



# Rochester Hills Minutes

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## Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee

*Thomas Blackstone, Jason Carlock, Jayson Graves, Walter Johnson, Donald Price, Tom Stephens, Scott Struzik*  
*Council Members: Dale A. Hetrick, Mark A. Tisdell*  
*Youth Representatives: Lea Schulz and Natalie Vaglia*

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Wednesday, October 12, 2016

6:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

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### CALL TO ORDER

*Chairperson Blackstone called the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee to order at 6:00 p.m.*

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 6 - Thomas Blackstone, Dale Hetrick, Walter Johnson, Scott Struzik, Tom Stephens and Jayson Graves  
**Excused** 3 - Jason Carlock, Donald Price and Mark A. Tisdell

### Others Present:

*Tracey Balint, City Public Utilities Engineer*  
*Paul Davis, City Engineer*  
*Keith Depp, City Engineer*  
*Greg Kacvinsky, OHM Advisors*  
*Tim Pollizzi, Water Resources Coordinator*  
*Thomas Rellinger, Rochester College*  
*Allan Schneck, Director of Public Services*  
*Joe Snyder, City Senior Financial Analyst*  
*Karen Stickel, Hubbell, Roth and Clark*  
*Terry Stollsteimer, Oakland University*

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

*None.*

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2016-0315 Approval of Meeting Minutes - April 20, 2016

**Attachments:** [042016 Minutes.pdf](#)  
[Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

A motion was made by Struzik, seconded by Johnson, that this matter be Approved.  
The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye** 6 - Blackstone, Hetrick, Johnson, Struzik, Stephens and Graves

**Excused** 3 - Carlock, Price and Tisdell

**Resolved**, that the Minutes of the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee meeting held on April 20, 2016 to be approved as presented.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

2015-0258 Discussion for Funding Street Light Maintenance

**Attachments:** [Supp Staran Memo - October 10, 2016.pdf](#)  
[Draft Sub Street Lighting Policy.pdf](#)

**Chairperson Blackstone** introduced Joe Snyder, City Chief Financial Officer and stated that the Committee would be revisiting the Committee's discussion of implementation of a city Street Light Policy (SLP) for its subdivisions.

**Mr. Snyder** recalled that the SPL was presented to City Council approximately one year ago and a couple of questions had come up during the meeting. He stated that no further action had occurred. He stated that many cities have a special assessment district policy which is beneficial. He commented that the current procedure is cumbersome for the city administration to manage four times per year:

- Send quarterly bills
- Track the amounts
- Send the amounts to the homeowner associations
- City administrative costs.

He discussed that DTE Energy does not have business agreements with individual homeowners or homeowner associations and the agreements have to be managed through the City. He described the administration fees being almost as much as twenty percent (20%) that are charged to homeowners for management of the street lighting charges, payments and bookkeeping. He explained that the SLP would have the street lighting fees included on an individual's tax bill and would result in cost and management savings benefits. He stated that there had been no significant changes from past discussions. He noted that the City Attorney had written a memo (attached to this file) to address cost challenges and to explain the special assessment process.

*The Committee moved to resubmit the SLP to City Council for consideration. Mr. Stephens moved that the Committee bring this back for discussion to City Council and Mr. Struzik seconded the motion.*

**2015-0259** Discussion for Funding Storm Water System Maintenance

**Attachments:** [SUPP SAG 2 Presentation - Rochester Hills.pdf](#)  
[SUPP SAG 1 Presentation - Rochester Hills.pdf](#)  
[SUPP 2015-1013 SAW Grant Update.pdf](#)  
[Stormwater FAQ.pdf](#)  
[S.E. Michigan Stormwater Discussion.pdf](#)  
[Senate Bill No. 256.pdf](#)  
[Ann Arbor Case Study.pdf](#)  
[City of Ann Arbor Stormwater Utility Ordinance.pdf](#)  
[City of Berkley Storm Water Utility.pdf](#)  
[Funding Mechanisms.pdf](#)  
[Jackson Case Study.pdf](#)  
[St. Clair Shores Stormwater Utility Ordinance.pdf](#)

**Chairperson Blackstone** introduced Greg Kacvinsky from OHM Advisors ("OHM").

**Mr. Kacvinsky** stated that the power point presentations from the previous meetings are attached to Legislative File Number 2015-0259 for review. He gave a brief overview of the past two (2) meetings to bring everyone up to speed. He discussed:

- Magnitude and perception of storm water
- Volume of water underground
- Storm water vs. waste water
- Sanitary sewer, water main, hydrants, waste water collection, treatment of waste water costs, maintenance costs
- Open drains, sewers, manholes, catch basins, major culverts and drainage conveyance system
- Private sewers, public sewers

*Discussion ensued as to the lack of funding for storm water maintenance and how best to plan for possible infrastructure failure in the future.*

**Mr. Kacvinsky** described the design structure for water, sewer and storm water systems, the amount of flow the structures are able to carry and the condition for these components to function successfully.

*The Committee discussed the types of roads and ownership of the storm water infrastructure.*

**Paul Davis**, City Engineer, explained that if a region is subjected to an increase in rainfall events, as to rate or volume, adjustments are made as to the type and design of storm water infrastructures.

**Mr. Johnson** commented that because the City has built out through the years, there is less soil to absorb the rain.

**Mr. Kacvinsky** discussed the changes to site plans that required Developers to build detention ponds to control the peak flow. He described the process of storm sewer televising - approximately 24 miles of storm sewer were inspected to ensure the condition of the City's manhole areas. He stated that regular cleaning of the manhole covers helps to limit pollution as well as alert inspectors to any structure problems that might begin to be a problem.

Discussion ensued as to the roles that vector trucks play in monitoring the condition of the roads and manhole areas. The Committee talked about the longevity of sewers in and around Detroit and other cities.

**Mr. Kacvinsky** described some of the failures of storm sewers and referred to the pictures shown in the power point of:

- Corrugated metal pipes
- Condition of the wall structures
- Presence of debris or blockage of pipe
- Sewers that need to be flushed out
- Replace cracked pipes or pipes that have openings
- Removal of soil and gravel collection
- Crushed culvert pipes
- Concrete pipe with utility conduit poured through.

The Committee talked about broken utilities are reached for repair by going through the sewers.

**Mr. Kacvinsky** commented that the SAW Grant (Stormwater Asset Management and Wastewater Program) enables the City to analyze the condition of its sewers, compiles the data and stores the structural information. He stated that this efficiency from an operations standpoint will be valuable in the future as a deterioration forecast model.

The Committee discussed:

- Road and infrastructure maintenance funding

- *Capital Replacement Fund*
- *Future capital project needs*
- *Responsibility of maintenance by homeowner associations*
- *Public and private ownership of storm sewers, detention ponds, major culverts*

**Mr. Kacvinsky** showed the last slide and described it as a graphical depiction of the plan for a deterioration forecast model, similar to the City's roadway classification report. He stated that they would plug in different funding scenarios to come up with a long-term scenario to maintain an average structural condition. He stated that by the next meeting, they would have more information on the status of a bill that is being sponsored in Lansing which is essentially enabling legislation for storm water utilities.

**Chairperson Blackstone** commented that the Michigan Municipal League is working on model legislation for the establishment of storm water utilities by local governments in Michigan but that he did not expect anything to happen during an election year.

**Mr. Kacvinsky** described the proposed bill:

- *Covers a plan of how communities can put a utility*
- *Establishment of necessary components*
- *Requirement of a community to create an equitable structure*
- *Justification of revenue needs first*
- *Charge a fair rate and protect property owners against unfair billing.*

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Chairperson Blackstone** commented that he had spoken with Mr. Snyder about the need for an adjustment in the fire millage in the next couple of years.

**Mr. Snyder** responded with a brief description of fire capital funding needs:

- *Twelve (12) officers (nine (9) officers were added)*
- *Operational funding challenges - i.e. balancing staffing and vacation, sick and injury time without incurring additional costs and*
- *Future equipment maintenance and replacement costs.*

**Chairperson Blackstone** asked if the Committee should invite Chief Canto to come to the Committee's next meeting to discuss the fire capital.

**Mr. Snyder** responded that the Committee would benefit from the information available in 2017 during preparation for the City Council budget meetings and suggested a later date would be better.

## NEXT MEETING DATE

- Wednesday, November 30, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

*There being no further business before the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee, Chairperson Blackstone adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.*

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Thomas Blackstone, Chairperson

*Prepared by Christine A. Wissbrun  
Recording Secretary, City Clerk's Office*