

**City of Farmington**  
**Joint ISD 192 School Board and City Council Work Session Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 21, 2024**

The City Council met in a Joint Work Session with the ISD 192 School Board on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at Farmington City Hall, 430 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Farmington, Minnesota.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Joint Work Session was called to order by Mayor Hoyt and Chair Simmons at 5:30 pm. Both Council and School Board Members introduced themselves.

**Members Present:**

City Council

Mayor Joshua Hoyt

Councilmembers Nick Lien and Steve Wilson

School Board

Chair Hannah Simmons

Board Members Kyle Christensen, Becky DeWilde, Melissa Gorman,  
and Dr. Maggie Storlie

**Members Absent:**

City Council

Councilmembers Katie Bernhjelm and Holly Bernatz

School Board

Board Member Jacilyn Doyle

**City Staff Present:**

Lynn Gorski, City Administrator

Julie Flaten, Assistant City Administrator & HR Director

Deanna Kuennen, Community & Economic Development Director

Kim Sommerland, Finance Director

Matt Price, Fire Chief

Kellee Omlid, Parks & Recreation Director

Gary Rutherford, Police Chief

John Powell, Public Works Director

Shirley Buecksler, City Clerk

**ISD 192 Staff Present:**

Superintendent Jason Berg

Jane Houska, Finance Director

Dan Miller, Director of Operations

Lori Jensen, Executive Assistant

## **2. APPROVE AGENDA**

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

Motion carried: 3 ayes / 0 nays

Motion was made by Board Member Christensen and seconded by Board Member Gorman to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays

## **3. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **3.1 Joint Discussion with Farmington City Council and Independent School District 192 School Board Members**

Superintendent Berg presented information on the School District's demographics, enrollment update, and school finance.

Administrator Gorski and Director Kuennen presented the City's Community Vision and City Priorities.

Mayor Hoyt – I propose that the School Board and City Council meet twice each year, about March and August.

Chair Simmons – there was a lot of enthusiasm from the Board to get together and collaborate and in a different and more meaningful way than we have in the past.

Councilmember Lien – I appreciate and fully support the work being done by the Board and am in support of the levy.

Councilmember Wilson – my daughter graduated so this is my first year without a direct impact, but I'm still invested in the community just as much as I was in previous years. Having lived in District 196, you unfortunately need to push that pain button even though it can be uncomfortable. It's important for communities to have that component as part of your overall funding. Whatever we can do to help you out, and in our own conversations with others, I encourage the Board to continue sharing information on the levy and try to get folks to listen. Also of note, the City is just at the beginning stages of the proposed data center parks. This project will have to go through the Planning Commission before it comes to City Council.

Chair Simmons – the overall benefit that a school district provides to the community, not just those who have learners directly in the curriculum, is so important to highlight. You can look at the tangibles from rental space or the ways that high school seniors are connected back to providing services and support through volunteerism in the community, but it really is so important for all of us. And when we're talking about the support and the importance of talking with our

community members, I think it can't be overstated the importance of the conversations as Steve mentioned. Last year, we all talked to as many people as we could and then followed up with people after who said they didn't know there was a referendum or a levy and asked where they would have heard about it. We said we've been talking about it at the Board for months, the Superintendent sent emails directly to families, principals put it in newsletters, there was a direct mailing to everyone's home, and one of the things people said was they didn't see any yard signs. That's a tangible thing that people didn't see that we talked about as a district in terms of cost for those types of things. It doesn't make a lot of sense, and the people who did vote and shared feedback with us said the reason they did is because someone they cared about, whether it was a teacher, friend, colleague, or a neighbor, told them this is on the ballot and it's really important that you get out and vote for this. I appreciate your support and the opportunity that you see with your friends, colleagues, and neighbors to talk about it and to help raise awareness, recognizing that we can do everything we have planned through our communication plans.

**4. COUNCIL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

No update.

**5. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE**

No update.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Councilmember Wilson and seconded by Councilmember Lien to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 pm.

Motion carried: 3 ayes / 0 nays

Motion was made by Board Member Christensen and seconded by Board Member Storlie to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 pm.

Motion carried 5 ayes / 0 nays

Respectfully submitted,

  
Shirley R. Buecksler  
City Clerk