

**MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 – 9:00 AM**

The special meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Rich at 9:05AM.

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

Councilmembers Absent: None

Others Present: City Clerk Lindahl, Director Brown, City Attorney Joppich and Anne Lewis, Senior Manager – Raftelis

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

MOTION by Bridges, support by Starkman, to approve the special meeting agenda as published.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

REVIEW OF MEETING PROCEDURES

Anne Lewis, Senior Manager with Raftelis, provided an overview of the interview process, including the timing of each interview, the rotation of Councilmembers asking questions, and the time allotted for candidates to ask questions and provide closing statements.

INTERVIEWS OF CANDIDATES FOR CITY MANAGER (SCHEDULED TIMES BELOW):

Council conducted interviews of the three candidates for City Manager. Interview questions addressed municipal finance and budget management, economic development experience, the council-manager relationship, leadership and management approach, communication style, organizational priorities, and other matters related to the position.

Candidates Interviewed: 9:15 AM: Nathan Burd, 10:30 AM: Karen Mondora and 11:45 AM: Paul Brake.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pam Gerald, resident, provided support for Karen Mondora.

CONSIDERATION OF EXTENDING A CONDITIONAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT

Following the interviews, Council discussed the candidates for the City Manager position, including their qualifications, experience, and responses provided during the interview process.

Council noted that each candidate brought distinct strengths. One candidate was recognized for strong budgeting expertise, while another was praised for their level of preparation and readiness to discuss the role substantively. Karen Mondora drew notable positive feedback for her thorough preparation, her references to the city's strategic plan and mission statement, her communication record with the Council, and her detailed documentation of past accomplishments.

Council members acknowledged that the interviews represented only one component of a broader evaluation, with resumes, relevant experience, and overall qualifications also factoring into their assessments.

MOTION by Dwyer, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby extends a conditional offer of employment for the position of Farmington Hills City Manager to Karen Mondora under City Charter Section 3.07 subject to the following: 1) Background and Reference checks and 2) City Council approval of an employment agreement to be presented to City Council at a future meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

City Attorney Joppich noted that a motion was needed to cancel the Special City Council Meeting scheduled for Sunday, September 27, 2026, as a second round of interviews was no longer necessary.

MOTION by Starkman, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby cancels the Special City Council Meeting scheduled for September 27, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ATTORNEY TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE AND PREPARE AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT TO BE PRESENTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL

MOTION by Aldred, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the Mayor and City Attorney to initiate discussions with the successful candidate and prepare an employment agreement to be presented to City Council for approval.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no further public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 1:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Lindahl, City Clerk