



Rochester Hills Minutes City Council Work Session

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*John L. Dalton, Bryan K. Barnett, Jim Duistermars, Melinda Hill,
Barbara L. Holder, Linda Raschke, Gerald Robbins*

Monday, May 10, 2004

6:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

CALL TO ORDER

President Dalton called the Special Rochester Hills City Council Budget Work Session Meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. Michigan Time.

ROLL CALL

Present: John Dalton, Bryan Barnett, Jim Duistermars, Melinda Hill, Barbara Holder and Linda Raschke

Absent: Gerald Robbins

Council Member Robbins provided previous notice he would be unable to attend and asked to be excused. Mr. Duistermars arrived at 8:38 p.m.

Others Present:

*Pat Somerville, Mayor
Ed Anzek, Director of Planning/Development
Scott Cope, Director of Building/Ordinance Enforcement
Ron Crowell, Assistant Fire Chief
Paul Davis, City Engineer
Kurt Dawson, Director of Assessing/Treasury
Bob Grace, Director of MIS
Mike Hartner, Director of Parks/Forestry
Bev Jasinski, City Clerk
Julie Jenuwine, Interim Finance Director
Kevin Krajewski, Network Administrator/Deputy Director of MIS
Raymond Leafdale, General Superintendent
Pam Lee, Director of Human Resources
Jane Leslie, Deputy City Clerk
Kim Murphey, Administrative Coordinator-DPS
Roger Rousse, Director of DPS/Engineering
Bob Smith, Police Captain
Greg Walterhouse, Fire Chief*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

2005 BUDGET PROGRAM

A. Review of objectives, priority tallies by Council and Staff

Mr. Ed Anzek, Director of Planning/Development, introduced a comparison table displaying the top ten (10) priorities as identified by City Council members and the City

Administrative Staff:

CITY COUNCIL'S TOP TEN BUDGET PRIORITIES:

- 1) *Local Roads Funding Program*
- 2) *DPS Facility*
- 3) *Enhance Revenue*
- 4) *Enhance/Maintain Police Operations*
- 5) *Hamlin Road Improvements*
- 6) *Downtown Development Authority*
- 7) *Water Reservoirs*
- 8) *Enhance/Maintain Fire Department LOS*
- 9) *Continue to Preserve/Protect River*
- 10) *Solid Waste*

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF TOP TEN PRIORITIES:

- 1) *Enhance Revenue*
- 2) *Local Roads Funding Program*
- 3) *Review City Charter*
- 4) *DPS Facility*
- 5) *Formalize Road Policy*
- 6) *Proactive Maintenance*
- 7) *Improve & Maintain Staff Training*
- 8) *Water Reservoirs*
- 9) *Solid Waste*
- 10) *Long-Term Technology Plan*

B. Discussion of those objectives where tallying discrepancies exist

Mr. Anzek questioned why Staff ranked "Review City Charter" as #3.

** Mr. Roger Rousse, Director of DPS/Engineering, stated that the current Charter does not include funding for the local roads system.*

** Mr. Anzek questioned the appropriateness of the Accounting Department reporting to the Clerk's Department.*

** Ms. Bev Jasinski, City Clerk, explained that most municipalities review their Charter every five (5) years and contended that that was the intent of the original Charter Commission. Ms. Jasinski went on to clarify that what was being proposed was not opening the Charter, but rather updating it through an amendment process. She stressed that the form of government would not change.*

C. Discussion of major issues

Local Roads Funding Program:

** Mr. Anzek expressed the concern that if the infrastructure is not properly maintained the cost to repair will be "tenfold."*

** Mr. Paul Davis, City Engineer, noted the liability issues if road maintenance were discontinued resulting in risk of accidents, sewer backups, etc.*

** Mr. Mike Hartner, Director of Parks & Forestry, pointed out that proactive maintenance results in overall savings in the long run.*

- * *Mr. Rousse, stressed that the City needs to look to the future with regards to the sewer and water infrastructure to avoid running into the same situation as today's roads problems. He suggested taking a small portion of revenues from water and building a fund over time.*
- * *Resident Lee Zendel, 1575 Dutton Road, suggested that City Parks be closed if a millage for road improvements does not pass.*
- * *Mr. Hartner protested, indicating that if the issue is roads then "the repercussions should be roads."*
- * *Mr. Davis suggested that if the City discontinued plowing roads in the winter, residents would certainly "get the message" about the road millage.*
- * *Mr. Anzek concurred that the millage request must be on the upcoming election ballot, stressing that if it were not, and plowing were discontinued, residents would be angry they were not given the option to vote for the millage.*
- * *Mr. Barnett requested that Mr. Rousse determine the City's legal responsibility with regard to snow plowing.*
- * *Mr. Rousse suggested a plan that would use money from the General Fund to finance road issues.*
- * *President Dalton stressed that he opposes any plans that, in effect, "rob Peter to pay Paul."*
- * *Mr. Rousse noted, due to budget constraints, layoffs in his department may be necessary, noting that ten (10) layoffs will result in the displacement of as many as thirty (30) employees citywide.*
- * *Mr. Hartner argued that the 50% fund balance in the General Fund could be used to address some shortfalls in the budget.*
- * *Ms. Hill suggested that, in addition to the millage request on the upcoming ballot, a request should be made to revise or change the Charter indicating a dedicated road millage.*

(RECESS 7:42 P.M. - 8:03 P.M.)

Enhanced Revenue:

- * *Mr. Rousse suggested a review of the City's rate structures to ensure that the City is capturing "our true costs" for services.*
- * *Mr. Scott Cope, Director of Building/Ordinance Enforcement, discussed increasing and enhancing services specifically geared to businesses in an effort to entice more businesses to locate in the City.*
- * *Mr. Hartner noted that cost containment and cutbacks have reached a level where services will begin to degrade. He suggested adding revenue in the form of taxes or administrative fees.*
- * *Mr. Duistermars stressed that residents oppose increases in taxes. He suggested an education program is needed to help residents understand that the City is at a "turning point" with regards to financing City services.*
- * *Council members requested an analysis of City fees to ensure they are appropriate.*

Improve & Maintain Staff Training:

* Mr. Cope asked Council to clarify their stand on employee training and education.

* President Dalton stressed the importance of training and education, stating that "training comes back tenfold."

* Ms. Holder stated that any training/education funded by the City should specifically benefit the City.

* Ms. Pam Lee, Director of Human Resources, indicated that there are training needs for maintaining certifications and laws. She stated, "There's also looking at employees and succession planning and looking at the composition of our work force and how we want to move people in the direction of developing them in their careers and acquire positions of greater responsibility. I think if we don't look at that as one of our primary goals and objectives, we're doing a disservice."

Ms. Jasinski requested that Council consider discontinuing the Primary Election, noting that in the previous nine (9) primaries voter turnout never exceeded twenty percent (20%).

Ms. Hill stressed the need to prioritize all projects. She indicated that any programs that may result in eventual increased revenue will be considered on a case-by-case basis during the budget process.

President Dalton stressed that "we have to play the cards we have and not the cards we hope we'll get." He stated that the responsibility of working within the budget was that of the Director's and praised them for how well they had performed this duty to date.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

Special Work Session - Wednesday, May 12, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before Council, President Dalton adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

JOHN L. DALTON, President
Rochester Hills City Council

BEVERLY A. JASINSKI, Clerk
City of Rochester Hills

MARGARET A. STRATE
Administrative Secretary
City Clerk's Office

Approved as presented at the June 2, 2004 Regular City Council Meeting.

