

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
DECEMBER 12, 2016 – 6:00PM

The Study Session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Massey at 6:05pm.

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

Council Members Absent: Bridges

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

DISCUSSION ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Attorney Joppich explained that he drafted the proposed ordinance that is before City Council this evening based on past discussions at several study session meetings. He noted that not all of the Boards and Commissions are mentioned in Chapter 2 of the City Code but are spread throughout the Code and several are required by state law, resolutions, etc. He stated that in the discussions held, it seemed that Council had certain items that they wanted to be consistent for all boards and commissions and he attempted to accomplish this by incorporating those items into Division 1 of the proposed ordinance, unless another law or ordinance said otherwise.

Attorney Joppich reviewed the general provisions of the proposed ordinance that would apply to all boards and commissions.

Discussion was held on provisions of the ordinance and the following suggestions were made to apply to all boards and commissions:

Section 2-135. – Removal

For the removal of a member, to include language that 3 absences in the period of a year shall subject the member to removal by the Mayor subject to approval by Council

Section 2-137. – Officers; meetings; quorum

- (a) To remove any reference to Co-Chairs or Co-Vice Chairs
- (b) Include language that each board, commission, committee or council shall meet at least once a year

Section 2-139. – Budget

To add language to address those boards/commissions without budgets

Section 2-140. – Reporting to city council

It was suggested that a template is provided for written reports and for those that wish to present to Council at a meeting, this could be handled through appropriate staff.

Councilmembers also suggested a template to be provided for preparing by-laws.

Mayor Massey, in answer to Council, indicated that he and Dave have had preliminary discussions with the City of Farmington regarding the joint boards and commissions and it was agreed that Farmington Hills would take the lead to draft proposed changes and present those to the City of Farmington so that both cities could adopt similar requirements.

Councilmember Rich inquired if students would be considered full voting members and if there is a limitation on the number of boards and commissions one can serve.

It was noted that students should be full voting members unless they are appointed as alternate or associate members and that Mayor Massey could address number of boards and commissions one is serving on when making his recommendations for appointments.

Attorney Joppich reviewed Division 2 – Commission on Children, Youth and Families. He brought to Council’s attention the last line in **Section 2-152. – Purposes, authority and duties**, which states, “All programs and activities will be sent to council for approval.” He noted that this is how the ordinance currently reads but questioned if Council wanted to approve all programs and activities.

Council concurred that they did not feel there was a need for them to approve all programs and activities for any of the boards and commission.

Councilmember Lerner expressed concern with the issue of boards and commissions creating liaisons to other boards and commissions.

Mayor Massey suggested that this could be addressed by the staff liaisons when creating the by-laws.

It was also noted that members do not have to be residents of Farmington or Farmington Hills as the proposed ordinance currently reads. Discussion was held and it was noted that some representatives are business owners, etc., in Farmington or Farmington Hills but not necessarily residents.

City Manager Boyer suggested possibly stating that a certain number of the appointees had to be residents. It was decided that Mayor Massey and City Manager Boyer would discuss some ideas to address this issue.

Due to the time, City Manager Boyer stated that discussion on the proposed ordinance would resume at the next study session meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk