

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
AUGUST 10, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The regular meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Massey at 6:00pm.

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, Directors Barr and Mondora and City Attorney Joppich

**SPREADING OF OBJECTIONS, IF ANY, BY THE GOVERNOR TO THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT BALLOT PROPOSAL APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON JULY 24, 2017.**

Mayor Massey inquired if both agenda items could be discussed at the same time since they are related.

Attorney Joppich stated that they could; however, since the Governor has not yet issued any objections, which he confirmed with the City Clerk's Office today, he would suggest postponing discussion on this issued until such time any objections are received. He added that due to posting requirements, this item was included on the agenda in the event such objections would have been received before the meeting.

MOTION by Knol, support by Rich, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby postpones the spreading of objections, if any, by the Governor to the proposed charter amendment ballot proposal approved by the City Council on July 24, 2017, until such time that such objections, if any, are received from the Governor.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0 (Bridges absent)

**RECONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT BALLOT PROPOSAL APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON JULY 24, 2017.**

Mayor Massey explained that City Council unanimously approved two charter amendment proposals to be placed on the ballot in November, 2017, and the language of the millage proposal included an exemption for those residents who are currently in an active special assessment district (SAD) up until the expiration of the SAD. He stated that this approved language was sent to the Attorney General's Office who makes a recommendation to the Governor as to the legality of the proposed language. The Attorney General's Office sent a letter to the Governor indicating that they approved of the proposed charter amendment to remove the limit of 20% that the city could spend towards SAD's and concurred with the 2.5 mills as proposed but did not agree with the language that proposed the exemptions.

Mayor Massey added that the language needs to be certified to the County by next Tuesday, August 15, 2017.

City Attorney Joppich further discussed the process for approval of the ballot language noting that while the Attorney General's Office provides a legal opinion on the language to the Governor, the Governor

makes his own decision based on that opinion. He stated that the special meeting was scheduled to make City Council and the public aware of the opinion offered by the Attorney General and to identify options at this point. He stated that had the Governor issued objections to date, this meeting would be required and City Council would have to reconsider the ballot language as proposed.

Mayor Massey stated that the city has requested the Attorney General's Office to revisit the issue and make sure that all information presented by the city attorney had been considered. He added that he spoke to several legislators outlining the city's position and what they are trying to do and there is interest in moving legislation forward that may help the city with this issue in the future.

Mayor Massey explained that due to the short time frame for certifying language, if the Council wanted to place this on the November, 2017 ballot, the Council is faced with putting this on the ballot as is or removing the exemption language. He stated that he is not comfortable with removing the exemption language and given the discussion tonight, Council could also postpone reconsideration of the language and place a proposal on a future ballot.

Councilmembers agreed that this was a huge decision that would impact residents going forward and that they did not want to rush the issue and liked the idea that there could be future legislation to help them accomplish what they are trying to do with exempting those residents who are currently paying on a SAD.

Councilmember Knol stated that while she agrees with that direction, she is not in favor of placing this on a ballot without the exemptions as discussed and that the city should pursue all options. She did not feel legislation would be passed quickly enough to assist the city.

Attorney Joppich stated that he would pursue all options with city administration and per the direction of Council.

Councilmember Rich was disappointed the city had been discussing this issue for over a year and that ballot language was not brought forth until July. She concurred with postponing reconsideration of the language and hoped the Attorney General's Office would revisit the language.

Attorney Joppich inquired if by chance the city received a positive response from the Governor regarding the language, would Council wish to still postpone moving forward. He also asked Council to clarify what is being postponed.

The consensus was that Council would still like to postpone reconsideration of the language in order to see if any legislation moves forward or that there are other options to explore.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Lerner, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby postpones reconsideration of the proposed charter amendment ballot proposal approved by City Council on July 24, 2017, until the first regular City Council meeting in December.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Mayor Massey suggested a meeting between Council and the State Representative and State Senator.

Councilmember Bruce suggested speaking to other communities to see if they are also struggling with this same issue.

Mayor Massey stressed that Council is going to address this issue but they want to make sure they have solid language to present to the voters.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Massey adjourned the regular City Council meeting at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk