

**MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER
DECEMBER 8, 2025 – 7:30 PM**

The regular session of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Rich at 7:35PM.

Councilmembers Present: Aldred, Boleware, Bridges, Dwyer, Knol, Rich and Starkman

Councilmembers Absent: None

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Michael Sweeney, Emergency Preparedness Commission.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

MOTION by Dwyer, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby nominates Jackie Boleware as Mayor Pro Tem.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

MOTION by Bridges, support by Rich, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby closes the nominations of Mayor Pro Tem.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS FROM CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Michael Sweeney, on behalf of the Emergency Preparedness Commission, advised residents that forecasts indicate a colder-than-usual winter and emphasized that now is the final opportunity to prepare homes and vehicles, including furnace maintenance, smoke detector batteries, and winter readiness. He highlighted the importance of preventing frozen pipes by maintaining adequate indoor temperatures, exposing pipes to heat where possible, and allowing faucets to drip overnight, while also encouraging residents to review and update winter clothing and donate lightly used items to shelters. He urged residents to care for themselves, their families, and neighbors, update emergency contact information, and strengthen community connections as the city heads into the winter season.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Rich acknowledged correspondence regarding the welfare of several beagles. Oakland County Code Enforcement and the Police Department conducted an inspection late last week. Officials

confirmed that the animals are housed in heated shelters with unfrozen water, adequate food and bedding, and kennels elevated off the ground, and that the situation is in compliance with all applicable Michigan ordinances.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Boleware, support by Aldred, to approve consent agenda as published.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no consent agenda items for discussion.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Starkman said that he had been a member of the Farmington–Farmington Hills Commission on Community Health since 2019. Recently commission members volunteered at CARES, assisting with labeling, unpacking, and other support activities. Their efforts were especially meaningful as demand for CARES services continues to grow due to increasing food insecurity, and he expressed appreciation for the commission's ongoing dedication and service to the community.

Councilmember Boleware wished everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy Kwanzaa.

Councilmember Knol advised that the Farmington Area Goodfellows are actively packing holiday food boxes following their November food drive, and continue to accept financial donations and volunteers. She noted that deliveries will take place on Saturday, December 20, with volunteers distributing boxes to seniors and families in need throughout Farmington and Farmington Hills. Councilmember Knol wished everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy Kwanzaa.

Councilmember Bridges reported that members of Council attended several community events during the past week, including a Chamber of Commerce gathering that celebrated local businesses and raised funds in support of CARES. He also noted Council's participation in the 50th anniversary celebration of the Farmington Hills Public Library, where plans were unveiled for future expansions of both the Farmington Library and the 12 Mile Road location, underscoring the library system's value as a key community asset. Councilmember Bridges further recognized Kelly Siegrist for her more than 30 years of dedicated service to the community as she prepares to move on from her role as Library Director.

Mayor Pro Tem Dwyer extended holiday greetings to the Farmington Hills community and expressed appreciation to City employees for their dedicated service. He offered special recognition to the Police and Fire Departments, noting that both experienced a particularly demanding year, and commended sworn and civilian staff for their professionalism, commitment, and continued focus on public safety.

Councilmember Aldred reported that several members of Council attended the downtown Farmington holiday parade, where the City's Special Services Department received positive recognition for its festively decorated truck, which was widely praised by attendees.

Mayor Rich emphasized the critical importance of having working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in all homes, noting recent fires where alarms were not present, and reminding residents that the Fire Department will install fire detectors at no cost. She thanked City staff and the community for their continued support and highlighted recent and upcoming community engagement efforts, including a successful "Walk the Hawk" event and its ongoing schedule on the second Tuesday of each month at The Hawk.

Mayor Rich also reported on the Feeding Farmington Hills Task Force, noting increased food insecurity during school breaks and plans for a supplemental food distribution for children while schools and CARES are closed, with additional details to be shared through the City and library websites. Mayor Rich extended holiday greetings and expressed appreciation for a successful year and optimism for the year ahead.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

City Manager Mekjian reported on the following:

- **Yard Waste Collection:** The current week is the final opportunity for yard waste pickup for the season.
- **Snow and Ice Control Policy:** For snowfall under four inches, major roads and bus routes are plowed and salted while local streets receive spot de-icing only; snowfall exceeding four inches includes salting of local streets; and snowfall over eight inches triggers full deployment of DPS and Parks and Recreation crews, with priority given to main roads and a goal of clearing all streets within 36 hours after snowfall ends. Full details regarding the winter maintenance policy are available on the City's website at fhgov.com.
- **Warming Centers:** In the event of major power outages or severe cold, Fire Station No. 5, located at Orchard Lake Road and 11 Mile Road, is available as a 24-hour warming center.
- **Holiday Fire Safety Reminder:** Residents should keep live holiday trees properly watered to reduce fire risk during the holiday season.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN 4, 2000; CUTTING EDGE CUISINE KITCHEN AND STORAGE ADDITION. CMR 12-25-175

Director of Planning and Community Development Kettler-Schmult presented an update regarding a proposed amendment to this existing Planned Unit Development located on Northwestern Highway. The item has been before Council multiple times; however, outstanding issues between the property owner and adjacent property owners within the PUD remain unresolved.

The City received a request from the property owner's attorney to postpone consideration of the item again, citing ongoing negotiations between the involved parties. City Attorney Joppich advised that negotiations are continuing and that additional time may allow the parties to resolve issues.

MOTION by Bridges, support by Dwyer, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby postpones consideration of amendment to Planned Unit Development Plan 4, 2000 – Cutting Edge Cuisine kitchen and storage addition to February 9, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE 2026 CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING CALENDAR.

MOTION by Boleware, support by Aldred, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the 2026 City Council Annual Meeting calendar.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF SETTING THE CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL GOALS SESSION DATE OF JANUARY 10, 2026.

MOTION by Boleware, support by Aldred, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby schedules the annual goals session meeting for Saturday, January 10, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Room at City Hall.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF WINDOWS AT THE NATURE CENTER TO REGAL CONSTRUCTION INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$58,794.90. CMR 12-25-176

MOTION by Boleware, support by Aldred, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue a purchase order for Nature Center window removal and replacement to Regal Construction Inc. in the amount of \$58,794.90 (\$53,449.91 plus a 10% contingency cost of \$5,344.99 for unforeseen and anticipated costs once the old windows are removed).

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT FOR STREET SWEEPING SERVICES TO G&M ENTERPRISES IN THE AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED THE ANNUAL BUDGETED AMOUNT, WITH OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS. CMR 12-25-177

MOTION by Boleware, support by Aldred, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the issuance of a purchase order for the extension of the agreement with G&M Enterprises of Southfield, Michigan for Street Sweeping Services in the amount not-to-exceed the annual budgeted amount for three additional one-year extensions under the same terms and conditions upon mutual consent by the City and Contractor (not-to-exceed three years).

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF DUMP TRUCK AND PICK-UP TRUCK UPFITTING TO TRUCK & TRAILER SPECIALTIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$413,770.86. CMR 12-25-178

MOTION by Boleware, support by Aldred, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the issuance of a purchase order with Truck & Trailer Specialties in the amount of \$413,770.86 for the purchase and installation of dump bodies and winter maintenance accessories on two (2) new dump truck chassis and five (5) new pick-up trucks.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF PROPOSAL FOR YOUTH THEATRE SERVICES TO IN THE MITTEN PRODUCTIONS FOR A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH OPTIONAL RENEWALS. CMR 12-25-179

MOTION by Boleware, support by Aldred, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to sign a contract for Youth Theatre Services to In The Mitten Productions for a one-year contract with the option to renew for five (5) additional one-year periods under the same terms and conditions upon mutual consent between the City and vendor.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF PURCHASE OF AMBULANCE TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES PLUS REPRESENTING HORTON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$397,464.00. CMR 12-25-180

MOTION by Boleware, support by Aldred, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue a purchase order to Emergency Vehicles Plus representing Horton, for a new ambulance, in the amount of \$397,464.00.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

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

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

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

MOTION by Boleware support by Aldred, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the regular session minutes of November 24, 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

William Stieber, Farmington Hills resident, reiterated his concern presented in August 2025 regarding the City's minimum quarterly water charge of 16 units, noting that some residents—particularly older homeowners—are billed for usage well above their actual consumption. He stated that this practice is

unfair and urged the City to prioritize reviewing the minimum water charge policy during the next assessment update in June.

Tim Parvin, Farmington Hills resident, expressed concerns regarding Council's recent action related to the future of the senior center. There was strong opposition to locating the senior center at the Hawk campus. He raised concerns about parking capacity, accessibility, and potential impacts to food service quality if senior programming were moved, and emphasized the importance of clearly reflecting seniors' needs and perspectives in the decision-making process. Mr. Parvin recommended appointing a representative from the Council on Aging to serve as an ombudsman to keep the senior community informed and engaged throughout the evaluation process.

Eric Schmidt, Woodbrook Court, acknowledged the response he received regarding comments made during a prior Council meeting that appeared to attack certain councilmembers and residents. The City's response referenced free speech protections. Still, he requested a clearer statement discouraging comments that place residents in the crossfire of public disputes. He reiterated concerns regarding the 13 Mile PUD, urging Council members to visit the site before voting and raising questions about the potential influence of campaign contributions on PUD decisions. He also stated opposition to relocating senior center services to The Hawk, citing parking and capacity concerns.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

The City Attorney's report was received.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular session of City Council meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Lindahl, City Clerk