

MINUTES  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION  
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM  
JULY 28, 2014 – 6:00PM

The Study Session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Brickner at 6:20pm.

Council Members Present: Brickner, Bridges, Bruce, Knol, Lerner, Massey and Steckloff

Others Present: City Manager Brock, City Clerk Smith and City of Farmington Hills Attorney Joppich

**CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION FROM JULY 9, 2014 STUDY SESSION (JOINT ANNUAL MEETING):**

Mayor Brickner mentioned that he had not yet heard back from the schools regarding a joint meeting.

Councilmember Knol stated that she would like to hold a meeting with the Superintendent some time soon.

Mayor Brickner suggested that if a joint meeting was not held, perhaps the Council could invite the new Superintendent to a study session meeting.

Councilmember Lerner expressed concern with the way the discussion took place regarding a joint meeting with the Councils of Farmington and Farmington Hills and members of the School Board. He felt that decisions were made at the meeting and that is appeared as if the Mayor were speaking for the entire Council.

Mayor Brickner commented that he did not agree to anything with the schools and only indicated that he would relay the message back to City Council on how they would like to handle the annual joint meeting going forward.

City Manager Brock explained how the meeting came about and how those that attended were chosen.

Councilmember Bridges also expressed concern that it may have appeared the Mayor was representing all of Council and they did not have a say in the process.

Councilmember Massey stated that his concern was that it sounded as if a decision was made as to how joint meetings would be held in the future and Council had no opportunity to weigh in on that decision. He added that this is not about a concern with the School Board or topic discussed but how the meeting occurred. He feels the Council has expressed their concerns over how the meeting was held and can get past that; and that is it now up to the schools as to whether or not they want to continue with holding a joint meeting with both Councils in the future. He stated that this was just a reminder that all of Council needs to be careful when making comments in other meetings that they are not perceived as representing Council as a whole.

City Manager Brock excused himself from the meeting.

**DISCUSSION OF CITY MANAGER REVIEW PROCESS:**

Councilmember Bridges stated that he had provided the Mayor and Council with some information outlining a City Manager Review process. He mentioned that he has been researching this issue and attended a National League of Cities Conference where this was discussed and it occurred to him that the City had no formal review process in place. Mr. Bridges commented that this was not a reflection on the current City Manager as he felt he was doing a fine job; only that he felt it would be better to have a formal process based on goals and objectives and would be a helpful tool for Council. He also felt Council had the fiduciary responsibility

Councilmember Massey inquired where the information provided came from. Mr. Bridges responded that the information was a copy of the presentation at the NLC Conference. He mentioned that other local communities have such a review process and felt it would be prudent for the Council to have one as well.

Councilmember Lerner felt that having 7 people conduct a review would be difficult and suggested that if Council were to consider a formal process to consider gathering of information for a single person to conduct the interview such as the Mayor or Mayor Pro-Tem.

Councilmember Knol stated that she supports having a review process, but is not wed to one particular process.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bruce preferred the current process and looking at results over the past year and that those results should speak for themselves. He added that he doesn't believe a formal process is needed at this time and prefers to deal with issues as they arise and not at a next formal review.

Councilmember Steckloff added that past evaluations she has been involved in have been more of a review for professional development and she feels that can be beneficial. She also agreed with dealing with any issues as they come up.

Further discussion was held on the process and who would conduct the interview. Council concurred that even if they determined to approve a more formal review process, they would not want to see the current practice changing with regard to continued conversations and dealing with any issues as they may arise.

Councilmember Knol commented that the consistency of a formal review process and having information in writing was important.

In answer to Councilmember Bridges comments earlier, Attorney Joppich stated that he believed Mr. Bridges was seeking information as to whether the nature of the responsibility of Council to hire and review the City Manager rose to the level of fiduciary responsibility. Mr. Bridges confirmed that was his question.

It was the consensus of City Council to place this item on a future study session in order to obtain more information on different review processes.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Brickner adjourned the study session meeting at 7:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk