



Rochester Hills Minutes City Council Special Meeting

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

Saturday, May 6, 2006

9:30 AM

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 Saturday, May 6, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of continuing the process of appointing a new District 3 City Council Member for a term to expire November 18, 2007.

CALL TO ORDER

President Rosen called the Special Rochester Hills City Council Meeting to order at 9:47 a.m. Michigan Time.

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present:

Jane Leslie, City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

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 noted that it had been determined that Council would ask no further questions of the candidates, but rather Council members could comment prior to voting.

Council members expressed their appreciation for the participation of all the candidates and encouraged all of them to remain involved in the City.

A roll call vote was taken with the following result:

VOTE #1

President Rosen: Mr. Paul Funk

Vice President Holder: Mr. Greg Hooper

Mr. Ambrozaitis: Mr. Emmett Yukon

Mr. Duistermars: Mr. Greg Hooper

Ms. Raschke: Mr. Greg Hooper

Mr. Yalamanchi: Mr. Paul Funk

President Rosen explained that, as Mr. Yukon received the fewest votes, his name would be eliminated from consideration and another vote would be taken with only Mr. Funk and Mr. Hooper as candidates.

VOTE #2

Vice President Holder: Mr. Hooper

Mr. Ambrozaitis: Mr. Funk

Mr. Duistermars: Mr. Hooper

Ms. Raschke: Mr. Hooper

Mr. Yalamanchi: Mr. Funk

President Rosen: Mr. Funk

President Rosen noted that there was no procedure in place to "break a deadlock" and suggested another vote be taken.

VOTE #3

Mr. Ambrozaitis: Mr. Funk

Mr. Duistermars: Mr. Hooper

Ms. Raschke: Mr. Hooper

Mr. Yalamanchi: Mr. Funk

President Rosen: Mr. Funk

Vice President Holder: Mr. Hooper

Ms. Raschke praised Mr. Hooper for his work on the Planning Commission and noted that it would be best to choose a candidate with recent knowledge of the issues currently before the Council.

Mr. Ambrozaitis expressed his hope that whoever is chosen will consider each issue on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Duistermars praised both nominees for their involvement in the City but noted that he chose Mr. Hooper because of his more recent involvement in the City making him the candidate who can be "brought up to speed" more quickly.

President Rosen agreed with his Council colleagues stressing that both men would make excellent Council members, however, he noted the loss to the Planning Commission if Mr. Hooper were to leave it to join Council.

Ms. Raschke noted the contribution President Rosen has made to Council as a result of bringing his knowledge gained during his years serving on the Planning Commission. She described President Rosen's move to the City Council as a "natural progression" and stressed how Council has benefited from his knowledge.

Mr. Duistermars indicated that he would support Mr. Funk for a mayoral appointment to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Yalamanchi noted that he did not make a "natural progression" to his position on the City Council and asked that that not be considered as a major criterion for evaluating the candidates for this appointment.

President Rosen suggested that another roll call vote be taken:

VOTE #4

Mr. Duistermars: Mr. Hooper

Ms. Raschke: Mr. Hooper

Mr. Yalamanchi: Mr. Funk

President Rosen: Mr. Funk

Vice President Holder: Mr. Hooper

Mr. Ambrozaitis: Mr. Funk

Both candidates were given the opportunity to address the Council.

Mr. Paul Funk, 2176 Rochelle Park, listed his involvement in many different committees and organizations, specifically noting that he had previously been elected to Council in the early 1990s. He noted that many of the issues currently before Council were issues he considered during his brief time on Council.

Mr. Greg Hooper, 545 Parkland, praised his fellow nominees. He indicated he had been involved with the City since 1998 noting specifically his years on the Planning Commission.

Ms. Raschke again praised both candidates but noted that Mr. Hooper has the most current knowledge of City issues.

Ms. Holder stressed that the City will be addressing the matter of landfills in the near future noting the value of Mr. Hooper's involvement on the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

President Rosen indicated that the difficulty in choosing between the two candidates is that both are so well qualified. He described the circumstance as choosing not between the lesser of two evils, but rather "the better of two goods."

Discussed

(Recess 10:34 a.m. - 11:02 a.m.)

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President Rosen invited both candidates to sit at the presenter's table and suggested that Council members pose questions to the candidates.

Mr. Yalamanchi, Ms. Raschke and Mr. Duistermars all noted that the matter was in the hands of the Council and no further questions were necessary.

Ms. Holder asked Mr. Funk to explain his resignation from City Council in 1992.

Mr. Funk explained that in taking a job with the County Executive he felt it was necessary to resign from Council to avoid any possible conflict of interest.

Again, Council members **Raschke and Duistermars** stressed choosing an appointee who is familiar with current issues facing Council. They also praised Mr. Hooper for his humble demeanor.

Ms. Holder expressed her concern over the loss of Mr. Funk to the Green Space Advisory Board if he were appointed to the City Council.

President Rosen stressed that no matter which nominee is appointed to Council, another committee or board will be losing someone of value.

A fifth vote was taken with the following result:

VOTE #5

Ms. Raschke: Mr. Hooper

Mr. Yalamanchi: Mr. Funk

President Rosen: Mr. Funk

Vice President Holder: Mr. Hooper

Mr. Ambrozaitis: Mr. Funk

Mr. Duistermars: Mr. Hooper

Ms. Holder recommended that all of the nominees present be permitted to leave the meeting. She contended that the final decision is to be made by Council and there was no further need to engage the candidates in the process.

The consensus of Council was that the nominees were free to leave and it would not reflect negatively on their consideration for the appointment.

A sixth vote was taken with the following result:

VOTE #6

Mr. Yalamanchi: Mr. Funk

President Rosen: Mr. Funk

Vice President Holder: Mr. Hooper

Mr. Ambrozaitis: Mr. Funk

Mr. Duistermars: Mr. Hooper

Ms. Raschke: Mr. Hooper

Discussed

(Recess 11:37 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.)

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President Rosen noted that the process had become a "contest of wills to some extent." He stated that a change of vote would not be a sign of weakness. He stressed the similarities of the two nominees and again described them as "the better of two goods."

A seventh vote was taken with the following result:

VOTE #7

President Rosen: Mr. Funk

Vice President Holder: Mr. Hooper

Mr. Ambrozaitis: Mr. Funk

Mr. Duistermars: Mr. Hooper

Ms. Raschke: Mr. Hooper

Mr. Yalamanchi: Mr. Hooper

President Rosen announced that **Mr. Greg Hooper** had been appointed to fill the District 3 Council seat to complete the unexpired term of former Council member Bryan Barnett, term to expire November 18, 2007.

Appointed

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Raschke suggested that the administration consider making a change to the handicapped parking in front of City Hall, specifically noting that the spots directly in front of the main entrance be reserved as handicapped parking.

Ms. Holder noted that the portrait of former Mayor Somerville hanging in the auditorium is not the same size as the portraits of her predecessors and questioned whether that could be corrected.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Regular Meeting - Wednesday, May 17, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before Council, President Rosen adjourned the meeting at 12:21 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.