

**City of Farmington
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 2, 2024**

The City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 2, 2024, at Farmington City Hall, 430 Third 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 Katie Bernhjelm, Holly Bernatz,
Nick Lien, and Steve Wilson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lynn Gorski, City Administrator
Leah Koch, City Attorney
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

Also Present: Jake Steen of Larkin Hoffman Representing Tract

4. APPROVE AGENDA

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

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMENDATIONS

6. CITIZENS COMMENTS / RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

The following citizens addressed the Council:

- Nate Ryan, 22390 Cambrian Way, Farmington
- Drea Doffing, 2255 225th Street West, Castle Rock Township

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1 Minutes of the October 7, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting
- 7.2 Minutes of the October 21, 2024 Joint Planning Commission and City Council Work Session
- 7.3 Minutes of the October 21, 2024 Regular City Council Minutes
- 7.4 Minutes of November 8, 2024 Special City Council Minutes
- 7.5 Regional Letter of Support for MnDOT's Continued Designation of the Twin Cities-Albert Lea and Twin Cities-Mankato Rail Corridor
- 7.6 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan
- 7.7 Payment of Claims
- 7.8 Staff Changes and Recommendations, including the appointment of:
 - Heath Walker as Fire Marshal
 - Jack Aarness as Seasonal Skate Guard
 - Addison Moudry as Seasonal Skate Instructor
 - Debra Lyons as Seasonal Warming House Attendant
- 7.9 Breach of Contract and File a Claim in Conciliation Court
- 7.10 FY 2024 Community Project Funding Grant
- 7.11 Dakota County Community Waste Abatement 2025 Grant Agreement

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

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 8.1 Final 2025 General Fund Budget and Tax Levy

Mayor Hoyt opened the public hearing at 7:08 pm.

Director Sommerland presented the Final 2025 General Fund Budget and Tax Levy.

The following citizen(s) addressed the Council during the public hearing:

- Nate Ryan, 22390 Cambrian Way, Farmington

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Hoyt closed the public hearing at 7:30 pm.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bernatz and seconded by Councilmember Lien to adopt Resolution 2024-110 Adopting the 2025 Budget and Setting the Final Tax Levy Collectible in 2025.

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays

9. AWARD OF CONTRACT

10. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Development Contract – Farmington Technology Park

Planning Manager Wippler presented and answered questions for Council. Jake Steen of Larkin Hoffman was also available for questions.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bernhjelm and seconded by Councilmember Bernatz to adopt Resolution 2024-111 Approving Development Contract Farmington Technology Park.

Motion carried: 4 ayes / 1 nays – Councilmember Wilson voted against.

13. CITY COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Attorney Koch:

Jennifer Frisch was appointed as the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, which is a statewide office.

Councilmember Bernhjelm:

I'd like to give a shout-out to the video Holly shared earlier that I posted on the community pages. We did get some coverage on Twin Cities Live for some of our holiday lights going on throughout the community and a shout-out for Toys for Town. Be sure to check it out.

Administrator Gorski:

Congratulations to Heath Walker on his Fire Marshal promotion. Heath is a Paid-On-Call Firefighter and it's exciting when we can promote within, so congratulations to Heath.

This Saturday, we have our first Lighted Holiday Parade. We have 25 entries and the parade starts at 7 pm. After the parade, there will be some fire pits in front of Sweet Kneads Bakery and between the bakery and Homestead Community Church for some celebrations. Please join us.

Director Omlid:

The Holiday Lights Tour started today. We have 21 houses on the tour plus a cul-de-sac, which was featured on Twin Cities Live today. Shout out to them. The list is posted on social media and will be on the City's website, as well, soon.

Saturday, the Secret Holiday Shop is from 9 am to Noon. A new location this year with the Rambling River Center under renovations, it will be here at City Hall.

Director Sommerland:

This may be a little out of order, but to follow up on comments made by the public during the public hearing, I looked up when the assessment are made, and those are done as of January 2nd for the taxes payable the next year. So as of January 2, 2024 for taxes payable 2025.

Chief Price:

Congratulations to Heath Walker. He was a phenomenal candidate and will be a tremendous asset for the Fire Department. He brings 17 years of experience here with Farmington. His official start date will be Monday, December 9th.

Chief Rutherford:

We are in our last week of accepting registrations. Registration for the program closes this Friday. We will be out collecting from our toy donation sites next week leading up to Saturday, December 14th, for wrapping day at the high school from 9 am to Noon. Many hands make light work, so if you know anybody that needs a moving experience, I would recommend coming out to the high school on the 14th at 9 am. It's a really cool event that will recharge your batteries a little bit, for sure.

Director Powell:

We have had a tremendous amount of fiber installation activity in the city this year. In addition to HBC, we have had other carriers come in with their contractors. HBC is done with their disruptive work, their boring and excavation, so they're pulling fiber and making connections and splices and things and are close to wrapping up. The other carriers are coming down to the point where they're going to be ceasing operations for the season. Because, during snow and ice season, we don't want activities in the boulevard, materials stored, things like that. I want to thank all the residents for their patience this year. It's very disruptive activity and people go to great lengths to take care of their yards and maintain their property. To have a contractor come in and disrupt it is very concerning sometimes but, particularly to HBC and their credit and their contractors, they are very responsive to our residents and taking care of any issues that arise.

We are in the process of closing out 2024 projects. We do have a few reports we make to governmental agencies, such as the DNR, Met Council, and Dakota County, so we're in the process of working on yearend reports.

The Water Board voted to cancel their December meeting.

Councilmember Bernhjelm:

I won't be able to attend the reception on Thursday, so I want to thank everybody who has served on our boards and commissions this past year. These are appointed positions by the Council and those folks do a tremendous amount of work on behalf of residents, several meetings, reviewing a lot of things for us, giving recommendations, and sometimes their work goes unrecognized. They aren't as visible, but they do a great job for us. Thanks to all of those who have served in the

last year. We will be doing interviews for those open seats coming up in a couple of weeks.

Mayor Hoyt:

Last weekend I was driving down 195th Street and I noticed skim ice for the first time. It's a reminder that, I know our kiddos like to skate out on the storm water ponds and the early ice fishing they want to get out, but the ice isn't thick. Just wait – it's going to get cold soon enough and the ice will thicken up. I know the kiddos are eager to get out there and play hockey on the ponds but it's not quite time yet. The Fire Department will be out doing cold water rescue training normally in January. Please keep the kiddos off the ice, as well as the adults that want to fish. We don't need any unnecessary issues this early in the season.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Wilson and seconded by Councilmember Bernhjelm to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm.

Motion carried: 5 ayes / 0 nays

Respectfully submitted,



Shirley R Buecksler
City Clerk