

Ayes: deCaussin, Dalton, Hill, Raschke, Robbins, Somerville
Nays: None
Absent: Gaber

MOTION CARRIED

Applause resounded throughout the auditorium.

Resolution 98-0037

MOTION by Dalton, seconded by Robbins,

Resolved, that a **Moratorium** be placed on all Special Assessment Districts (SAD's), until the Road Committee presents an alternate way of handling the road problem to the City Council.

Ayes: deCaussin, Dalton, Hill, Raschke, Robbins, Somerville
Nays: None
Absent: Gaber

MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Somerville stated she believes the SAD process has failed for ten (10) years. She suggested the City's Engineering Department meet with the cities of Birmingham and Troy to see why and how their SAD's can cost Three Thousand Five Hundred (\$3,500) Dollars.

(RECESS 9:20 p.m. - 9:42 p.m.)

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Nancy Raffler, 713 W. Auburn, commented that the Subdivision Control states the word "shall" is mandatory and under the Waiver of Sidewalk Requirements it has limitation; in no case shall a waiver be granted to any subdivision that contains nine (9) or more buildable lots. She inquired if the Ordinance was legally binding and if not, why not.

Mr. Ternan stated he would provide her with an answer after studying the matter.

Ms. Raffler found fault with Mr. Ternan in that he did not provide an answer to her question at this point in time.

Mr. Ternan stated he would provide an answer in approximately one (1) week.

Ms. Raffler requested the answer be telephoned, mailed or provided to Mr. Robbins, her Council representative.

Ms. Josephine Geraci, 1566 Colony Drive, commended residents for their participation and Council's decision regarding the paving issue.

9. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

9a. Report on: Committee on Communications. (Members received copy of memo dated January 14, 1998, from Susan deCaussin, Council President.)

President deCaussin noted the committee consists of six (6) members, with three (3) members of Council and three (3) members of the Administration. The Committee was to report back to Council with preliminary suggestions or ideas to improve communications between the Administration and the City Council. The Council members are Ms. Somerville, Mr. Dalton and President deCaussin. Ms. Sue Ann Douglas, Oakland County

Commissioner, appeared before Council to explain the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Committee Structure.

Mr. Dalton stated better lines of communication need to be established between the Administration and the City Council. In the past, the Administration has experienced frustration after spending many hours preparing items for Council and later learning it was not exactly what the Council had in mind. City Council has, in the past, presented an item or idea and not received information until the process is finished; Council desires input on a continuous basis. Several cities using a committee process have been studied. There are often four (4) to six (6) basic committees, each Council member would sit on one or more of the committees and a format would be established. All information would come before Council in exactly the same format, give credibility to the information and insure that matters do not fall through the cracks. Mr. Dalton introduced Ms. Sue Ann Douglas.

Ms. Sue Ann Douglas, County Commissioner, District #8, provided a brief background on the government structure of Oakland County. She explained the Board of Commissioners (BOC) Committee Structure. The Board of Commissioners has six (6) standing committees. Resolutions can be introduced on the BOC floor by a commissioner and are then referred to the appropriate committees. For resolutions to get to the board floor, it must go through the appropriate committees and go back to the BOC between each committee. The committee structure enables commission members to specialize in specific areas and to work directly with staff from those areas. Ms. Douglas provided her business card and welcomed questions.

Mr. Dalton stated the committee is considering five (5) standing committees. Mr. Dalton requested a Council resolution concurring that the committee move forward and continue to work towards solidifying their ideas.

Ms. Somerville feels all Council members should meet to discuss the subject, more information is needed and she would like assurance that residents will be included in the committees.

Mr. Dalton inquired if any members of Council were in opposition and stated there has been no discussion to eliminate any committees at this point.

Mr. Robbins stated the Communications Committee focused on two issues; 1) to find a way for better communication between Council and the Administration, and 2) to examine the current committees.

President deCaussin noted the committee is only dealing with concepts at this point and a consistent reporting structure has not yet been established.

Ms. Hill suggested the committee prepare and present a preliminary organizational chart.

Ms. Raschke emphasized citizen involvement.

Ms. Dalton believes a motion is appropriate to acknowledge Council's interest in pursuing and supporting the concept.

Mr. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Raschke, providing some direction to the Communication Committee.

Ms. Nancy Raffler (address previously given) stressed the importance of citizen involvement and communication. She stated the residents are the bosses, not customers.

Ms. Lois Golden, 645 Apple Hill Lane, expressed confusion as to how the concept would

work and feels it is not necessary to defend the involvement of residents.

Ms. Josephine Geraci (address previously given) does not want committees eliminated, would like to see matters accomplished faster and stressed citizen participation.

Resolution 98-0038

MOTION by Robbins, seconded by Raschke,

Resolved, that the City Council of Rochester Hills directs the Communication Committee to further investigate the concept of standing committees and bring back a report and recommendation to City Council.

Ayes: deCaussin, Dalton, Hill, Raschke, Robbins, Somerville

Nays: None

Absent: Gaber

MOTION CARRIED

9b. Discussion Re: Creating an Emergency Services Study Committee. (Members received copy of memo dated January 14, 1998, from Susan deCaussin, Council President, with attachments.)

President deCaussin stated the matter had been Postponed from the January 7, 1998 Meeting. It was noted that the term Tabled had inadvertently been used in the place of Postponed.

The following motion was made at Council's January 7, 1998 Regular Meeting. Consideration of the motion was Postponed until the January 21, 1998 Regular Council Meeting. The motion is now on the floor.

MOTION by Robbins, seconded by Raschke,

Whereas, in 1997, based on a study performed by David M. Griffith & Associates (DMG), relative to possible combination of services between the Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills Fire Departments, the City Council established specific EMS performance standards; and

Whereas, in the October 29, 1997 Report from the Fire Department regarding EMS service, the Fire Department confirmed that the response times established by Council cannot currently be achieved; and

Whereas, the Mission Statement for the City of Rochester Hills is to establish customer service as the primary goal for Rochester Hills City Government, and it is the Mission Statement of the Fire Department to protect and serve the community at large; and

Whereas, emergency services are an important factor in the quality of life for the citizens of Rochester Hills, and before the Fire Department can provide the highest level of life safety our residents expect, they need direction from the City Council;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the City Council does hereby establish an Emergency Services Study Committee ("Committee"), whose membership shall be comprised of:

- two (2) members of administration to be appointed by the Mayor no later