



# Rochester Hills Minutes

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## Community Development & Viability / Financial Services / Public Safety Joint Committee

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & VIABILITY COMMITTEE:**

*Ed Anzek, Scott Cope, Frank Cosenza, Jim Duistermars, Greg Hooper, Kristina Hurst, Michael Kaszubski, Kelley Kosuda, James Rosen, Roger Rousse, Pratyusha Yalamanchi*

### **FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE:**

*Erik Ambrozaitis, Donald Atkinson, Kurt Dawson, Barbara Holder, Angie Jackson, Julie Jenuwine, Jonathan Rea, Ravi Yalamanchi, Richard Yoon*

### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:**

*Ron Crowell, Jim Duistermars, Gary Elliot, Barbara Holder, Andy LeBlanc, Adam Lomasney, Paras Patel, Linda Raschke, Gerald Robbins, Bob Smith*

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Wednesday, September 27, 2006

6:30 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

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## CALL TO ORDER

*Chairperson Holder called the Joint Community Development & Viability, Financial Services and Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:45 PM.*

## ROLL CALL

**Present:** Linda Raschke, Greg Hooper, Barbara Holder, Michael Kaszubski, Frank Cosenza, Erik Ambrozaitis and Ravi Yalamanchi

**Absent:** Jim Duistermars, Gerald Robbins, James Rosen, Donald Atkinson, Gary Elliott and Jonathan Rea

**Community Development & Viability Non-Voting Members Present:** Ed Anzek, Kristina Hurst, Kelley Kosuda

**Community Development & Viability Non-Voting Members Absent:** Scott Cope, Roger Rousse, Pratyusha Yalamanchi

**Financial Services Non-Voting Members Present:** Julie Jenuwine

**Financial Services Non-Voting Members Absent:** Kurt Dawson, Angie Jackson, Richard Yoon

**Public Safety Non-Voting Members Present:** Chief Ron Crowell, Captain Robert Smith, Adam Lomasney, Paras Patel

**Public Safety Non-Voting Members Absent:** Andy LeBlanc

### **Others Present:**

*Mayor Bryan Barnett  
Jane Leslie, City Clerk,  
John Staran, City Attorney,  
Bob Grace, MIS Director,  
Gerard Verschueren, Citizen Representative, Administration & Information Services  
Committee  
Deanna Hilbert, Citizen Representative, Leisure Activities Committee*

*Members Rosen and Kinker provided previous notice they would be unable to attend and asked to be excused.*

## COMMUNICATIONS

*It was noted that the following resignation letters were received from Citizen Representatives:*

- \* Mr. Rea has resigned from the Financial Services Committee*
- \* Mr. Shane has resigned from Leisure Activities Committee.*

*The resignation letters will be forwarded to the next City Council meeting for acceptance.*

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**2006-0710** Special Joint Meeting - July 22, 2006

**Attachments:** Min Joint 072206.pdf

**A motion was made by Yalamanchi, seconded by Hooper, that this matter be Approved.**

**Resolved that the Joint Community Development & Viability, Financial Services and Public Safety Committee hereby approves the Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of July 22, 2006 as presented.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** Yalamanchi, Kaszubski, Raschke, Hooper, Cosenza, Ambrozaitis and Holder

**Absent:** Rea, Rosen, Robbins, Elliott, Atkinson and Duisternars

**It was noted that the order of discussion was changed to the following:**

## PUBLIC COMMENT

*Chairperson Holder asked if any residents would like to speak about topics not on the agenda.*

*Mr. Verschueren questioned the status of opening Tienken Road through Auburn Hills.*

*Mayor Barnett reported that the Auburn Hills City Council voted 4 to 3 to remove the barrier and they are working on an aggressive timetable which should have the road opened by November 15, 2006.*

*Ms. Hilbert asked why the decision was made now to take down the barrier on Tienken Road.*

*Mayor Barnett highlighted factors that Auburn Hills Council members considered which included the following:*

- \* Dutton Road is now open as another east / west corridor through Auburn Hills*
- \* Walton Boulevard is scheduled next year to be widened through Auburn Hills*

\* A traffic study was done to show that removing the barrier on Tienken Road would have a minor impact on traffic increase in Auburn Hills

\* Residents in Auburn Hills were evenly divided on the decision to remove the barrier on Tienken Road.

### Member Duistermars entered at 7:08 PM

**Present:** Jim Duistermars, Linda Raschke, Greg Hooper, Barbara Holder, Michael Kaszubski, Frank Cosenza, Erik Ambrozaitis and Ravi Yalamanchi

**Absent:** Gerald Robbins, James Rosen, Donald Atkinson, Gary Elliott and Jonathan Rea

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2006-0439

Discussion of Police Millage

**Attachments:** 060706 Referral Notice to PS.pdf; 0439 Agenda Report.pdf

Chairperson Holder opened the floor for discussion on the Police Millage issue.

Ms. Julie Jenuwine, Finance Director, gave a brief background of the difference between a Voted dedicated millage versus a Charter millage and noted the following:

\* A voted dedicated millage would have an expiration term to coincide with the Special Police I millage or for a shorter duration. It would require approximately 2.2 mills overall, but would need to be voted again before expiring.

\* A Charter millage would typically have no expiration date and would possibly be-examined in approximately 20 years if the Charter is re-examined. It would also require a higher number of approximately 3.6 mills to include adding 13 deputies, the estimated Headlee reductions, conservative taxable values, and possible increases in the Oakland County Sheriff Department (OCSD) contract.

**Mr. Lee Zendel, 1575 Dutton**, questioned how the existing Police millage that goes through 2014 will affect asking for a Charter millage. Mr. Staran, City Attorney noted there is some uncertainty whether a prior vote of residents can be undone by a Charter millage which would be voted on by the residents. Currently there is no State law that speaks to this situation. Opinions from the Attorney General are nonbinding. However, the Attorney General's office reviews charter amendments before they are presented to residents for the voting process. Caution should be used regarding levying a millage that could be challenged.

Capt. Smith explained that the additional 13 deputies is a conservative assessment for the next 15 to 20 years. Ms. Jenuwine offered to rework a different millage request to reflect a non-conservative approach if that was the desire of this Committee.

Member Hooper offered the following suggestion:

\* To have an election in the spring of 2007 to renew Police II millage for seven (7) more years so it would sunset at the same time as Police I. The in the fall of 2007 have an election for a new Police III millage for 7 years for the additional thirteen (13) officers and eliminate the General Fund Subsidy. If they pass, then in 2014, offer the residents a Charter millage for police needs at that time.

The Committee discussed Mr. Hooper's suggestion and noted the following:

*\* A November 2007 election would have a high turnout, but would also be risky. If voters did not pass the renewal, there would not be another opportunity for an election before the renewal expired in 2007.*

*\* If Police I and Police II expired in 2014, there may be a need to factor in contract negotiations with OCSD and also the projected Headlee rollbacks.*

*\* A 3.6 millage request may be an uphill battle. It has to be the right balance between the costs and what the residents are willing to pay.*

*Mayor Barnett encouraged the Joint members to discuss all ideas and that Council needs to decide which idea to move forward because time is of the essence.*

*Member Yalamanchi explained his apprehension for a tax increases in the next two (2) to three (3) years because of the current Michigan economy and people losing their jobs. He suggested that his first preference would be to create a plan that could sustain the current police services for the next three (3) to four (4) years in hopes that the Michigan economy will turn around. He suggested that perhaps Ms. Jenuwine could provide a financial projection of the next three (3) to four (4) years on how to sustain the current police services relative to new developments, revenues, etc. that may be in the pipeline.*

**Ms. Ann Mathison, 749 Cambridge Dr.** *suggested exploring the possibility of forming a partnership with the City of Rochester since they have budgetary struggles too.*

*Member Ambrozaitis reported recent conversations with various local representatives regarding regionalization of city and municipal services as a way for cities to grow into the future.*

*Member Yalamanchi stated that city governments will be faced with downsizing in the future just as the private sector is facing today. Local officials must be innovative and proactive by looking at different alternatives such as regionalization. He suggested his second preference would be for the Mayors and Department Directors of neighboring municipalities to have a dialog and explore ways to partner and combine services to reduce costs.*

*Chairperson Holder reported that there has been positive dialog through the Sister City/Auburn Hills Committee, but have not been successful with the Sister City/Rochester Committee.*

**Mr. Paul Miller, 1021 Harding** *agreed that innovative and creative ways of intra-community services can be very beneficial. There may be an issue of intra-community cooperation but there are ways at reducing costs that should be considered.*

*Chief Crowell briefly explained the cost-savings mutual aid agreements that exist between neighboring fire departments for EMS services as well as fire training.*

*Capt. Smith stated that a contracted police department represents good government at its best because of economies of scale and reduction of duplicated services.*

*Member Duistermars advised that a cautious approach should be used when thinking about combining departments of different cities.*

*Member Yalamanchi stated that his third preference would be to do a Charter amendment taking the 2.5 mills dedicated to Fire and adding it to the cost for Police to create one combined millage for 4.7 for Police and Fire.*

*Mr. Lee Zendel stated the reality is telling the residents of this City that they are undertaxed compared to the surrounding communities.*

*It was noted that the Older Persons Commission (OPC) and Rochester-Avon Recreation Authority (RARA) are good examples of one organization providing services to three (3) communities. Currently there are discussions regarding the creation of a district library in lieu of the Rochester Hills Public Library.*

*Member Cosenza stated that someone has to define the services that could be combined.*

*Member Raschke questioned how to sell a new millage proposal in light of all the failed millages in the past.*

**THE COMMITTEE RECESSED FROM 8:48 PM TO 9:07 PM**

*Chairperson Holder cautioned that residents are looking at the "wants versus needs" of the City. An example is the Museum and the Environmental Center. Many residents feel that the City should not fund them.*

*Member Yalamanchi suggested that the Museum and Environmental Center could become non-profit regional entities over time where neighboring residents can have ownership towards them. He further indicated that in tough economic times the question is asked should the City fund a museum or police services.*

*It was suggested that all services provided by the City should be examined and prioritized.*

**A motion was made by Raschke, seconded by Hooper, that this matter be Recommended for Approval to the City Council Regular Meeting.**

**Whereas the Joint Members of the Community Development & Viability, Financial Services and Public Safety Committees have discussed the matter of the expiring Police II Millage at their meeting on July 22, 2006 and September 27, 2006, and**

**Resolved that the Joint Members recommend the following proposal be presented for discussion at a future City Council Meeting:**

- 1. Renew the expiring Police II Millage for seven years or whatever time appropriate so that it sunsets with Police I Millage,**
- 2. Create a Police III Millage proposal for an appropriate millage rate that would equal the subsidy from the General Fund used to fund 13 OCSD deputies and sunset with the Police I & II millages,**
- 3. Suggested election dates are May 2007 for the renewal of Police I and November 2007 for the new Police III.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** Yalamanchi, Kaszubski, Raschke, Hooper, Cosenza, Ambrozaitis, Holder and Duistermars

**Absent:** Rea, Rosen, Robbins, Elliott and Atkinson

**Enactment No:** RES0210-2006

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**2006-0708**

Discussion Regarding the Possible Reinstatement of Rochester Hills Police

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Liaison Program with the Avondale School District

**Attachments:** Agenda Summary.pdf; Request Avondale Schools 071906.pdf; Memo Jenuwine 071706.pdf

*Chairperson Holder introduced Mr. Steve Sucher, Board President of the Avondale School District.*

*Capt. Smith offered a brief history regarding the program which included the following:*

*\* Avondale School District had a program with one officer from the Auburn Hills Police Department and one deputy from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department (OCSD). Three years ago, there was a unilateral decision made to discontinue the OCSD deputy but maintain the Auburn Hills Police officer. The district has come to the conclusion that one officer can no longer carry the workload and would like to reinstate the OCSD deputy.*

*\* When the OCSD contract was discontinued with the Avondale School District, the deputy remained in the Rochester Hills substation budget and was integrated into the shift work. However, if the position is to be reinstated for the Avondale School District, then two (2) things must be considered:*

*1. A deputy position cannot be removed from the current substation shift work without an increase in overtime to cover scheduled days off such as weekends, vacations, sick leaves, etc.*

*2. Avondale School District paid 12% toward an OCSD deputy, while Rochester Schools pay 19.7%. Parity should be discussed.*

*\* It is difficult to utilize part-time OCSD employees because of a historical record that the liaison position was a bargaining member's job.*

*Joint Committee Members commenced discussion which included the following:*

*\* The City's budget would increase approximately \$85,000 to reinstate a deputy to the Avondale School District. This financial model would be different than the other police liaison programs that are currently in place.*

*\* The school liaison officer's main role is to provide age-appropriate education for prevention and role modeling. As society has changed, the officer's role is being stretched to go beyond the administration's disciplinary process and includes other processes such as investigations, meetings with parents, and probate court actions, etc.*

*\* The prevention of short-term criminal activity in schools has a positive effect and is money well spent, but is something that cannot be quantified.*

*\* The shared cost of an additional officer was discussed.*

*\* Currently the cost for the officers for the Rochester Schools Police Liaison Program is funded by 19.6% from Rochester Schools, 10% from the City of Rochester, 19% from Oakland Township and 51.4% from the City of Rochester Hills.*

*\* A compromise in funding must be met to avoid an increase in the City's budget.*

**Mr. Sucher** stated that the current Auburn Hills Police officer covers the Avondale School buildings that lie within the City of Auburn Hills. Avondale Schools does share the cost with the Auburn Hills Police Department, but the exact figure was not known to him. He offered to provide that information for discussion at a future Council meeting. He also mentioned

*that the school population of Avondale School District is comprised of students not only from Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills, but included Troy and Bloomfield Township.*

*The Committee was not ready to make a recommendation at this time, but would like to this topic to the Financial Services Committee for further discussion.*

**A motion was made by Ambrozaitis, seconded by Raschke, that this matter be Approved and Referred to the Financial Services Committee.**

**Resolved that the matter of Possible Reinstatement of the Rochester Hills Police Liaison Program with the Avondale School District be further discussed at the next Financial Services Committee.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** Yalamanchi, Kaszubski, Raschke, Hooper, Cosenza, Ambrozaitis, Holder and Duistermars

**Absent:** Rea, Rosen, Robbins, Elliott and Atkinson

**2006-0709**

Discussion Regarding the Advisability of Dissolving the City Council Communication Committees

*The Joint Committee Members briefly discussed the pros and cons of dissolving the Communication Committees which included:*

*\* Items are discussed at the Committee level and then re-discussed at the Council level thus causing redundancy.*

*\* The Clerk's office is short-staffed and Committee minutes are creating a burden.*

*The Committee consensus was to discuss this further at the next Administration & Information Services Committee meeting.*

**Discussed**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**2006-0438**

Discussion of Parks Millage

**Attachments:** Referral Notice.pdf; Millage memo 061906.pdf; 0438 Minutes.pdf

*No discussion.*

**No Action**

**2005-0847**

Continued SAD Discussions in Conjunction with Millage Discussions

**Attachments:** Agenda Summary.pdf; Referral Notice SAD.pdf; 060806 FS Dft Min.pdf; 0847 Resolution.pdf; 0847 Minutes.pdf

*No discussion.*

**No Action**

**2006-0201**

City Millage Summary - Expiring Dedicated Millages

**Attachments:** Agenda Summary.pdf; Millage Summary.pdf; Suppl Info - Financial Policies.pdf; Suppl Info - Millage Summary.pdf; Suppl Info - Atty opinion.pdf; Suppl Info - Tax levies.pdf; 0201 Minutes.pdf

*No discussion.*

**No Action**

**2006-0419** Referral from City Council to Committees regarding millage discussion.

**Attachments:** Agenda Summary.pdf; 0419 Resolution.pdf; 0419 Minutes.pdf

*No discussion.*

**No Action**

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

*No discussion.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Holder adjourned the meeting at 9:57 PM.*

*Minutes prepared by Denise Mertz.*

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