

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
SEPTEMBER 26, 2016 – 6:00PM

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

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, Director Mondora and City Attorney Joppich

DISCUSSION ON ELECTION INSPECTOR COMPENSATION

City Clerk Smith explained that Election Inspectors can be appointed to work in any jurisdiction in Michigan and while they typically work in the community in which they live, they could work elsewhere for higher compensation in another jurisdiction. She mentioned that after reviewing her records and surveying what other area Clerks are paying, she discovered that the Inspectors in Farmington Hills had not received a raise since November, 2007 and that Farmington Hills was on the lower end of the pay scale for Inspectors. She stated that this has not been reviewed in a while as Farmington Hills was paying the same or more than other communities.

Clerk Smith commented on her loyal and reliable workers that she would like to maintain and stated that she would like to increase fees as presented to Council this evening and was looking for feedback from Council with regard to bringing this issue before them at a regular meeting for consideration.

The consensus of Council was that they were favorable of having the issue presented to them at a regular meeting for consideration.

DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE REGARDING UNLAWFUL ENTRY/LOITERING UPON PUBLIC RESTRICTED AREAS

City Manager Boyer explained that the city has experienced issues with people loitering on city property, particularly in the Police Department parking lot; and staff has been discussing for a while the option of an ordinance that would provide some control over restricted areas such as the Police parking lot, skate park after hours, the water tower, etc. He stated that the intent is to install signs noting that they are restricted areas and to be able to enforce per the proposed ordinance.

Councilmember Bruce inquired if a violation of the ordinance would be a civil infraction. Attorney Joppich responded that this is proposed to be included in the City Code under Offenses and a violation would be a misdemeanor.

Councilmember Rich inquired if there currently are signs posted at these locations mentioned and questioned the issues at the skate park after hours and if that park is being open late enough.

City Manager Boyer responded that there are currently no “Restricted Area” signs but many of the locations have signs indicating “Authorized Personnel Only”. He added that issues at the skate park

occur often, including in the winter with kids on snowboards, etc. He stated that the skate park has no lights so it closes at dusk.

Dr. Bruce inquired about a monitoring system linked to the Police Department.

Manager Boyer responded that one of the challenges is the distance from the buildings to where the cameras would have to be installed and the cost of wireless equipment; however, this is something that was considered. In answer to Councilmember Steckloff, he stated that gates are also still under consideration for certain areas, but probably not at the parks, with the exception of Founders Sports Park for the pumping station.

Attorney Joppich added that there are time restrictions in the City Code relating to the parks that can also be enforced under those ordinances.

Dr. Rich inquired why a violation of the ordinance is a misdemeanor.

Attorney Joppich stated that this is consistent with other city ordinances regarding offenses against public property.

Police Chief Nebus added that having the ability to arrest the person would help the Police to identify them if necessary, which in a case that they had last week with an individual would have been very helpful.

Dr. Rich inquired if other communities have such an ordinance. Attorney Joppich stated that he did not research other communities but he knows of many that have trespassing ordinances, which is similar.

Mayor Pro-Tem Knol felt this ordinance was important for the safety of the community.

Mayor Massey commented that he believes this ordinance makes sense and that it would be enforced upon discretion by the Police Department.

The consensus of City Council was to have staff present the ordinance for consideration at their next regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The study session meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk