

**City of Farmington
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 5, 2024**

The City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 5, 2024, at Farmington City Hall, 430 3rd Street, Farmington, Minnesota.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hoyt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hoyt led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Joshua Hoyt
Councilmembers Holly Bernatz, Katie Bernhjelm, Nick Lien,
and Steve Wilson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lynn Gorski, City Administrator
Amy Schmidt, Attorney
Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director
Kim Sommerland, Finance Director
Matt Price, Fire Chief
Kellee Omlid, Parks & Recreation Director
Tony Wippler, Planning Manager
Gary Rutherford, Police Chief
John Powell, Public Works Director
Shirley Buecksler, City Clerk

Also Present: Alan Catchpool, Kimley-Horn
Ashley Payne, Kimley-Horn
Jacob Steen, Larkin Hoffman, representing TRACT

4. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Bernatz and seconded by Councilmember Lien to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMENDATIONS

6. CITIZENS COMMENTS / RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

- Kathy Thompson, 22280 Baring Avenue, Farmington, addressed the Council regarding 1) a letter she sent to the Council regarding representation for Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR), process, and details of the AUAR; and 2) July 16 letter from the Department of Natural Resources regarding wetlands.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1 Appointment of Additional Election Judges for the 2024 Election Cycle; Resolution 2024-66
- 7.2 Minutes of the July 1, 2024 City Council Work Session
- 7.3 Minutes of the July 1, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting
- 7.4 Minutes of the July 15, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting
- 7.5 Resolution 2024-72 Approving the Development Contract Along with the Conveyance of Real Property – Vermillion River Crossings Third Addition
- 7.6 Payment of Claims
- 7.7 Deputy Fire Chief Job Classification
- 7.8 Resolution 2024-68 Declaring Items as Surplus and Authorizing Disposal – Playground Castle Playground Equipment
- 7.9 Resolution 2024-67 Accepting Donations to the Parks and Recreation Department for Movies and Music in the Park
- 7.10 Resolution 2024-65 Declaring Items as Surplus and Authorizing Disposal – 2020 Ford Explorer
- 7.11 Final Acceptance of Public Streets and Utilities and Release of Securities – Vita Attiva at South Creek Third Addition
- 7.12 Acceptance of Bids and Award of a Contract for Construction of the 2024 Mill & Overlay Project to McNamara Contracting of Rosemount in the Amount of \$541,050
- 7.13 Resolution 2024-69 Declaring Items as Surplus and Authorizing Disposal: 2000 Wacker Roller, 1997 Chevrolet Pickup Truck, 2001 Sterling Vector, Transmission Jack, Wheel Lift Jack, JAMAR Technologies Data Recorders (five), Ulrich Plan Holder File, and SAFCO Plan Hanging File

Motion was made by Councilmember Wilson and seconded by Councilmember Bernatz to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 8.1 Vacation of Drainage and Utility Easement within Vermillion River Crossings Plat

Planning Manager Wippler presented.

Mayor Hoyt opened the public hearing at 7:05 pm. Seeing no one wishing to speak, Mayor Hoyt closed the public hearing at 7:07 pm.

Motion was made by Councilmember Wilson and seconded by Councilmember Lien to adopt Resolution 2024-70 Vacating Existing Drainage and Utility Easement Vermillion River Crossings.

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays

9. AWARD OF CONTRACT

10. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Resolution 2024-71 Adopting a Final Order and Record of Decision for an Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) for the Farmington Technology Park Project

Director Kuennen presented.

Mayor Hoyt addressed the question or concern brought up during Citizen Comments:

- The difference in the wetland area being depicted on one page and not the other page is; in defining the study area, they're using the parcel outline, not showing anything within it. They're just saying, this is the area.
- Under the development scenario, they're showing impact areas. So they're showing the wetlands.
- When it came to the two proposed uses, there is one that is in the current 2040 comp plan and then one on the proposed usage. Whenever an AUAR is submitted, it has to be submitted with two intended uses and we're doing those: the one that was currently laying in the comp plan and the one that has been talked about with TRACT.
- A scoping document is setting the guardrails – the State requires eight to ten different entities: the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the City of Farmington, Dakota County, the Army Corps of Engineers, a whole list of people that, in the initial scoping document, need to consider things we may already be aware of when it goes out, the actual environmental review is done, and the study is completed. There are things they may find; some may be small, or some may be significant in impact. It's information that we're going to learn. In turn, that develops the mitigation strategy as needed. In no way shape or form can anybody circumvent an AUAR and not do what is listed. If there is an issue, it must be addressed in order for the development to move forward.

Director Kuennen added that this is a planning document. It does not approve or deny projects. We are looking to understand what the impacts would be for

potential development scenarios. It's fully identified by the State. This AUAR is no different than any of the other AUAR's that get processed by the State. The required agencies need to weigh in on it and the scoping document is just that. It identifies the scope of the project, focusing on what the scenarios will be that get looked at as part of it, and what you see in it is all the 'chapters,' for lack of a better term, identifying all of the required elements that must be addressed in the actual document.

Motion was made by Councilmember Lien and seconded by Councilmember Bernatz to adopt Resolution 2024-71 Adopting a Final Order and Record of Decision for an Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) for the Farmington Technology Park Project.

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays

13. CITY COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Attorney Schmidt:

I'm glad to be here and will fill in for Leah this week. She will be back in a couple of weeks. Thank you for having me.

Councilmember Lien:

Everybody get out and enjoy the fair and be safe.

Also, there is a small group of people who call themselves Elves to the Rescue. They were in Rambling River Park last week handing out school supplies to anyone that walked up and wanted pencils, notebooks, etc. I thought that was really nice and wanted to say thank you for being that part of the community that we like around here.

Councilmember Bernatz:

Just a reminder that it is still severe weather season. If you hear sirens, take cover. Nine times out of ten, it's not near your house. Sometimes we forget that things can happen, but if you find yourself in a space where there is severe weather coming and the sirens go off, that is not the time to go out to your porch to see what's on. It is the time to go and take cover.

Councilmember Bernhjelms:

Tomorrow is National Night Out. I hope everyone gets an opportunity to get outside, talk to your neighbors, say hi to folks on your street, and enjoy the evening. Hopefully we have some nice weather.

Clerk Buecksler:

Election Day is next Tuesday, August 13th. Polls will be open from 7 am to 8 pm. If voters cannot get to the polling site on Election Day, we are open Monday through Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm, as well as this Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm, and Monday until 5 pm.

Director Kuennen:

There are a lot of great things happening in this community and sometimes we have an opportunity to celebrate those. This week we have two groundbreakings for some projects that will be great additions to this community:

Denmark Trail Townhome groundbreaking is tomorrow at 1 pm. This project is a 40-unit workforce townhome project providing one, two, three, and four bedroom units. It's the second Community Development Authority community here in Farmington, and a great addition to this community.

On Thursday, the Farmington Health Services Trinity Campus will have a groundbreaking to celebrate their expansion. This expansion will provide both new rooms and a new nursing station, as well as other upgrades. We are always grateful for people to invest in our community, and it's wonderful to see our existing businesses like Trinity making expansions, and we get the opportunity to celebrate with them.

Director Powell:

With your action this evening, construction activity and footing foundation type work for Yellow Tree will start almost immediately. We will be installing traffic control at the Dushane and Spruce intersection to shift both lanes of traffic to the east side of the square-about to clear the west side for their construction activity. That will likely be installed on Wednesday, and we will have information on the website.

The 2025 Street Improvement Project has already kicked off. We sent a letter to the residents generally in the Sunnyside neighborhood, with a survey to ask what issues they've been dealing with and if they had any utility service issues. We will have our initial neighborhood meeting within the next two to four weeks.

Director Omlid:

On tonight's Consent Agenda, Council approved a donation resolution for movies and music in the park. I want to thank all of our sponsors. We couldn't do those programs without their contribution: Castle Rock Bank, ChemQuest, Farmington Youth Hockey Association, Premier Banks, The Legacy, VFW Post #7662, and Marschall Line. Thank you for your contributions to music and movies in the park.

To celebrate the newest park to Farmington, Flagstaff Meadows will have a ribbon cutting next Wednesday, August 14th, at 6 pm. This is the new park just south of Farmington High School, and we hope you can join us for the celebration.

Chief Price:

This Saturday from 11 am to 3:30 pm is Public Safety Day at the fair, so we encourage everyone to come out to meet all the Firefighters from Dakota County, not just your Farmington Firefighters.

Chief Rutherford:

It is Dakota County Fair week, so much like during Dew Days, there's going to be a ton of extra traffic, a lot of pedestrians particularly crossing Ash Street, so please be careful.

Tomorrow is National Night Out, so we will see a whole bunch of you tomorrow evening.

Mayor Hoyt:

It's fair time, so a busy week. For anyone living within a mile's distance, there are derbies on Friday and Saturday night. It's normal and part of the process. If you can avoid Ash Street this week, by all means please do so. We are going to blink and it's Labor Day, so get out and enjoy as much of August as you can before the kids get back in school.

We have more great signs of a growing community with ribbon cuttings, groundbreaking, and investments in the community. Farmington is a great city to live in, and there are a lot of great things that happen. It's fun to continue to see that come up.

Get out and enjoy the fair and have fun.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Bernatz and seconded by Councilmember Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays

Respectfully submitted,



Shirley R Bueckler
City Clerk