

MINUTES of the **Regular Rochester Hills City Council Work Session** held at the Rochester Hills Municipal Building, 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, Michigan on Wednesday, July 19, 2000.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Hill called the Regular Rochester Hills City Council Work Session to order at 7:37 p.m. Michigan Time.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: President Melinda Hill, Members Bryan Barnett, Jim Duistermars, Lois Golden, Barbara Holder, Gerald Robbins

Absent: Member John Dalton

QUORUM PRESENT

Others Present: Beverly Jasinski, City Clerk
Susan Kolliba-Galeczka, City Council Liaison

Council Member Dalton gave prior notice he would not be able to attend.

No Resolutions were adopted.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - (Non Agenda Items) **

None

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION COMMITTEES

President Hill summarized the history of the Communication Committees, noting that she and Ms. Susan deCaussin, former City Council member, had attended a conference with other municipalities that used the Communication Committee system. She explained formation of the Communication Committees including Committees that were absorbed and Ad Hoc Committees that continued. President Hill noted the original plan included formation of Ad Hoc Committees by the Communication Committees to address specific issues.

Council Members participated in a discussion including the following:

< Communication Committees have enhanced open communication between the Administration and City Council on policy matters

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As Approved at the Regular City Council Meeting held August 16, 2000, As Presented

- < Originally the purpose was for a few Council members to become knowledgeable on an issue and report back to Council; however, there has been a tendency for some issues to become more political
- < Lengthy discussions regarding issues continue when they come before Council
- < Council members have not had any reduction in their workload, as originally anticipated; they are taking on more tasks and attending more meetings
- < City staff are occasionally put in an uncomfortable position due to the blending of Administrative duties with the Committees
- < Communication with residents has lessened
- < Citizens should be involved and charged with addressing challenges, researching issues and finding solutions; followed by presentation of their recommendations to City Council
- < Residents with expertise should be utilized, i.e. finance, medicine, etc.
- < Various committees throughout the City appear to have the same residents serving on most of them; many residents do not want to commit for three (3) years to serve on a committee
- < Forums have been held inviting all residents to attend; the highest attendance was twenty (20) citizens, with many of the same people attending every forum
- < Citizens are not asking to become members of a committee, but want a forum to voice their opinions and have their concerns addressed
- < Creating another level of bureaucracy is not desired
- < Workload in the Clerk=s Department has increased substantially
- < Committees could be composed of one (1) Council member and (2) two residents, with a committee member responsible for providing Minutes
- < Communication Committees should be discontinued and Council could form Ad Hoc Committees to address specific issues

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The consensus of City Council members was:

1. Communication Committees will meet during the next month to receive input from members regarding any unfinished business and determine if Ad Hoc Committees are needed to do any additional work.
2. The current committee structure will be placed on hold beginning in August and citizen driven Ad Hoc Committees will be created to address specific issues
3. City Council will hold a Work Session prior to each Council Meeting for the opportunity of having one on one discussions with the Mayor, Administration and Staff, on any issues needing clarification; it is anticipated this practice will shorten the time of debate during City Council meetings
4. Food will be served to Council members at 5:30 p.m., Work Sessions will commence at 6:00 p.m., followed by the City Council meeting at 7:30 p.m.

(Recess 8:55 p.m. 9:10 p.m.)

5. **DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY COUNCIL POLICY FOR SALARIES**
 - 5a. **Department Directors**
 - 5b. **Mayor**
 - 5c. **Per Diem Fees for City Boards and Commissions**

President Hill stated that during salary recommendations from the Administration & Information Services Committee, at the City Council meeting held June 28, 2000, a request was made for further discussion regarding the City Council Salary Policy. Discussion commenced including the following:

- < Independent Compensation Board could be established to alleviate any controversy regarding compensation issues
- < Merit pay for Directors should be determined by the Mayor
- < Authority has been given to the Mayor to make equity decisions
- < Council Policy does not require the funds for equity adjustments to be distributed; past Mayors did not distribute recommended equity adjustments and funds would remain in the salary pool until the Administration decided on distribution

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