVENTS, NAMING RIGHTS, AND ADVERTISING.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the amended and restated Policy Regarding Sponsorship of Events, Naming Rights, And Advertising.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH FAOM (PAID-ON-CALL FIRE FIGHTERS). CMR 3-25-38

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager and the Assistant City Manager to execute a new agreement with Paid-on-Call Fire Fighters (FAOM), in accordance with the terms and conditions in the Tentative Settlement Agreement.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED ACCEPTANCE OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION 2024 ANNUAL REPORT. CMR 3-25-39

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager and the Assistant City Manager to execute a new agreement with Paid-on-Call Fire Fighters (FAOM), in accordance with the terms and conditions in the Tentative Settlement Agreement.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDOT) FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS FUNDED BY THE 2025 HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. CMR 3-25-40

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager and City Clerk to sign and enter into cost participation agreement No. 25-5597 with the Michigan Department of Transportation as part of the 2025 Highway Safety Program.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE NORTH INDUSTRIAL DRIVE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO ASPHALT SPECIALISTS, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,503,943.54. CMR 3-25-41

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the North Industrial Drive Reconstruction Project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Asphalt Specialists, LLC of Pontiac, Michigan, in the amount of \$1,503,943.54; 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, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE EDGEHILL AVENUE LOCAL ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO NAGLE PAVING COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$584,920.81. CMR 3-25-42

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Edgehill Avenue Local Road Reconstruction Project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Nagle Paving Company of Novi, Michigan, in the amount of \$584,920.81; 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, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE 2025 LOCAL ROAD ASPHALT REHABILITATION PROJECT- DUKE'S FORESTBROOK HILLS & PEBBLEBROOK ESTATES SUBDIVISION TO NAGLE PAVING COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,467,489.88. CMR 3-25-43

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the 2025 Local Road Asphalt Rehabilitation Project – Duke's Forestbrook Hills & Pebblebrook Estates Subdivision be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, Nagle Paving Company of Novi, Michigan, in the amount of \$1,467,489.88; 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, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE 2025 LOCAL ROAD ASPHALT REHABILITATION PROJECT- OAKWOOD KNOLLS SUBDIVISION TO F. ALLIED CONSTRUCTION CO., INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$474,085.15. CMR 3-25-44

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the 2025 Local Road Asphalt Rehabilitation Project – Oakwood Knolls Subdivision be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, F. Allied Construction Co. Inc of Clarkston, Michigan, in the amount of \$474,085.15; 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, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE 2025 LOCAL ROAD ASPHALT REHABILITATION PROJECT- MUER ESTATES SUBDIVISION TO F. ALLIED CONSTRUCTION CO., INC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$837,358.48. CMR 3-25-45

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Muer Estates Subdivision road rehabilitation contract be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, F. Allied Construction Co., Inc of Clarkston, Michigan, in the amount of \$837,358.48; 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, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION OF PUBLIC ROAD ACCEPTANCE FOR THE CHASEWOOD VILLAS SUBDIVISION. CMR 3-25-46

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby adopts the attached resolution accepting jurisdiction of the public roads within the Chasewood Villas Subdivision.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION OF PUBLIC ROAD ACCEPTANCE FOR EMERALD PARK ESTATES SUBDIVISION. CMR 3-25-47

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby adopts the attached resolution accepting jurisdiction of the public road within the Emerald Park Estates Subdivision.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF FIRE DEPARTMENT CONSULTANT TO CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$67,390.00. CMR 3-25-48

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue a purchase order to Center for Public Safety Management, LLC for Fire Department Consultant in the amount of \$67,390.00.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE SHADY RIDGE DRIVE GRAVEL ROAD CONVERSION TO HARD SURFACE PROJECT TO F. ALLIED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$566,522.01. CMR 3-25-49

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the Shady Ridge Drive Gravel Conversion to Hard Surface Project be awarded to the lowest competent bidder, F. Allied Construction Company of Clarkston, Michigan, in the amount of \$566,522.01; 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, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2025.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council study session meeting minutes of March 3, 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2025.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council study session meeting minutes of March 3, 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: BOLEWARE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dennis Hubbard, resident, representing the Farmington Hills Paid-on-Call Firefighters Association, thanked Council, City Administration, and Fire Chief Unruh, and his fellow negotiation committee members for the successful negotiation of the Association's first collective bargaining agreement. Firefighter Hubbard emphasized the essential role of Paid-on-Call firefighters, who work alongside full-time staff to provide round-the-clock emergency services, bringing certifications such as Firefighter I and II, hazardous materials up to the operations level, pump operations, and at minimum basic EMT licensing. He highlighted the cost-effective and sustainable nature of the combination fire department model and the Association's pride in serving Farmington Hills.

Sandy Yagiela, resident, asked for clarification regarding the difference between contractors installing color-coded cables in her neighborhood and sales representatives from various wireless companies claiming to offer fiber optic services. In response, City Manager Mekjian asked Assistant City Manager Mandora to talk with Ms. Yagiela in the foyer.

Edwin Matysiewicz, Farmington Hills resident, said that he had received multiple complaints from women in his subdivision about the size and weight of the large black trash bins, noting that one resident even sustained a shoulder injury while handling one. He requested that the City revisit the option of offering smaller bins. He also expressed frustration about individuals placing flyers on mailboxes, stating that the practice has resulted in broken mailbox flags.

Mayor Pro Tem Dwyer read a list of individuals who would like to go on the record requesting that Council enact a long-term deer management plan: John Wilson, Theresa Cook, Chris Ziegler, Eric Hans, Fritz Morsches, Kirk Moreland, Larry Voytovich, Mike Harvilla, Nora Dolan, R. Tanaka, T. Gerwatowski, John & Shelly Gower, Roger Weber, Julie & Ernie Backalar, Sheila Walters, Theresa Walsh, Judy Lenzotti, Frank Lenzotti Jr., Debi Kastner, Nancy & Terry Hurley, David Harmon, and Miranda Liebowitz. More names had been submitted this evening and would be part of the official record.

The following comments were in response to the study session held earlier this evening regarding urban deer management:

James Winkler, resident, referenced his professional work on infectious diseases, and challenged several mitigation strategies proposed by the DNR. Common suggestions—such as installing fencing, using repellents, or planting deer-resistant vegetation—are largely ineffective, due to limitations imposed by homeowners associations and the adaptability of deer. The true scale of community concern may be underrepresented, as many residents have expressed frustration through informal channels rather than official comments. He clarified that the limited number of reported Lyme disease cases should not be considered indicative of low risk, as the disease is notoriously difficult to diagnose. Finally, he criticized the DNR for not adequately addressing the unusually high deer density in suburban areas, which he argued poses ecological concerns and affects the genetic health of the local deer population.

Dr. Karen Peper, Farmington Hills resident, emphasized the importance of using accurate data and scientific analysis in decision-making related to deer population management. She cited 2023 statistics from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, noting that although 2,125 deer-vehicle collisions occurred in Oakland County, this represents only 0.0016% (16/100 of 1%) of the county's 1.27 million residents. In Farmington Hills, there were 144 such accidents, with seven involving personal injuries and the remainder involving property damage—aligning proportionally with county-wide figures. On the topic of Lyme disease, Dr. Peper noted that approximately 20% of local ticks are black-legged ticks capable of carrying the disease. However, only 48 cases were reported in all of Oakland County, and data specific to Farmington Hills was unavailable. She urged the City to prioritize public safety in any resolution of the deer issue.

Sue Gerrity, Farmington Hills resident, expressed concern over the current proposal's combination of a professional cull and an amateur hunt, urging Council to treat them as separate issues. While supportive of a controlled cull carried out by skilled sharpshooters, she opposed allowing recreational hunters access to Heritage Park, citing safety risks in such a densely populated area. She compared Heritage Park's proximity to homes with much larger Oakland County parks where hunting is already permitted and noted the significant number of residences bordering or near the park. She asked that any necessary deer reduction be conducted exclusively by professionals.

Tom Progar, Farmington Hills resident, raised concerns that deer management facts were being presented in a biased way. He challenged the idea that there was a groundswell of deer issues, noting that developments were destroying natural space, and that some deer/car accidents could be linked to distracted driving.

Kim Korona, Farmington Hills resident, urged City Council to more thoroughly explore non-lethal strategies for deer management. She was concerned that the study session focused primarily on lethal options without giving sufficient attention to alternatives such as public education, targeted mailings, better signage, and speed reductions in high-risk areas. Communities like Rochester Hills have implemented compassionate, cost-effective approaches to reduce deer-vehicle collisions and manage landscaping concerns.

Paul Olsen, Farmington Hills resident, urged City Council to take immediate action on deer overpopulation rather than waiting for a regional consensus. He referenced aerial survey data showing a steady increase in the local deer population from 304 in 2016 to an estimated 1,500 today. He noted that the State of Michigan culls hundreds of thousands of deer annually through regulated means. He

cited growing public concern, increased deer-related incidents, and rising costs from deer-vehicle collisions—estimated at over \$1 million annually—as evidence of the need to act.

Pamela Santo, Farmington Hills resident, shared her personal experience of investing over \$9,000 in landscaping that was ultimately destroyed by deer. She expressed frustration that no effective action has been taken to address the growing deer population despite years of public meetings and suggested deterrents. Ms. Santo recommended a targeted bait-and-cull method, similar to practices used at Kensington Metropark, as the only effective approach.

Coleen Redmond, Farmington Hills resident, said that over the past decade, the growing deer population has made their yard nearly unusable, with daily sightings of 10 to 16 deer and thousands of dollars in landscaping lost despite efforts to deter them. She shared distressing experiences, including injured deer lingering in yards, police having to euthanize a suffering animal in front of children, and sightings of deer likely afflicted with chronic wasting disease. She urged the City to adopt a humane and effective solution to control the deer population in the absence of natural predators.

Patricia McGaskin, who lived near Heritage Park, shared a concerning incident involving individuals illegally bow hunting deer near her property. She reported the incident to police and expressed concern for the safety of her grandchildren and others in the neighborhood. Although initially opposed to hunting, she now supports the use of professional bow hunters to address the growing deer population.

Angie Smith, Farmington Hills resident, urged the City to proceed cautiously and prioritize community safety. She emphasized the importance of using true professionals, not recreational hunters, to participate in any deer cull.

Patricia Zacharias, Farmington Hills resident, expressed appreciation for nature and animals, including deer. She said she learned to plant things that the deer don't like. She was more concerned with littering and speeding than with the deer. She asked Council not to eliminate the reason why so many people move to this area.

Laura Paulson, Farmington Hills resident, highlighted the link between deer overpopulation and the spread of serious diseases such as chronic wasting disease (CWD) and epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD). Both illnesses spread rapidly in areas with high deer density and are nearly always fatal, with symptoms that often go undetected until the diseases are widespread. She warned of potential risks to other animals, including pets, and stressed that lethal management, such as professional culling by trained sharpshooters, has been effective in other municipalities. She also noted the high cost and low success rates of non-lethal methods like sterilization and contraceptives, and emphasized that without natural predators, cars have become the primary means of deer population control.

Michael Clarahan, Farmington Hills resident, expressed both encouragement and frustration regarding the City's long-standing discussions on deer overpopulation, noting that the issue dates back at least 20 years, with documented concerns appearing as early as 2008. He criticized the perceived lack of proactive solutions from the DNR and urged the City to take timely and decisive action.

Kaitlin McHenry, Farmington Hills resident, spoke as a biosystems engineer and lavender farmer. She explained that deer are creatures of habit and will return to favored plants even if the population is reduced. She advocated instead for proactive deterrents such as predator urine pellets, motion sensors, reflective objects, and high-scent repellents. Addressing Lyme disease concerns, she clarified that deer are not the primary carriers of the disease; small rodents and birds are the main vectors responsible for its spread. She also noted the active presence of natural predators like coyotes in Farmington Hills, citing recent evidence from her own yard, and suggested their role in deer control should be considered before implementing a cull. She encouraged residents to adapt appropriate landscaping choices and protection methods to effectively reduce deer damage.

Tammy Sadwell, Farmington Hills resident, expressed deep frustration with the ongoing deer issue and its impact on her property. She said her yard was overrun with deer at all hours, making it difficult to maintain due to constant droppings and damage to all types of plants, regardless of whether they are labeled "deer resistant." She was disheartened to learn that meaningful results from proposed solutions could take up to five years. She noted her prior participation in surveys and her attentiveness to City communications without seeing action. She was exhausted because of the lack of progress.

Kelly Goldberg, Farmington Hills resident, was strongly opposed to the use of sharpshooters for deer population control in the City. She said that Ann Arbor's decision to stop funding such efforts came after they found they had overestimated deer numbers. She cautioned against normalizing firearms in public parks, particularly in light of recent regional lockdowns related to gun violence and noted the negative international perception of past culls. She emphasized concerns for vulnerable populations—such as individuals with special needs or dementia—who may unknowingly enter areas where culling is occurring. She urged the City to explore alternative, non-lethal methods and prioritize public education over what she described as a culturally troubling and potentially dangerous approach.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular session of City Council meeting adjourned at 9:06PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Lindahl, City Clerk