

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
AUGUST 14, 2017 – 7:30 PM
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER

The regular meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Massey at 7:33 p.m.

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

Council Members Absent: Steckloff

Others Present: City Manager Boyer, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Mekjian and City Attorney Joppich

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Miss Oakland County led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION TIP OF THE MONTH

The following Tip of the Month was read by Paul Szymusiak, Emergency Preparedness Commission Member:

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION

Tip of the Month

August 2017

In August the Emergency Preparedness Commission is reminding all families with school age children to make sure they update their children's emergency contact information on file with their schools, and to review emergency procedures with their families, should an event happen while their children are at school, or on their way to and from school.

Our children are exposed to a lot of alarming and sometimes alarming information on a daily basis, especially from television. Your words and actions can provide reassurance while also easing their fears. It is important to engage your child and discuss what they see and hear. When you do, be sure to present a realistic picture that is both honest and manageable. Children are not helpless, especially when given tools to help manage their own environment.

It is very reassuring to see how much time and effort the city's Police Department and the schools have put forth, working together to create protocols that help ensure the safety of our children. Remember, even if you don't have children of your own, our community's children belong to us all, and we should all keep a protective eye out as we see children playing and traveling on our streets and playgrounds.

As always, the Emergency Preparedness Commission urges all residents to make preparedness a part of daily life. For more information visit the EPC website at www.fhready.org.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2017 MISS OAKLAND COUNTY:

Emma Seidel, 2017 Miss Oakland County, spoke about her platform, Youth Empowerment Raising Strong Girls in which she uses the following 5 pillars Growth, Empowerment, Respect, Love and Scholastics to discuss with girls to empower them to reach their dreams. She will be partnering with Strong Women, Strong Girls to mentor young girls and Aim Higher a mentorship program, and Children's Miracle Network hospitals in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where she will be attending a school for dance. She is thankful for the Miss America Organization and scholarships provided towards her education.

City Council congratulated Miss Seidel on her title as Miss Oakland County.

Mayor Massey invited County Commissioner Gershenson to the podium for comments.

County Commissioner Gershenson reported on the following events:

- Marshmallow fry and fry at Heritage Park from 5-8pm
- August 30th from 5:30 to 7:30 the Oakland Chamber Network will meet to network and share business cards at St. John's Armenian Church
- September 19th at the Costick Center there will be a Total Wellness Fair from 10am to 1pm for health screenings and free lunch for residents over 60.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Rich, support by Lerner, to approve the Consent Agenda as published.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: STECKLOFF

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Tom DeWard, resident, made the following comments:

- Spoke of the interest rates for the special assessment for Independence Commons versus the projected savings for the exemption per the proposed millage language
- Requested the city to waive the 1% interest rate charged by the city for all residents currently paying on special assessments and for those who prepay to offer a 10% discount which funds could be used to pay off the bonds
- He submitted a FOIA for City Manager Certification for special assessments for Independence Commons and Briar Hill and Hollywood West Subs and was told that they do not exist and questioned why they could not be provided
- With regard to the power point presented to Council that was used to determine the 2.5 mills for the proposed ballot language, he questioned if any monies were coming from the general fund or if general funds were now being spent on other items and not on the roads.
- Questioned if there is a special fund for interest funds collected for special assessments.
- He has filed FOIA requests for which he has already paid approximately \$400 and he feels this information should be provided and he should not have to FOIA for any information.

Colleen Terry, Longwood and Hannah Orow, Ontaga, commented on the conditions at Gabriel's Kennel at which Hannah worked over the summer. They stressed the condition of the home and the dogs. Ms. Terry suggested stronger local ordinances, enforcing state animal cruelty laws, assigning a dedicated animal control officer to this situation and enforcing the zoning violations.

Mayor Massey explained that this is an Oakland County issue being handled through Oakland County Animal Control and the city has been told that this kennel is being closed. While it may not be as fast as people would like, legal steps are in place to have it closed. The City has only been able to influence the situation and has worked with the County on this issue. He added that City Council is also disgusted at the conditions.

Councilmembers empathized with the residents and noted that the City has been dealing with the issue for a long time and unfortunately the owner of the kennel also has certain rights. The City is unable to control the courts or the county but they do enforce city ordinances and have done so in this case and have worked with the county on this issue. The process has simply taken longer than anyone would want but there is nothing more the city is able to do at this point.

Councilmember Bridges suggested the city could revisit their ordinances and rights in these types of situations.

City Manager Boyer stated that the license is issued by the County for the kennel and there was an inspection held last week with the police and Oakland County and another inspection is being held this week. The City is pushing the County to stay on top of the situation and doing everything they can to get it closed as quickly as possible.

Ms. Orow felt there was missing information from the inspection reports and that every detail counts.

Pam Sordyl, Founder of Puppy Mill Awareness, stated that she appreciates the quick responses of Council over the past few weeks. She feels the kennel situation has been mismanaged by Oakland County Animal Control and Public Services and feels it should have been shut down when there was evidence of animal cruelty. She stated there is no guarantee that the kennel owner won't move to another county or reapply in another area in the city and she feels other counties would build an animal cruelty case and shut it down. She also questioned why Oakland County would not shut it down based on the hoarding issue, but found that most hoarding cases were led by the local Police Departments. Ms. Sordyl stated that the County should be building a case and shutting it down. There are national organizations that would assist with relocating the dogs and funding without burdening the local animal rescues. Photos of the kennel, which she believes proves animal cruelty, were shown to Council.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following comments and announcements were made:

- Farmington SAFE softball tournament was last weekend and very successful. He thanked the community and all of the teams that participated.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

City Manager Boyer provided an update on the following:

- Road constructions projects including 12 Mile, 13 Mile and 11 Mile Roads
- A special joint meeting with Farmington Public Schools and Farmington Council is being held at the Farmington Public Library August 15, 2017 at 6:30pm

In answer to Councilmember Bruce, he stated that 13 Mile should be open in the next couple of weeks. It was anticipated to be open prior to the start of the 12 Mile Road construction by the County. Consumers Energy had an emergency repair that slowed the 13 Mile construction but that repair is complete.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE VOTING DELEGATE FOR THE MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2017.

MOTION by Bridges, support by Rich, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the appointment of Councilmember Richard Lerner as voting delegate for the Michigan Municipal League Annual Meeting on September 13, 2017.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the appointment of a staff member to be determined as the alternate voting delegate for the Michigan Municipal League Annual Meeting on September 13, 2017.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FOR THE MOTOR CITY HARLEY DAVIDSON STEEL AND WHEEL ROCK WEEKEND TO BE HELD AUGUST 26 & 27, 2017.

MOTION by Rich, support by Lerner, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves a Special Event Permit for Motor City Harley Davidson located at 24800 Haggerty Road, Farmington Hills, to hold the Steel and Wheels Rock Weekend special event August 26th and 27th, 2017 from 10am to 10pm, subject to the following conditions:

- A minimum 20 foot fire lane shall be maintained
- Egress from the tent and facility shall not be blocked or restricted
- The event shall comply with the minimum Fire Prevention Code requirements
- An inspection shall be scheduled for the site and tent prior to the event
- It is estimated that 2000 people will attend each day of this two day event
- There will be alcohol sales on site during the event and a special liquor license has been secured by the dealership
- There will be ample parking provided to those in attendance. The Harley Davidson parking lot will be used for motorcycle parking only. There are two parking lots on the west side of Haggerty Road that have been secured for all other vehicles to park
- There will be parking attendants in both parking lots to assist drivers
- Two Farmington Hills Police Officers will be at the north end of the parking lot assisting with pedestrian traffic crossing Haggerty Road
- Emergency access and all fire lanes will be available during the event in light of the numerous vendor tents and activities in the parking lot.
- There will be live music both days of this event. The stage and speakers will back up to Haggerty Road, facing east, toward the dealership. There will be tents, semi-trailer displays and vendor displays between the stage and the building to act as a buffer for sound reflection
- Motor City Harley Davidson will have professional private security officers on scene for

- both days of the event
- Motor City Harley Davidson has agreed to pay for four Farmington Hills Police Officers and two sergeants for both days of the event as outlined by Police Chief Nebus
 - There will be medical personnel provided by Motor City Harley Davidson for both days of this event

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEYAND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: STECKLOFF
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CODE.

MOTION by Rich, support by Lerner, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the employment of Richard Schmid as a Senior Division Van Driver in the Special Services Department. Richard Schmid is the brother of Eugene Schmid who is a Senior Division Van Driver in the Special Services Department.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEYAND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: STECKLOFF
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2017.

MOTION by Rich, support by Lerner, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves study session meeting minutes of July 24, 2017 as submitted.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEYAND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: STECKLOFF
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2017.

MOTION by Rich, support by Lerner, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves regular meeting minutes of July 24, 2017 as submitted.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BRIDGES, BRUCE, KNOL, LERNER, MASSEY AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: STECKLOFF
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The City Attorney's report was received by Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Massey adjourned the regular City Council meeting at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk