



Rochester Hills

Draft Excerpted Minutes

City Council

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

Wednesday, December 8, 2004

7:30 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

DRAFT

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

– Citizen Representative Terms of Service

Ms. Hill proposed changing the terms citizen representatives serve on City Council Communication Committees from three (3) years to one (1) year. She expressed her concern that some interested residents may be discouraged from applying for these committees, thinking that they would not be able to fulfill that length of term. She stressed that they would certainly be reappointed annually if they so chose.

Mr. Duistermars expressed his concern that if Committee members were limited to one (1) year terms, they would not gain the necessary experience to make valuable contributions to the Committees. He also noted that citizen representatives always have the option of resigning from a Committee prior to the expiration of their three (3) year term.

President Dalton noted that Council members and youth representatives are appointed to these Committees for one (1) year terms only. He further noted that anyone serving "a useful purpose" on a Committee would be reappointed each year if they were interested in doing so.

Ms. Hill stressed that she was not suggesting term limits, but rather reducing the commitment of individuals to encourage more citizen involvement. She noted that she felt this decision should be made prior to appointing the citizen representatives under consideration this evening.

Ms. Holder agreed with *Ms. Hill* and noted that some individuals may not be comfortable resigning from a Committee prior to the expiration of their term. Additionally, a one (1) year term would allow a Committee the opportunity to consider other candidates if a citizen representative "is not involved enough" in their given Committee.

Ms. Holder moved and *Ms. Hill* seconded a motion to postpone the appointments of citizen representatives to the five (5) City Council Communication Committees until this matter is addressed and the Council Rules of Procedure can be amended.

Mr. Staran noted that to change the Rules of Procedure could take as long as three (3) weeks, as the changes must be introduced during a regular Council meeting, but a vote cannot take place until the following meeting.

Ms. Holder and *Ms. Hill* agreed to withdraw their previous motion and, instead, made a motion to change the Council's Rules of Procedure to appoint citizen representatives to Council Communication Committees for one (1) year terms.

Mr. Duistermars expressed his desire that council examine this issue in greater detail prior to making a decision to change the Rules of Procedure. He noted his concern that changing the Rules would postpone the reappointment of citizen representatives beyond the first meeting in January when meeting schedules are set and chairpersons and vice chairpersons are elected.

Mr. Robbins, noting that rules of procedure and bylaws are merely "guidelines," suggested that Council appoint the citizen representatives this evening as planned and their terms of service can be amended at a later date; no delay in appointments would be necessary.

Mr. Staran confirmed the viability of Mr. Robbins' suggestion.

Ms. Holder and **Ms. Hill** withdrew their previous motion.

Ms. Hill requested that the matter of changing the Council's Rules of Procedure be addressed at a Council meeting in January.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Lee Zendel, 1575 Dutton Road, suggested that the terms of service be changed to two (2) years with terms expiring in non-election years. He hypothesized that, as three (3) Council members will be departing in November 2005 due to term limits, two (2) year terms would prevent the possibility of a Committee consisting of inexperienced Council members and citizen representatives.