



# Rochester Hills

## Minutes - Draft

### City Council Special Meeting

1000 Rochester Hills Dr  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
(248) 656-4600  
Home Page:  
[www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org)

*Kevin S. Brown, Dale A. Hetrick, Greg Hooper, Adam Kochenderfer, Stephanie Morita,  
Mark A. Tisdell and Thomas W. Wiggins*

*Vision Statement: The Community of Choice for Families and Business*

*Mission Statement: "Our mission is to sustain the City of Rochester Hills as the premier  
community of choice to live, work and raise a family by enhancing our vibrant residential  
character complemented by an attractive business community."*

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Tuesday, August 25, 2015

6:00 PM

Fieldstone Golf Club,  
1984 Taylor Rd., Auburn Hills, MI

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## CALL TO ORDER

*Mayor McDaniel called the Joint Meeting of the City Councils of Auburn Hills and  
Rochester Hills to order at 6:23 p.m. Michigan Time.*

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## ROLL CALL - AUBURN HILLS CITY COUNCIL

Present 6 - John Burmeister, Maureen Hammond, Robert Kittle, Henry Knight, Kevin  
McDaniel and VeRonica Mitchell

Absent 1 - Cheryl Verbeke

## ROLL CALL - ROCHESTER HILLS CITY COUNCIL

**Present** 4 - Dale Hetrick, Greg Hooper, Stephanie Morita and Thomas W. Wiggins

**Absent** 3 - Kevin S. Brown, Adam Kochenderfer and Mark A. Tisdell

## Others Present:

*Stephanie Carroll, Auburn Hills Manager of Business Development and Community  
Relations*

*Kathleen Novak, Auburn Hills Deputy Clerk*

*Thomas Tanghe, Auburn Hills City Manager*

*Bryan Barnett, Rochester Hills Mayor*

*Tina Barton, Rochester Hills City Clerk*

*Leanne Scott, Rochester Hills Deputy Clerk*

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

*Mayor McDaniel welcomed everyone in attendance and invited everyone present to  
introduce themselves.*

*Each individual in attendance introduced themselves and provided a brief history of  
their service to their respective cities.*

## DISCUSSION OF ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

*Council Members of both cities discussed items of mutual interest, including the following:*

### **Oil and Gas Ordinances:**

*It was noted that the company originally interested in oil and gas exploration announced that they have pulled out of the area. The passing of ordinances in the respective cities have also helped to put the issue to rest. It was also mentioned that the drop in the price of oil has affected the interest in exploration.*

### **Roads:**

*Discussion ensued as to what the communities have done to secure financing opportunities for road reconstruction. It was noted that Special Assessment Districts and grants are being explored.*

*It was mentioned that the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) has proposed a project for the rehabilitation of South Boulevard, as a cooperative project between the RCOC, Rochester Hills and Troy. It was noted that this project is included on Rochester Hills' Budget Straw Poll for Council's consideration.*

*Discussion ensued regarding traffic concerns on Adams Road near Marketplace and whether a traffic light is proposed for that area. It was suggested that the flashing light south of Marketplace in Auburn Hills be turned to a working signal.*

*Ms. Morita noted that there are traffic problems along Adams Road near Meadow Brook. She pointed out that the roadway is narrow and there is no safety path, particularly in the area near the Oakland University (OU) employee housing subdivision. She noted difficulties for fire and rescue units to travel that area during times of heavy traffic and questioned how to make it OU's top priority.*

*The Councils discussed traffic concerns near OU, particularly the large influx of vehicles that the University brings into the community each day. The dangers of pedestrians crossing the major roads were discussed, and it was noted that there have been suggestions regarding installing a walking path to be built over or under Walton to facilitate a safe pedestrian crossing.*

*Mr. Tanghe related the history of widening Squirrel Road, noting that previous OU President Russi had no interest in participating in a widening project. He mentioned that Butler Road needs improvement as well, and Auburn Hills has abandoned any project to improve this road without any contribution from Oakland University.*

*It was mentioned that a media campaign to urge OU to lend support to road improvements could be undertaken.*

**Promoting Commercial and Residential Development:**

*The Councils discussed the recent State change to Personal Property Tax. It was noted that Rochester Hills is 70 percent residential, while Auburn Hills is 80 percent industrial/commercial.*

*Mr. Tanghe related the history of the Forrester Square Development, which was planned for 800 single and multi-family units. He explained that Biltmore, the original developer, went bankrupt in 2005 or 2006. He noted that a successor developer takes on all previous responsibilities and problems of a development. Subsequent to negotiations with the City regarding the previous responsibilities of the development, the property has now all been sold and is being developed.*

*He noted that Auburn Hills' goal is for the growth and expansion of a thriving downtown area over the next 20 years.*

*Discussion ensued regarding the granting of tax abatements to entice new companies to move into the cities.*

*Mayor Barnett noted that Rochester Hills' retail development vacancy rate is the lowest it has ever been at 5.6 percent.*

**Fire Services and Public Safety:**

*The Councils discussed public safety in their respective communities.*

*Mr. Hetrick credited Rochester Hills' Chief of Fire and Emergency Services Sean Canto for his leadership in packaging a proposal that the voters overwhelmingly supported to levy 2.7 mills to fund the hiring of nine new Firefighter/EMS personnel.*

*Mayor Barnett noted that the City will be submitting a proposal to Council to renovate four of five fire stations, and reconstruct its Station 4.*

*Discussion regarding collaboration between the two City Fire Departments ensued, and it was noted that a goal of any collaboration would be to ensure the concept of bringing the closest responder to an incident. It was noted that the communities have Mutual Aid Agreements in place; and while not a new concept, the thought of merging Fire Services or Police Services would be difficult and could meet with resistance. It was mentioned that many communities prefer to maintain the identity of a local police department.*

*Mayor Barnett noted that Rochester Hills' Police Services budget, contracted through Oakland County, is \$8.5 million per year, while Shelby Township and Sterling Heights have budgets in the range of \$20 million. He pointed out that Rochester Hills was recently named the safest community in Michigan, and has the lowest per capita Police expenditure.*

*Council President Hooper questioned whether any grants for Fire Services might be available, similar to that which the North Oakland County Water Authority has received.*

*It was suggested that the Fire Chiefs and Administrations of both communities could begin informal dialogues to help develop innovative solutions to work together.*

**Shared Services:**

*The North Oakland County Water Authority Agreement was mentioned as a collaboration between communities that will receive a Community Excellence Award, to be presented next month in Traverse City.*

*It was noted that the Cities of Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills enjoy a high level of cooperation and collaboration, with mutual-interest agreements.*

**Closing Remarks:**

*Mayor Barnett stated that he is appreciative of the great relationship Rochester Hills has with Auburn Hills.*

*He commented that he is proud of the relationships between Rochester Hills Administration and its Council. He noted that the City's budget was presented to Council and discussed over one night, when it used to take several.*

*Mr. Tanghe noted that Auburn Hills' budget is presented by the Finance Director during a two-night review workshop.*

*Mayor McDaniel commented that the two cities enjoy great working relationships with a high level of collaboration. Discussions between the two cities on collaborations on public safety and shared city services will continue.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business before the Councils, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.*

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*GREG HOOPER, President  
Rochester Hills City Council*

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*TINA BARTON, MMC, Clerk  
City of Rochester Hills*

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*LEANNE L. SCOTT, CMC, Deputy Clerk  
City of Rochester Hills*

*Approved as presented at the (insert date, or dates) Regular City Council Meeting.*