

CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS

Mayor's
Office

Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor



DATE: November 30, 2007

TO: City Council

RE: Proposed Change In Council Meeting Days

After consulting with department directors and other members of my staff, I would like to provide the comments I received regarding the proposed change in City Council meetings. I have also included input from John Staran.

In general, upon our initial review, directors are very supportive of moving the meetings from Wednesday night to Monday. They are optimistic that the change would provide very few, if any, challenges. In fact, we believe the change could result in potential benefits.

Planning/Development

- Ed Anzek said the ZBA meetings are currently scheduled for Monday nights. ZBA members have been canvassed for comments on moving their meetings to Wednesdays. Four of the five ZBA members indicated Mondays would not be a problem.

Clerks Office

- Jane commented that we serve at the pleasure of City Council and the Mayor. The Open Meetings Act states that the City Council establishes the schedule of meetings.

Human Resources

- Pam Lee said that holiday Mondays might present a challenge. There are four holidays that fall on Mondays.

Fiscal Department

- Julie Jenuwine had no immediate concerns.

MIS Department

- Bob Grace said Monday is not a problem, and he does not have any concerns about it.

Parks Department

- Mike Hartner said he would prefer Monday meetings.

Fire Department

- Chief Crowell said he also prefers Monday meetings.

Assessing/Treasury

- Kurt Dawson said there are no concerns in Assessing or Treasury regarding a change in day.

Purchasing

- Jean Farris commented that it would be helpful to have meetings on Mondays so that approved contracts could be finalized before the end of the week.

Building Department

- Scott Cope had no concerns one-way or the other.

DPS/Engineering

- Roger Rouse commented that if an emergency happens on the weekend, such as a water main break, he might not be able to provide council with a quick update on the event. However, he is flexible with the change and does not anticipate any problems.

Channel 55/10

- Jamie Smith did not see any problems with the change.

OCSO

- Captain Smith did not see a problem with the change.

City Attorney

- John Staran has one standing commitment on the second Monday of every month. The change would require him to send a colleague to cover Rochester Hills meetings held on the second Monday.

In general, the Administration could quickly adapt to potential changes to the meeting dates with little or no major difficulty. We would request that in further discussions, a mutually acceptable timeframe could be worked out to address agenda setting and other important timeframe issues. We look forward to future discussions with council.