

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
DECEMBER 11, 2017

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

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

Council Members Absent: Bridges and Bruce

Others Present: City Manager Boyer, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Mekjian, Directors Barr, Gardiner and Mondora and City Attorney Joppich

RECONSIDERATION OF PROPOAL LANGUAGE DISCUSSION

Mayor Massey stated that the purpose of tonight's meeting was to update City Council on where the city stands with regard to the millage proposal language for local roads and legislative changes.

Attorney Joppich explained that he was contacted by State Representative Greig's office several weeks ago to provide background information on this issue and also to provide suggested language to put forth as a legislative amendment. After much review, he suggested a language change to be included in the Home Rule Cities Act (HRCA). He explained that the HRCA outlines what must be included in local Charter, what is permitted to be included and what is prohibited. His suggestion was to include the language provided to Council this evening in the HRCA as *permitted* language.

Mayor Massey noted that he believes there is bi-partisan support from both the House and Senate.

Councilmember Rich inquired about any follow-up conversation with the Attorney General and/or Governor's Office on this issue.

Mayor Massey stated that he spoke with the Assistant Attorney General but did not receive any feedback and he also had a conversation with the Lt. Governor who indicated that both he and the Governor believed this made sense but were waiting for legislative action.

Dr. Rich suggested partnering with other organizations such as MML or SEMCOG. Mayor Massey felt this was a great idea and asked that Council reach out to those organizations on which they serve.

Councilmember Knol agreed with the language and trying to get legislative action, but felt that the City needed a back-up plan and should be discussing all options at the same time in the event that no legislative action takes place by February or March so they can move forward with another option. She mentioned that the last time this was discussed, she asked about looking into other options including removing the special assessment districts (SAD) and having those residents currently in a SAD pay the millage and to use millage funds to pay off the SAD bonds or continue the SAD districts and have residents pay both the SAD and millage but refund one or the other through millage funding.

Attorney Joppich responded that he had reviewed those options and provided information to City Council but he will look into this a little further and provide a follow-up report to Council in January.

Mayor Massey added that another option would be to put the question on the ballot without the exemption as that portion of the language has already been approved by the Attorney General's Office.

Councilmembers Knol and Steckloff stated that they were not supportive of that option.

City Manager Boyer added that if language is not approved by March or April next year to put forth to the voters later in 2018, the City will have to go back to the directed SAD process in order to maintain the roads.

MAJOR ROAD PROJECTS UPDATE

Director of Public Services Mondora provided a recap of road projects completed in 2017, 2018 road constructions statistics and information for planned 2018 major road projects.

Councilmember Knol expressed concern with the impact on residents when they go through a road construction project and then the area is later disrupted again for utility work. She thought utility companies were required to coordinate with other entities and feels this should be a mandate and that utility companies should be required to provide a 5-year plan and that there is some incentive for them to coordinate the work.

Assistant City Manager Mekjian commented that what Councilmember Knol is suggesting is part of the Governor's pilot program.

ADJOURNMENT:

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk