

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
APRIL 22, 2019

The Study Session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Massey at 6:06pm.

Council Members Present: Bridges, Bruce, Knol, Lerner, Massey, Rich and Steckloff

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Boyer, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Mekjian, Director Barr and City Attorney Saarela

2019/2020 BUDGET OVERVIEW

City Manager Dave Boyer explained the budget process that starts in January with each department preparing their budgets for initial review by staff and then provided to City Council for review at their budget study sessions.

Steve Barr, Finance Director, provided an overview of the proposed FY 19/20 budget as well as revenue and expenditure assumptions for FY 2021 and FY 21/22. He explained that while his is providing an overview for FY 20/21 and FY 21/22, Council will only be requested to adopt the budget for FY 19/20. Budget study sessions are scheduled for May 6 and 7, 2019 at 6pm.

(Councilmember Steckloff arrived at 6:10pm)

BROADBAND TASK FORCE DISCUSSION

Mayor Massey explained that the Task Force was before both Councils at the last joint study session meeting and time ran out for additional questions and to discuss next steps.

Councilmember Lerner briefly reviewed the information provided at the joint study session with regard to municipal broadband. He noted that the Task Force reviewed options within the community and were recommending a publicly owned, open network with broadband as a utility. He added that the biggest hurdle is building the infrastructure.

The Task Force is recommending for both cities to commit \$60,000 each to retain a Municipal Fiber Consultant to assist the Task Force with developing an RFP. Mr. Lerner explained that the Task Force is not proposing the cities to get into the service business but to potentially build the infrastructure and manage it.

Discussion was held on the poor internet speed in Farmington Hills and how that affects residents trying to work from home. Further discussion was held on maintenance of the infrastructure, estimated costs per home and the special assessment district process proposed as the funding mechanism.

Councilmember Lerner stated that the research (white papers) reviewed by the Task Force can be found on the city website and may answer some of Council's questions, but he feels the Task Force has done all it can do without assistance from a professional consultant.

The general consensus of Council was to further review hiring a consultant. Councilmember Rich stated that if there were options other than municipal broadband, she would also like to explore those options.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Barry Brickner, Planning Commission Member and resident, commented that there was a lot of dark fiber already in the right-of-ways. Mr. Lerner explained that they could not just utilize existing dark fiber without knowing who owns it.

City Manager Boyer stated that they will include the \$60,000 in the budget so that it can be further discussed by Council during the budget study sessions.

ADJOURNMENT

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Smith', is written over the typed name.

Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk