



# Rochester Hills Minutes City Council Special Meeting

1000 Rochester Hills Drive  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
(248) 656-4660  
Home Page:  
[www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org)

*Erik Ambrozaitis, Bryan K. Barnett, Jim Duistermars, Barbara Holder,  
Linda Raschke, James Rosen, Ravi Yalamanchi*

---

Thursday, April 13, 2006

7:30 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

---

## DRAFT

*In accordance with the provisions of Act 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, as amended, the Open Meetings Act, notice was given that a Special Rochester Hills City Council Meeting would be held on Thursday, April 13, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of appointing a Mayor and, if necessary, electing a City Council Officer.*

## CALL TO ORDER

*President Rosen called the Special Rochester Hills City Council Meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. Michigan Time.*

## ROLL CALL

**Present:** Erik Ambrozaitis, Bryan Barnett, Jim Duistermars, Barbara Holder, Linda Raschke, James Rosen and Ravi Yalamanchi

### Others Present:

*Ed Anzek, Director of Planning/Development  
Judy Bialk, Recording Secretary  
Nancy Bowman, Human Resources Staffing Analyst  
Dan Casey, Manager of Economic Development  
Scott Cope, Director of Building/Ordinance Enforcement  
Ron Crowell, Fire Chief  
Paul Davis, City Engineer  
Kurt Dawson, Director of Treasury/Assessing  
Susan Galeczka, Deputy Clerk  
Bob Grace, Director of MIS  
Mike Hartner, Director of Parks & Forestry  
Julie Jenuwine, Director of Finance  
Diane Keller, Accountant  
Marie Killen, Human Resources Benefits Analyst  
Jane Leslie, City Clerk  
Pam Olson, Computer/Publishing Specialist  
Roger Rousse, Director of DPS/Engineering  
Leanne Scott, Human Resources Technician  
John Staran, City Attorney  
Steve Swan, Light Equipment Operator  
Charlotte Taravella, Executive Assistant*

## PUBLIC COMMENT

*Mr. Steve McGarry, 2164 Clinton View, discussed the recent informational meeting held regarding the Adams/Hamlin pending rezoning litigation expressing his disappointment with and concern over the proposed level of environmental cleanup as well as his concern that the attorney working on behalf of the City is employed by the City's insurance company, possibly posing a conflict of interest. He encouraged residents to attend the upcoming public hearing on the matter.*

## CITY COUNCIL

2006-0291

Appointment of Mayor

**Attachments:** 082895 Minutes.pdf; 090485 Minutes.pdf

**President Rosen** noted the importance and significance of the evening's proceedings and asked that the selection of a new mayor be conducted in a civil manner. He noted that the City Charter did not provide guidance as to how this appointment should take place and, thus, he had determined through one-on-one discussions with the City Clerk, the City Attorney and with his fellow Council members that it may be appropriate to mirror the Council Rules of Procedure in terms of the election of Council officers. He listed the following steps:

- 1) The President will open the floor for nominations.
- 2) Each member can nominate one candidate.
- 3) The President will close the nominations.
- 4) There will be a roll call vote with each Council member choosing one nominee.
- 5) The nominee with the majority of the votes will be appointed mayor.

**President Rosen** further explained that if there is no clear majority vote, the nominee with the least number of votes will be dropped from consideration and a roll call vote will be taken with the remaining nominees. Finally, Mr. Rosen indicated that the term of the newly-appointed mayor will commence at the conclusion of the Council meeting.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** noted that he had prepared a list of questions that he felt the nominees should address.

**Ms. Holder** suggested that Mr. Yalamanchi's questions be incorporated into a future Charter amendment that would provide a more detailed process for this type of circumstance.

**President Rosen**, noting that responding to eleven questions would be very time consuming, suggested that each nominee be given a few minutes to discuss his or her experience and worthiness for the position of mayor.

**Mr. Ambrozaitis** suggested that Mr. Yalamanchi's questions be incorporated into the procedures for appointing Council members at some period in the future.

**President Rosen** noted that if a Council member is appointed as mayor, Council may choose to discuss the process for appointing his or her replacement under Any Other Business.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Mr. Gerald Robbins**, 2900 Culbertson, wished the nominees luck and reminded the Council that they are a public body and their decisions should be made in the public with honesty and integrity.

**Ms. Gina Homant**, 254 Stonetree Circle, noting she is a lifetime resident of Rochester Hills, expressed her support for Bryan Barnett to be appointed mayor.

**Mr. Stuart Bikson**, 345 Terry, Rochester, City Council member from Rochester, indicated that he had served on the Rochester Avon Recreation Authority (RARA) Board with Mr. Barnett who he described as a consensus builder who would be "an outstanding ambassador" for Rochester Hills were he chosen as mayor.

**Ms. Mary Jo Dinha**, 851 Dressler Lane, Chairperson of Zero New Taxes and a 62-year resident of Rochester Hills, encouraged Council to choose a mature mayor with life and government experience.

**Ms. Melinda Hill**, 1481 Mill Race, described her experience and qualifications that would make her "the best candidate to serve this City" as mayor.

**Ms. Pamela Whateley**, 1600 North Livernois, noting the number of senior citizens in the Community, urged Council "not to pick somebody who is too young." She also noted that the timing of the decision was unfortunate as many residents were out of town due to religious holidays.

**Mr. Jeff Gabrielson**, 201 Cloverport, expressed his support for Mr. Rosen to be appointed mayor.

**Ms. Pamela Wallace**, 168 Cloverport, asked that whoever is appointed mayor be mindful of the "divergent views" in the community.

**Ms. Deanna Hilbert**, 3234 Quail Ridge Circle, stated she opposed appointing a new mayor so quickly. She described this decision as business as usual stating that important decisions are often made during holiday weeks when many residents are out of town. She cautioned whoever is appointed that he or she will be watched very closely and "if you support the status quo you'll have a lot of explaining to do."

**Ms. Lois Golden**, 645 Apple Hill Lane, expressed her support for Mr. Rosen and asked that he be appointed mayor, noting that he has "the integrity, honor and dignity to view this as a temporary, interim [position]." She further noted that residents want to know their elected officials are conducting the City's business and not staff members.

**President Rosen** read into the record the names of residents who had sent letters to the City Council, noting that "they all echo what's been said."

- **David Bratton**, 823 Croydon
- **Gigi Colombini-Gabrielson**, 201 Cloverport Avenue
- **Jeffrey Gabrielson**, 201 Cloverport Avenue
- **Beth & Matt Furhman**, 155 Cloverport Avenue
- **Melinda Hill**, 1481 Mill Race
- **Lori Karam** (address not provided)
- **Andy Krupp**, 168 Cloverport Avenue
- **Kara McCullough**, 2815 Weaverton
- **Kevin B. McDonald**, 93 Childress
- **Paula Porter**, 93 Childress
- **Michael Spalding**, 209 Cloverport Avenue
- **Cecilia & Steve Strine**, 2962 Mohawk Lane
- **Jackie Thompson**, 128 Cloverport Avenue
- **Tracy & Gregory Utech**, 2829 Hillendale Drive
- **Donald Wolcott**, 3460 Warwick

#### **COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

It was the consensus of Council that, following the nomination process, each nominee would be given the opportunity to speak followed by further Council discussion and then a roll call vote.

**President Rosen** opened the floor for nominations.

**President Rosen** nominated himself.

**Ms. Raschke** nominated Mr. Barnett.

There being no further nominations, **President Rosen** closed the floor for nominations.

**Mr. Barnett** discussed his background of public service beginning at Oakland University where he earned a degree in business and marketing and continuing through two elections to City Council. He expressed his "passion for the community" and "love for Rochester Hills." He assured his fellow Council members that he considered the appointment as mayor to be a tremendous responsibility. In addition to his public service, Mr. Barnett described his job in the private sector, noting his managerial experience and its relevance to the position of mayor. He stressed his commitment to the City and its residents during his years as a City Council member and noted that this dedication would continue were he appointed mayor. He vowed to serve with "integrity, responsibility and deep concern for the residents of this community."

**President Rosen** stated that "the City needs a leader, not someone who reacts." He noted that as a member of the Planning Commission and during his business career he demonstrated that kind of leadership. He described himself as a seasoned manager of technical and professional staff members, who, in addition, has worked in public relations in Washington DC and with governors, mayors and city councils of various locations. He noted his 35 years in business utilizing many different problem solving techniques. President Rosen indicated his belief that he will "lessen the divisions in the community," stating that, since serving as Mayor Pro Tempore, "there's already an improved atmosphere." He expressed his deep respect for the City and stressed that while serving on the Planning Commission he earned a reputation for honesty and integrity.

**Ms. Holder** described the letters, emails and phone calls she had received, noting some unethical attempts to sway her vote in this matter. She emphasized that she is basing her vote on her personal convictions and the integrity and character of the nominees. While she acknowledged the strengths of both candidates, she did express concern that President Rosen did not appear to be taking a long-term view of the City, as opposed to Mr. Barnett whom she described as trusting and approachable.

**Mr. Duistermars** assured residents that he has always known this circumstance could arise and that he is prepared to make his decision based on which candidate demonstrates leadership and vision, as well as good administrative and organizational skills, and "who will be a good ambassador" for the City.

**Ms. Raschke** thanked everyone for their emails, phone calls and pages. She praised President Rosen for his efforts as Mayor Pro Tempore and noted Mr. Barnett's potential. She stated that whomever is appointed mayor, "I couldn't think of two better gentlemen."

**Mr. Ambrozaitis** described President Rosen as a man of deep integrity who has been a great leader and teacher.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** first acknowledged all of the numerous phone calls and emails he received regarding this matter. He noted that all of the names recommended for nomination were good people, and that no matter the outcome, some people would be disappointed. He urged everyone to stand behind the appointed mayor and "come together and do the job of the City." Due to the limited amount of time to choose a new mayor, Mr. Yalamanchi agreed that it would be most expedient to choose a member of Council. He stated that both nominees are good gentlemen.

A roll call vote was taken with Council members voting for the nominees as follows:

**President Rosen:** Rosen, Ambrozaitis, Yalamanchi

**Mr. Barnett:** Barnett, Duistermars, Holder, Raschke

**A motion was made by Raschke that this matter be Adopted by Resolution.**

Resolved that the Rochester Hills City Council appoints Bryan Barnett to fill the unexpired term of Mayor Pat Somerville to expire on November 18, 2007 to take effect upon the conclusion of the April 13, 2006 Special City Council Meeting.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Barnett, Duistermars, Holder and Raschke

**Nay:** Ambrozaitis, Rosen and Yalamanchi

**Enactment No:** RES0129-2006

**2006-0292**

Election of City Council Officer

**President Rosen** opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy of Council Vice President resulting from the appointment of Mr. Barnett as mayor.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** nominated Ms. Raschke.

**Ms. Raschke** declined the nomination.

**Mr. Ambrozaitis** nominated Mr. Yalamanchi.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** declined the nomination.

**Mr. Duistermars** nominated Ms. Holder.

**Ms. Holder** accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations, **President Rosen** closed the floor to nominations.

**Ms. Holder was appointed City Council Vice President.**

**Appointed**

**(Recess 8:44 p.m. - 9:12 p.m.)**

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**President Rosen** explained that the City Clerk would need some guidance from Council as to the agreed upon procedure for filling the vacancy on Council resulting from the appointment of Mr. Barnett as mayor. He noted that it was necessary to pass a resolution adding this discussion to the evening's agenda under Any Other Business.

**2006-0313**

Add City Council Vacancy to Special Meeting Agenda of Thursday, April 13, 2006

**Attachments:** 0313 Resolution.pdf

A motion was made by Duistermars, seconded by Raschke, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution.

Whereas, Council Member Bryan Barnett has been appointed as Mayor of the City of Rochester Hills effective at the conclusion of tonight's meeting creating a vacancy on City Council; and

Whereas, Section 7.8 Vacancies of the City Charter and Article III, Council Officers and Duties, Section.04, Filling a Council Vacancy (a) state that when a vacancy occurs on the Council, the Council shall appoint a replacement within thirty (30) days of the vacancy; and

Whereas, the Rochester Hills City Council has determined that they need to have adequate time to address the process for filling the Council vacancy to allow time to publish the notice and receive information from interested residents who wish to serve; and

Whereas, Article III, Meetings of Council, Section.05 Special Meetings (d) of the City Council Rules of Procedure states no business shall be transacted at any Special Meeting of the Council unless the same has been stated in the Notice of such meeting; however, if all the Members of the Council are present at any such Meeting of Council, then any business that may lawfully come for a Regular Meeting of the Council may be transacted at such a Special Meeting (all Members present and all Members are in agreement).

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that all seven (7) Council members are in agreement in adding Legislative File 2006-0307 - Filling the Council Vacancy to the Special Meeting of Thursday, April 13, 2006.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Ambrozaitis, Barnett, Duistermars, Holder, Raschke, Rosen and Yalamanchi

**Enactment No:** RES0127-2006

**2006-0307**

Procedure for Appointment of City Council Member

**Attachments:** City Council Rules of Procedures Excerpt.pdf; Supplemental Info.pdf; 0307 Resolution.pdf

***President Rosen** explained that Council would need to determine if the standard candidate questionnaire should be used by Council applicants or whether a new form should be created for residents to submit for consideration as a nominee for appointment to City Council. He stressed that application information is required by City Council's Rules of Procedure.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

***Ms. Melinda Hill**, 1481 Mill Race, described the process she had participated in several years earlier when she was appointed to Council. She noted that individuals submitted letters of interest to the Council President along with a resume. A meeting of Council was then held wherein candidates were interviewed by Council over several hours. She stressed that all those interested should be permitted to interview with the full Council and urged that the requirements and deadlines be advertised.*

***President Rosen** suggested an updated candidate questionnaire be submitted along with a resume of no more than two pages in length and a letter addressing three questions that will serve to outline the candidates' interest in serving on City Council.*

*The process of creating a committee to review applicants and make recommendations was dismissed in favor of interviewing all interested parties in an open meeting of Council.*

**A motion was made by Duistermars, seconded by Holder, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution.**

Whereas, the City Council Rules of Procedure, Article IV, Council Officers & Duties, Section.04 (c) Filling a Council Vacancy, states that the Council shall draw up an application form that contains relevant information to answer set questions posed by the Council; and

Whereas, Section.04 of the Rules further states that the application forms will be used in conjunction with an interview of each candidate to aid the Council's selection of the new Council Member.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Rochester Hills City Council establishes the application process to fill the current City Council Vacancy as follows:

1. Interested Candidates are to submit the following application packet which must be received by the Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. April 28, 2006:
  - a. New Up-to-Date Candidate Questionnaire
  - b. Resume - maximum of two pages
  - c. Response to the following three questions, or any additional that have wide support:
    - i. Why do you want to serve as a City Council Member in the City of Rochester Hills?
    - ii. Please describe why you are qualified to be a City Council Member and, in particular, what special or unique qualities do you bring to the Council?
    - iii. Please describe your vision for the City of Rochester Hills.
2. The interview process will consist of one or more rounds of questions where each Council Member will ask one question of all candidates.

Be It Further Resolved that pursuant to Article IV, Council Officers & Duties, Section.04(b) the City Clerk will publish a notice of vacancy and procedure for applying;

Be It Further Resolved that the Rochester Hills City Council will conduct interviews no later than the City Council Regular Meeting of May 3, 2006.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Ambrozaitis, Barnett, Duistermars, Holder, Raschke, Rosen and Yalamanchi

**Enactment No:** RES0128-2006

## ADJOURNMENT

*There being no further business before Council, President Rosen adjourned the meeting at 9:39 p.m.*

---

JAMES ROSEN, *President*  
Rochester Hills City Council

---

JANE LESLIE, *Clerk*  
City of Rochester Hills

\_\_\_\_\_  
*MARGARET A. MANZ*  
*Administrative Secretary*  
*City Clerk's Office*

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