



**FARMERSVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES  
For  
August 20, 2018, 5:00 P.M.**

**I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

- Mayor Rice called the meeting to order at 5: 00 p.m. Council members Michael Hesse, Donny Mason, Mike Hurst, and Todd Rolan were all present. Craig Overstreet was absent. City staff members Ben White, Sandra Green, Rick Ranspot, Mike Sullivan and City Attorney's Alan Lathrom and Ed Voss were also present.
- Prayer was led by Rick Ranspot, Farmersville Warrant Officer, followed by the pledges to the United States and Texas flags.

**II. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Mayor Rice read the statement below and the City Council entered into executive session at 5:02 p.m.
  - A. Section 551.071, Consultation with Attorney
    - 1. Consultation with City Attorney regarding laws and potential litigation issues applicable to cemeteries and plats and the plat of the cemetery proposed by the Islamic Association of Collin County in the City's ETJ.

**III. RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AND DISCUSS/CONSIDER/ACT ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PERMITTED BY SECTION 551.071 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE.**

- Mayor Rice stated the City Council would reconvene from executive session at 6:15 p.m.
- Mayor Rice read a statement that explained the City of Farmersville has been cooperating with the United States Department of Justice in its investigation as to whether the City violated the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons

Act by its disapproval of the preliminary plat submitted for a cemetery by the Islamic Association of Collin County on property located generally south of U.S. Highway 380 and east and north of County Road 557. Dating back to its disapproval of the preliminary plat for the cemetery, and during this period of investigation, the City has continued to communicate with and attempt to negotiate with the Islamic Association of Collin County to allow for the approval of the preliminary plat. The Department of Justice recently notified the City that the United States Attorney General's Office has approved the filing of a lawsuit against the City under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. The Department of Justice also offered to enter into a tolling agreement with the City to allow for pre-suit negotiations to determine whether the United States Department of Justice and the City can reach a settlement that would also result in the approval of the preliminary plat, and ultimately the recording of the final plat with Collin County, for the cemetery proposed by the Islamic Association of Collin County. The City Council has met to discuss this matter.

- Michael Hesse stated he would make a motion to approve Alan Lathrom to sign into the tolling agreement to negotiate with the Department of Justice.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve was Mike Hurst
- All council members voted in favor.


#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

APPROVE:

  
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Jack Randall Rice, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Sandra Green, City Secretary

