

MINUTES  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER  
OCTOBER 28, 2024 – 7:30 PM

The regular session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Rich at 7:32PM.

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

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian; Assistant City Manager Mondora; City Clerk Lindahl; Directors Aranowski, Brockway, Rushlow and Skrobola, Police Chief King, Fire Chief Unruh, and City Attorney Joppich

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Stephen and Alan Fendt led the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Rich presented a Proclamation to Alan and Stephen Fendt, honoring the Fendt family and Fendt Builders Supply, 22005 Gill Road, as they celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> year in business.

Alan Fendt shared a brief history of Fendt Builder’s Supply, which began in 1924. Alan’s grandfather, Leo (Lionel) Fendt, owned a farm and residence on Gill Road, where the business is still located. In addition to farming and selling produce at Eastern Market, Leo sold sand and gravel to local contractors. When a contractor fell behind on payments, Leo accepted a hand-operated concrete block machine as settlement, marking the start of the Fendt concrete block business. Alan joined the family business in the 1970s while attending Lawrence Tech. Fendt Builders Supply is preparing for its fourth generation, with 3 of Alan’s 4 children active in the business, including Stephen who was here tonight.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA**

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 28, 2024 AS NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS DAY**

The following proclamation was read by Council Member Dwyer and accepted by Police Chief King, Fire Chief Unruh, and Public Services Director Rushlow. All expressed appreciation on behalf of the men and women who serve under them.

**PROCLAMATION  
National First Responders Day  
Oct. 28, 2024**

**WHEREAS,** first responders, including dispatchers, firefighters, paramedics, police officers, public works professionals, and other emergency personnel, stand on the front lines selflessly serving and protecting the Farmington Hills community in times of crisis; and,

**WHEREAS,** first responders respond swiftly and courageously to emergencies, often putting their own lives at risk to ensure the safety and well-being of others, whether in natural disasters, accidents, medical emergencies, or threats to public health and safety; and,

**WHEREAS,** first responders answer the call to duty when it arises without hesitation and tirelessly give their time and energy in humanitarian efforts by making themselves available every hour of the day, every day of the year; and,

**WHEREAS,** it is in the public interest for community members and civic leaders in Farmington Hills to learn about and maintain an ongoing interest and understanding of the importance of public safety and public works; and,

**WHEREAS,** the year 2024 marks the 6th annual National First Responders Day sponsored by bipartisan resolutions in the US Senate and House.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Theresa Rich, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby proclaim Oct. 28, 2024, as National First Responders Day. I urge all citizens to join in activities, events and ceremonies paying tribute to first responders to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our health, safety and advancing the quality of life for all.

**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 1, 2024 AS EXTRA MILE DAY**

The following proclamation was read by Council Member Knol and accepted by Committee to Increase Voter Participation Chair Dennis Hubbard, and Committee Members Karen Bartos and Dr. Patricia Coleman-Burns.

**PROCLAMATION  
Extra Mile Day  
Nov. 1, 2024**

**WHEREAS,** the City Farmington Hills acknowledges that a special vibrancy exists within the entire community when its individual citizens collectively “go the extra mile” in personal effort, volunteerism and service; and,

**WHEREAS,** the City of Farmington Hills encourages its citizens to maximize their personal contributions to society by giving of themselves wholeheartedly and with total effort, commitment and conviction to their individual ambitions, family, friends and community; and,

**WHEREAS,** the City Farmington Hills chooses to shine a light on, and celebrate, individuals and organizations who “go the extra mile” to make a difference and lift up fellow members of their community; and,

**WHEREAS,** the City of Farmington Hills acknowledges the mission of Extra Mile America to create more than 550 Extra Mile cities in our country and is proud to support “Extra Mile Day” on Nov. 1, 2024.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Theresa Rich, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim Nov. 1, 2024 to be “Extra Mile Day” and urge all members of the community to not only go the extra mile in their own lives, but also to acknowledge individuals who are inspirational in their efforts and commitment to make their organizations, families, community, country and world a better place.

Committee to Increase Voter Participation Chair Dennis Hubbard said he accepted the proclamation on behalf of the nearly 450 volunteers working to support the 2024 general election, and for all volunteers who go the extra mile for the community. Chair Hubbard explained the various ways of voting in the election, including absentee, early voting, and precinct voting on November 5, election day.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS FROM CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

John Shertel, Farmington and Farmington Hills Emergency Preparedness Commission, provided the October Tip of the Month, which this month is fire safety, aligning with the nationwide observance of Fire Prevention Week in early October. The week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which caused massive destruction and financial loss equivalent to \$5.7 billion today, and the death of at least 300 people. Mr. Shertel emphasized the importance of having working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms, and gave instructions for their testing, maintenance, and use. Christmas Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve are the top 3 days each year for home fires. For assistance, residents are invited to reach out to the City’s Fire Prevention Division.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Correspondence received regarding Himalayan Samarpan Meditation Week, November 4 – 10.
- Correspondence received relative to the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary celebration of Republic of Turkey.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION by Knol, support by Boleware, to approve items 5 through 8 of the consent agenda as read.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce, to approve items 9 and 10 of the consent agenda, as read.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0-1.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

There were no items removed for discussion.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Council Member Boleware thanked the Police Department for hosting the Trunk & Treat event Saturday, October 26, which was a great success.
- Mayor Pro Tem Bridges provided an update on the recent Commission on Aging meeting, emphasizing the senior community's concerns regarding the potential closure of the Costick Center. Both the City Manager and the Mayor are actively working to reassure the public and enhance communication on this matter. They have agreed to facilitate additional opportunities for community dialogue.

The Commission on Aging is organizing a listening session to gather feedback from Costick Center users. Additionally, the Commission extended an invitation to Council members to participate in or observe various programs at the Center. Mayor Pro Tem Bridges requested that the City Manager provide a list of programs for Council members to consider attending.

- Mayor Rich reminded everyone of the Veterans' Day Celebration and Lunch at the Costick Center November 11 at 11am.
- Mayor Rich acknowledged the following events:
  - Chaldean Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Business Luncheon October 18.
  - Association of Chinese Americans gala was held October 20.
  - Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala was held October 24.
  - American Arab Chamber of Commerce gala was October 25.
  - Detroit Concert Choir performed at the Hawk October 26

**CITY MANAGER UPDATE**

City Manager Mekjian provided the following update:

- There is a video posted on the City website regarding the future of the Costick Center. There will be multiple opportunities for residents to participate in public input and participation regarding the future of senior services at the Costick Center or potentially other buildings as well.
- Landscaping will be installed in the roundabout and surrounding area on Orchard Lake Road between 12 and 13 Mile Road.
- Congratulations to City Attorney Joppich's law firm RSJA Law, which was recognized by Michigan Lawyers Weekly as a 2024 Best Women-Led Law Firm Honoree.
- Expressed appreciation to Clerk Lindahl and her team for their work on the general election.

As there was a request at the last Council meeting for a follow-up on the virulent anti-Semitic flyers that were tossed around the City a few weeks ago, City Manager Mekjian asked Police Chief King for an update, and Chief King provided the following information:

**Background of Incident:**

- Flyers were distributed in the dark early hours of October 6th.

- Over 200 plastic packets containing anti-Semitic materials were tossed in Farmington Hills.
- Other Oakland County jurisdictions affected that same night included West Bloomfield and Commerce Township.

**Farmington Hills Police Response:**

- Immediate deployment of a detective sergeant and six detectives to canvas the area.
- Collected and preserved 240 packets containing flyers and weighted materials (e.g., pebbles, sand, beans, and grill pellets).

**Interagency Coordination:**

- Chief King organized a meeting with multiple jurisdictions, including West Bloomfield, Commerce Township, Rochester Hills, Rochester, Waterford, White Lake Township, Oakland County Prosecutor's Office to meet at Farmington Hills Police Department.
- Coordinated investigatory efforts and shared leads with local, state, and federal authorities, including the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office.
- Other cities in Wayne and Oakland County have suffered the same kind of event in the days and weekends following the incident in Farmington Hills.

**Investigative Efforts:**

- Utilized the Flock system and sent evidence to the lab for analysis.
- Investigated a group with ties to Georgia, which, when contacted, had threatened legal action against the City, citing First Amendment rights.
- The Department has utilized every available resource at local, state, and federal levels, with the Chief himself communicating with the various agencies.

**Public Communication:**

- Released a press statement emphasizing two goals:
  1. Reassuring the Jewish community of support and protection.
  2. Condemning the responsible group while staying within legal and constitutional boundaries.

**Current Status:**

- Despite extensive efforts, no prosecutable evidence or suspects have been identified.
- Investigation remains open and active.
- Commitment to pursuing charges if new evidence emerges while maintaining constitutional integrity.

**Conclusion:**

- Chief King emphasized that Farmington Hills Police Department has gone above and beyond compared to other jurisdictions.
- Will continue efforts but will not allow the group to gain undue attention.

**Council Comments**

- Council Member Aldred praised Chief King and the Department for their thorough and constitutional approach.
- Mayor Rich acknowledged the Department's coordination with other agencies. She emphasized that the neighborhoods were blanketed indiscriminately, not based on individual demographics.
- Chief King confirmed that unfortunately the mass distribution of the packets complied with local, state, and federal laws, despite its offensive nature.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE EVENT PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT FOR THE 2024 MICAREERQUESTSE TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 19, 2024. CMR 10-24-107**

Director of Public Services Rushlow explained that MyCareerQuestSE is an annual event held in Novi, aimed at exposing high school students, counselors, and teachers to in-demand career options in the region. The event focuses on creating a talent pipeline for employers in skilled trades, and features four career quadrants: advanced manufacturing, construction, health sciences, and technology.

Over 7,000 students from more than 100 schools across Oakland, Macomb, Wayne, Livingston, and Washtenaw counties participate. Interactive displays are designed and operated by professionals. The City's Department of Public Works (DPW) has participated in previous years and plans to participate again this year.

Director Rushlow recommended that City Council authorize the City Manager to sign the event participation agreement for 2024, which allows the Department to participate with City equipment and staff.

MOTION by Knol, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to sign the Event Participant Agreement for the 2024 MiCareerQuestSE to be held on November 19, 2024.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDED ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND PROJECTS; AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS. CMR 10-24-108**

**NOTICE OF INTENT RESOLUTION  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS**

**CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
County of Oakland, State of Michigan**

**R-216-24**

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Minutes of a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Farmington Hills, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, held on the 28th day of October, 2024, at 7:30 o'clock p.m. prevailing Eastern Time.

PRESENT: Members Aldred, Boleware, Bridges, Bruce, Dwyer, Knol, and Rich

ABSENT: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Knol and supported by Member Boleware:

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington Hills, County of Oakland, State of Michigan (the "City"), intends to authorize the issuance and sale of one or more series of general obligation limited tax bonds pursuant to Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended ("Act 34"), to pay all or part of the cost to acquire, construct, furnish and equip capital improvements in the City, including a) drainage projects, b) fire equipment, and c) other capital improvement projects indicated in the City's CIP Plan, together with other necessary improvements and all demolition, site improvements and all appurtenances and attachments (the "Projects"); and

WHEREAS, the total amount of bonds to be issued to finance the acquisition and construction of the Projects shall not exceed Eight Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$8,500,000); and

WHEREAS, a notice of intent to issue bonds must be published before the issuance of the aforesaid bonds in order to comply with the requirements of Section 517 of Act 34; and

WHEREAS, the City intends at this time to state its intention to be reimbursed from proceeds of the Bonds for any expenditures undertaken by the City for the Projects prior to issuance of the Bonds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a notice of intent to issue the Bonds in the *Farmington Press*, a newspaper of general circulation in the City.
2. The notice of intent shall be published as a **display advertisement not less than one-quarter (1/4) page in size** in substantially the form attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A.
3. The City Council does hereby determine that the foregoing form of Notice of Intent to Issue Bonds, and the manner of publication directed, is adequate notice to the taxpayers and electors of the City, and is the method best calculated to give them notice of the City's intent to issue the Bonds, the purpose of the Bonds, the security for the Bonds, and the right of referendum of the electors with respect thereto, and that the provision of forty-five (45) days within which to file a referendum petition is adequate to insure that the City's electors may exercise their legal rights of referendum, and the newspaper named for publication is hereby determined to reach the largest number of persons to whom the notice is directed.
4. The City makes the following declarations for the purpose of complying with the reimbursement rules of Treas. Reg. § 1.150-2 pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended:
  - (a) The City reasonably expects to reimburse itself with proceeds of the Bonds for certain costs of the Projects which were paid or will be paid from funds of the City subsequent to sixty (60) days prior to today.

(b) The maximum principal amount of debt expected to be issued for the Projects, including issuance costs, is \$8,500,000.

(c) A reimbursement allocation of the capital expenditures described above with the proceeds of the Bonds will occur not later than 18 months after the later of (i) the date on which the expenditure is paid, or (ii) the date the Projects are placed in service or abandoned, but in no event more than three (3) years after the original expenditure is paid. A reimbursement allocation is an allocation in writing that evidences the City's use of the proceeds of the Bonds to reimburse the City for a capital expenditure made pursuant to this resolution.

5. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby rescinded.

AYES: Members Aldred, Boleware, Bridges, Bruce, Dwyer, Knol, and Rich

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

#### **EXHIBIT A**

##### **NOTICE TO ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS SECURED BY THE TAXING POWER OF THE CITY AND OF RIGHT OF REFERENDUM THEREON**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Farmington Hills, County of Oakland, intends to authorize the issuance and sale of general obligation capital improvement bonds pursuant to Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, in one or more series in a total principal amount of not to exceed Eight Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$8,500,000), for the purpose of paying all or part of the cost to acquire, construct, furnish and equip capital improvements in the City, including a) drainage projects, b) fire equipment, and c) other capital improvement projects indicated in the City's CIP Plan, together with other necessary improvements and all demolition, site improvements and all appurtenances and attachments.

##### **BOND DETAILS**

The bonds will mature in annual installments not to exceed twenty (20) in number, with interest rates to be determined at a public or negotiated sale but in no event to exceed the maximum permitted by law on the unpaid balance from time to time remaining outstanding on said bonds.

##### **SOURCE OF PAYMENT OF BONDS**



THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS shall be payable from the general funds of the City lawfully available for such purposes including property taxes levied within applicable constitutional, statutory and charter tax rate limitations.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

THE BONDS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS UNLESS A PETITION REQUESTING SUCH A VOTE SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN 10% OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY IS FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK WITHIN FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. IF SUCH PETITION IS FILED, THE BONDS MAY NOT BE ISSUED WITHOUT AN APPROVING VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY VOTING THEREON.

THIS NOTICE is given pursuant to the requirements of Section 517, Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FOURTH AND FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORTS AND QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT.**

MOTION by Knol, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby acknowledges the fourth and first quarter financial summary reports and quarterly investment report.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF PURCHASE OF A FIRE ENGINE TO ROSENBAUER AMERICA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,052,882. CMR 10-24-109**

MOTION by Knol, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue a purchase order to Rosenbauer America, for a Fire Engine, in the amount of \$1,052,882.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CONSULTANT FOR THE GRAND RIVER CORRIDOR MARKET STUDY TO GIBBS PLANNING GROUP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$85,000. CMR 10-24-110**

MOTION by Knol, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue a purchase order for Gibbs Planning Group of Birmingham,

MI in the amount of \$85,000 for the consultant for the corridor market study of Grand River Avenue between Orchard Lake Road and 8 Mile Road, within the Corridor Improvement Authority District boundaries.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2024.**

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the city council special study session meeting minutes of October 14, 2024.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

Abstentions: KNOL

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0-1.

**RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2024.**

MOTION by Boleware, support by Bruce, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approve the city council regular meeting minutes of October 14, 2024.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

Abstentions: KNOL

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0-1.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The regular session of City Council meeting adjourned at 8:11PM.

**APPROVED 11/11/2024**

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Lindahl, City Clerk