



Rochester Hills Minutes City Council Special Meeting

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*Erik Ambrozaitis, Jim Duistermars, Barbara Holder,
Linda Raschke, James Rosen, Ravi Yalamanchi*

Thursday, May 4, 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, May 4, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of interviewing candidates to fill the City Council District 3 vacancy and possibly appoint a new District 3 City Council Member, term to expire November 18, 2007.

CALL TO ORDER

President Rosen called the Special Rochester Hills City Council Meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. Michigan Time.

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present:

*Bryan Barnett, Mayor
Susan Galeczka, Deputy Clerk
Jane Leslie, City Clerk*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

2006-0345

Interview of candidates for City Council District 3 vacancy; and possible nominations/appointment of new City Council District 3 representative to fill the unexpired term of Bryan Barnett; term to expire November 18, 2007

Attachments: Agenda Summary.pdf; Council Vacancy Notice.pdf; Barrett application.pdf; Bergen application.pdf; Billings application.pdf; Brown application.pdf; deCaussin application.pdf; Downs application.pdf; Funk application.pdf; Granthen application.pdf; Hetrick app

President Rosen explained the process by which candidates would be interviewed by City Council. He noted that each Council member would ask a question of all candidates. The recording secretary would call each candidates name in a random order. A recess would be taken after the first round of questions and it would then be determined whether a second round would be necessary. He further indicated that following the question and answer process, Council members would nominate one candidate each. Votes would be taken and,

depending on the time, the meeting could be adjourned and a Special Meeting convened on Saturday, May 6, 2006 to proceed with the voting process. He noted that voting would continue until one candidate received a majority of votes.

City Council provided each candidate with an opportunity to introduce themselves and briefly describe their background and interest in serving as a City Council member:

Mr. Clark Barrett, 1696 Dancer Drive, stated that he is an engineer and a Major in the Michigan National Guard, currently completing his dissertation for a Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership. He noted that he has a growing family and is interested in acting locally to their advantage. He indicated that his leadership skills could contribute to the community.

Ms. Cynthia Billings, 3092 Avalon, noted she is a five-year resident of the City who volunteers on a regular basis and is an attorney working for a firm in Southfield. Her legal career focuses primarily on municipal retirement systems. She stressed her leadership skills as well as her educational and professional background.

Mr. Terry T. Brown, 1363 Seville Road, indicated he is a forty-year resident of the greater Rochester area with a great deal of experience in the marketing and public relations field. He stressed that he has an "abiding interest in City government" and has no preset agenda that he would bring to the position of City Council member.

Ms. Danielle deCaussin, 1855 Meadowvale, noted she is a twenty-year resident of the City with a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources from Oakland University.

Mr. Ryan Downs, 1643 Colony Drive, stated he is a seventeen year resident of the City currently completing a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science at Michigan State University. He indicated his interest in politics and his desire to remain in the community following his graduation.

Mr. Paul Funk, 2176 Rochelle Park, noted he is a twelve-year resident of District 3 who previously served on Council in 1991 and 1992. He stressed his community involvement noting he had "worked with and for almost every community organization in the Rochester Hills area." He indicated that his "wealth of experience" would allow him to step into the position of Council member and "go to work immediately."

Ms. Julie Granthen, 1527 Northumberland, indicated she has lived in Rochester Hills for nearly forty years. She noted she is a Professor of Economic and Legal Analysis.

Mr. Dale Hetrick, 1586 Deerhurst Lane, explained that he has been a Rochester Hills resident for eleven years and is a local business owner. He noted that his firm works with "businesses to develop the attitudes and behaviors that lead to results."

Mr. Greg Hooper, 545 Parkland, noted he currently serves as the Chairperson of the Planning Commission and that he is independent with no ties to any other groups. He praised his fellow candidates for getting involved in their community and encouraged them to continue that involvement.

Mr. Brian Robichaud, 2815 Walsh, stated he has been a citizen of Rochester Hills for five years. He noted that he was asked to apply for this position and that he is often asked to take on roles of leadership. He described his involvement in Boy Scouts and his service in the Navy and assured Council, "I'm willing to step up to the plate and take on this challenge."

Mr. Charles Tischer, 3141 Bathurst Avenue, noted that he is a two-year resident of Rochester Hills who grew up in the area and attended Avondale High School. He explained that he is currently employed by a non-profit organization affiliated with the Republican Party

but would approach his work with the City Council with no agenda. He stressed his experience in the political arena and with budgets and noted that he is a "team player."

Mr. Emmet Yukon, 2260 Warrington Road, stated he is a twenty-four year resident of the City who has seen a great deal of growth and change in the community. He noted he has a Master's degree in Public Relations and has many years experience in the public and non-profit sectors. He has worked with two municipalities as well as the Rochester School District. He stressed that his education and work experience make him uniquely qualified for the appointment to City Council.

Council members asked the following questions:

Ms. Holder: With the stressed economy and a tight financial atmosphere, how do you suggest that we increase revenue?

Candidates responded in the following order:

*Paul Funk
Ryan Downs
Terry T. Brown
Danielle deCaussin
Clark Barrett
Emmet Yukon
Cynthia Billings
Dale Hetrick
Charles Tischer
Julie Granthen
Greg Hooper
Brian Robichaud*

Mr. Ambrozaitis: What is your view of our recent political history in our City, specifically last fall's election and the subsequent events as you find yourself here this evening?

Candidates responded in the following order:

*Emmet Yukon
Dale Hetrick
Cynthia Billings
Clark Barrett
Greg Hooper
Brian Robichaud
Julie Granthen
Charles Tischer
Ryan Downs
Terry T. Brown
Paul Funk
Danielle deCaussin*

Mr. Duistermars: What is it that inspires you to be optimistic? Besides God and Jesus Christ, what man or woman or group do you respect, that you want to be your mentor? What makes you optimistic about Rochester Hills?

Candidates responded in the following order:

*Julie Granthen
Greg Hooper
Clark Barrett*

Paul Funk
Emmet Yukon
Brian Robichaud
Ryan Downs
Charles Tischer
Danielle deCaussin
Dale Hetrick
Cynthia Billings
Terry T. Brown

Ms. Raschke: Are you aware of the Boards and City Council Committee's that you will be asked to sit on? Are you aware that Wednesday night is not the only night you will be here?

Candidates responded in the following order:

Greg Hooper
Cynthia Billings
Terry T. Brown
Clark Barrett
Paul Funk
Emmet Yukon
Brian Robichaud
Charles Tischer
Danielle deCaussin
Julie Granthen
Ryan Downs
Dale Hetrick

Mr. Yalamanchi: From your perspective what are the specific critical issues or challenges that the City faces today, or challenges, and how would you go about addressing them?

Candidates responded in the following order:

Brian Robichaud
Charles Tischer
Julie Granthen
Danielle deCaussin
Dale Hetrick
Cynthia Billings
Emmet Yukon
Greg Hooper
Terry T. Brown
Paul Funk
Ryan Downs
Clark Barrett

President Rosen: Should the City take advantage of significant State or Federal funding for specific projects (such as widening a road or replacing a bridge), even if the project is not a priority for the City or part of our long-term plan?

Candidates responded in the following order:

Terry T. Brown
Ryan Downs
Cynthia Billings
Clark Barrett
Greg Hooper
Dale Hetrick
Emmet Yukon

Paul Funk
Brian Robichaud
Julie Granthen
Danielle deCaussin
Charles Tischer

(Mr. Duistermars left the meeting at 9:43 p.m. and returned at 10:00 p.m.)

Discussed

(Recess 10:06 p.m. - 10:21 p.m.)

2006-0345

Continue the process of appointing a new District 3 City Council Member to fill the unexpired term of Bryan Barnett; term to expire November 18, 2007

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It was determined that City Council would ask a second round of questions as follows:

Mr. Ambrozaitis: This question is not related to any political end or philosophy. Are you or are you not a fiscal conservative?

Candidates responded in the following order:

Paul Funk
Ryan Downs
Terry T. Brown
Danielle deCaussin
Clark Barrett
Emmet Yukon
Cynthia Billings
Dale Hetrick
Charles Tischer
Julie Granthen
Greg Hooper
Brian Robichaud

Ms. Holder: Being we have a strong mayor form of government, how do you view Council's role with the Mayor of Rochester Hills?

Candidates responded in the following order:

Emmet Yukon
Dale Hetrick
Cynthia Billings
Clark Barrett
Greg Hooper
Brian Robichaud
Julie Granthen
Charles Tischer
Ryan Downs
Terry T. Brown
Paul Funk
Danielle deCaussin

Mr. Duistermars: Hypothetically, how would you make your decision if the administration were to propose a traffic circle to address an increase in traffic

accidents and fatalities at the intersection of Crooks and Avon in Rochester Hills?

Candidates responded in the following order:

- Julie Granthen*
- Greg Hooper*
- Clark Barrett*
- Paul Funk*
- Emmet Yukon*
- Brian Robichaud*
- Ryan Downs*
- Charles Tischer*
- Danielle deCaussin*
- Dale Hetrick*
- Cynthia Billings*
- Terry T. Brown*

Ms. Raschke: Your private lives will become public and open to criticism and negativity. How would you handle that?

Candidates responded in the following order:

- Greg Hooper*
- Cynthia Billings*
- Terry T. Brown*
- Clark Barrett*
- Paul Funk*
- Emmet Yukon*
- Brian Robichaud*
- Charles Tischer*
- Danielle deCaussin*
- Julie Granthen*
- Ryan Downs*
- Dale Hetrick*

President Rosen: Assuming that a decision boils down to this relatively simple choice, would you rather add to the commercial and retail tax base or increase property taxes in order to maintain and/or improve City services such as parks and recreation? Which one do you choose, because you have to choose one or the other?

Candidates responded in the following order:

- Brian Robichaud*
- Charles Tischer*
- Julie Granthen*
- Danielle deCaussin*
- Dale Hetrick*
- Cynthia Billings*
- Emmet Yukon*
- Greg Hooper*
- Terry T. Brown*
- Paul Funk*
- Ryan Downs*
- Clark Barrett*

Discussed

(Recess 11:14 p.m. - 11:27 p.m.)

2006-0345

Continue the process of appointing a new District 3 City Council Member to fill the unexpired term of Bryan Barnett; term to expire November 18, 2007

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President Rosen, noting that the interview portion of the proceedings had been completed, explained that the nomination process would commence and read from the City Council's Rules of Procedure Article IV, Section .02 regarding filling vacancies of Council officers, noting it follows the same procedure as electing officers. He then read from Article IV, Section .01 explaining that each Council member would nominate one candidate, at which time there would be a roll call vote. He indicated that if no nominee received a majority of the votes, nominees with the lowest number of votes would be removed from consideration and voting would continue on the remaining candidates. This process would continue until a single candidate received a majority of votes. President Rosen, acknowledging that the process to this point had been lengthy and tiring, suggested that Council make their nominations and that the meeting be adjourned until the following Saturday, thus giving Council members time to consider the nominees more fully and then continue with the voting at that time.

Council members briefly considered altering the nomination process allowing members to choose three potential nominees, however, the consensus of Council was that that process was more confusing and cumbersome and the original process of one nominee per Council member be attempted first and any alternate plans be considered if there appeared to be a need.

All of the Council members praised the applicants for their willingness to participate in the candidate process and for their thoughtful answers.

President Rosen opened the floor for nominations.

President Rosen nominated **Mr. Paul Funk**.

Ms. Holder nominated **Mr. Greg Hooper**.

Mr. Ambrozaitis nominated **Mr. Emmet Yukon**.

Mr. Duistermars nominated **Mr. Brian Robichaud**.

Ms. Raschke nominated **Mr. Terry T. Brown**.

Mr. Yalamanchi nominated **Mr. Emmet Yukon**.

President Rosen closed the floor for further nominations.

It was the consensus of Council that voting take place at the Saturday, May 6, 2006 Special Council meeting to commence at 9:30 a.m.

Discussed

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Special Meeting - Saturday, May 6, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before Council, President Rosen adjourned the meeting at 11:53 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.