



Rochester Hills

Minutes - Draft

City Council Regular Meeting

1000 Rochester Hills Dr.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
(248) 656-4600
Home Page:
www.rochesterhills.org

*Erik Ambrozaitis, J. Martin Brennan, Greg Hooper, Vern Pixley, James Rosen,
Michael Webber and Ravi Yalamanchi*

Vision Statement: The Community of Choice for Families and Business

*Mission Statement: "Our mission is to sustain the City of Rochester Hills as the premier
community of choice to live, work and raise a family by enhancing our vibrant residential
character complemented by an attractive business community."*

Monday, September 14, 2009

7:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

CALL TO ORDER

*President Hooper called the Regular Rochester Hills City Council Meeting to order
at 7:04 p.m. Michigan Time.*

ROLL CALL

Present 7 - Erik Ambrozaitis, J. Martin Brennan, Greg Hooper, Vern Pixley, James Rosen,
Michael Webber and Ravi Yalamanchi

Others Present:

*Ed Anzek, Director of Planning and Development
Tracey Balint, Project Engineer
Bryan Barnett, Mayor
Tara Beatty, Chief Assistant
Nancy Bowman, Human Resources Staffing Analyst
Jim Bradford, Deputy Fire Chief
Alan Buckenmeyer, Parks Operations Manager
Nancy Butty, Public Education Specialist - Fire
Scott Cope, Director of Building/Ordinance Compliance
Ron Crowell, Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director
Paul Davis, City Engineer
Kurt Dawson, Director of Assessing/Treasury
Vince Foisy, Supervisor of Communication Systems
Bob Grace, Director of MIS
Mike Hartner, Director of Parks and Forestry
Captain Mike Johnson, Oakland County Sheriff's Office
Gerry Lee, Forestry Operations Manager
Pamela M. Lee, Director of Human Resources
Jane Leslie, City Clerk
Roger Rousse, Director of DPS/Engineering
Keith Sawdon, Finance Director
Leanne Scott, City Council Coordinator
Bob White, Supervisor of Ordinance Services
Kelly Winters, Deputy Director of Building/Ordinance Compliance
Christine Wissbrun, Administrative Secretary*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Ambrozaitis, seconded by Yalamanchi, that the Agenda be Approved as Amended to move Legislative File 2009-0277, Nominations/Appointments of two (2) Citizen Representatives to the Board of Trustees to the Retiree Health Care Trust; Legislative File 2009-0343, Nominations/Appointments of two (2) City Council Members to the MR-42E Noise Barrier/Sound Wall Technical Review Committee each for a term expiring December 2009; and Legislative File 2009-0344, Nominations/Appointments of three (3) Citizen Representatives to the MR-42E Noise Barrier/Sound Wall Technical Review Committee each for a term expiring December 2009 ahead of PUBLIC HEARINGS. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye 7 - Ambrozaitis, Brennan, Hooper, Pixley, Rosen, Webber and Yalamanchi

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Zendel, 1575 Dutton, commented that one Council Candidate's campaign literature states that the primary objective of their candidacy is to create jobs in Rochester Hills. He questioned whether that candidate planned to introduce an ordinance to require that any company being established in Rochester Hills hire only city residents. He noted that a common theme of some of the candidates is that no new taxes be levied as Rochester Hills residents cannot afford more taxation. He pointed out that Cable companies receive approximately \$18 million in revenues from City residents and noted that the maximum amount that City Council could have raised for the General Fund from an additional tax levy would have been just under \$540,000, or three percent of what residents pay for cable. He commented residents can afford an additional tax levy. He stated that residents want their roads to be repaired and desire police protection, and money is needed for these services. He questioned whether any of the non-incumbent Council candidates are in attendance for tonight's 2010 Budget Public Hearing and stated that every resident has an obligation to vote tomorrow.

Dave Pagnucco, 3069 Quail Ridge, expressed his concerns regarding the deterioration of the City's roads. He commented that Quail Ridge Subdivision has no sidewalks and residents use the roads for walking and bike riding, noting that these poor road conditions present safety concerns. He requested Council respond to residents' requests to have their roads repaired.

Liliana Kleine, 3074 Quail Ridge Circle, requested that City Council consider setting funds aside to reconstruct Quail Ridge roads, noting that roads in two similar subdivisions were recently redone.

Melinda Hill, 1481 Mill Race, announced that the Fifth Annual Clinton River Trail Fall Classic Ride will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2009 beginning at 8:30 a.m., with route options from five to 40 miles. She commented that the

Friends of the Clinton River Trail is the only non-profit volunteer organization working to assist in the development and enhancement of the Trail, which runs through five different communities; and encouraged pre-registration for the ride online at www.clintonrivertrail.org.

Deanna Hilbert, 3234 Quail Ridge Circle, displayed photos taken of Quail Ridge Subdivision's roads and requested that the City schedule repairs for the worst sections of roadway. She commented that a vacant home next to hers will be difficult to sell due to the poor roads. She questioned who ranks and schedules the roads for repair and whether Quail Ridge is slated for work in the 2010 Concrete Slab Replacement Program. She commented that residents should vote in tomorrow's Primary Election.

Paul Miller, 1021 Harding, commented that the City does not have enough conservation and environmentally-responsible policies. He stated that the new Blight Ordinance does not address the importance of native plantings and noted that his property has tall native grasses and plants and has recently been the subject of Ordinance enforcement. He commented that much environmental damage is done by having typical urban-style lawns and stated that rural and semi-rural suburban locations should not have the same restrictions. He explained that a typical lawn tractor operated for one hour is equivalent to driving a full-sized vehicle for eight hours and commented that the City spent approximately \$500,000 last year to water the grass on Livernois' boulevard and \$250,000 to purchase a special machine to mow hills.

LEGISLATIVE & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

President Hooper stated that the proposed 2010 Budget contains \$1.1 million for Concrete Local Road Replacement, a 26 percent decrease from 2009. He commented that road projects are shown in the City's Capital Improvement Plan and explained that the City's Engineering Department surveys the City's Local Roads every other year and develops a Pavement Management Analysis to determine which segments of roadway will be replaced with the allocated funds approved by City Council. He noted that this process provides a fair and impartial decision. He encouraged residents to vote in tomorrow's Primary Election.

Mr. Brennan expressed his concern over a perceived lack of interest by voters in tomorrow's Primary Election. He stated that residents can request an absentee ballot and commented that residents should contact State Legislature to express support for legislation to allow voting by absentee ballot without restrictions.

Mr. Ambrozaitis commented that the City's Blight Ordinance is intended to pursue and resolve serious blight problems and requested that the Administration work with residents to resolve their concerns.

Mr. Pixley congratulated Paint Creek Center for the Arts for a successful Art and Apples Festival and commented that the Older Persons' Commission did a fantastic job selling pies during the Spotlights Market. He commented that he attended the Fallen Heroes Memorial at the County on September 11 and expressed his

thanks to the Public Service Officers in attendance for their efforts in protecting the City. He encouraged residents to vote tomorrow.

Mr. Rosen echoed comments made encouraging residents to vote tomorrow.

Mr. Webber stated that including Local Road repairs in the Budget is the starting point for the City to resolve road concerns and commented that he wished that the City had the resources to do more each year.

Mr. Yalamanchi requested an update on the Tienken Road Widening Project.

Mayor Barnett commented that last year, the City had roughly an 80 percent voter turn-out for the Presidential election, noting that voter turn-out for Council races is usually only 12 to 18 percent. He stated that each elected official is a product of the election process and commented that out of Rochester Hills population of 70,000, typically only 3,000 voters make decisions for the entire community. He expressed his congratulations to the Paint Creek Center for the Arts for a successful Art and Apples Festival, and pointed out that the Older Persons' Commission still has pies available for purchase. He made the following announcements:

- The City will host a Senior Flu Clinic at City Hall on October 2, 2009 and October 16, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Interested residents should call the Mayor's Office to make an appointment for a flu shot.
- The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm will host a World War II Re-Enactment this Saturday, September, 19, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Over 100 re-enactors are expected along with much military equipment.
- Local roadway repair projects are in the Capital Improvement Plan. He reported that Quail Ridge Court is rated in poor condition, with the rest of Quail Ridge Subdivision rated fair. He commented that many areas of the City need road work and noted that the more funding that is made available, the more repair work can be done. He noted that Quail Ridge most likely ranks near or at the top of the list of areas need road repairs.
- The City has not received any recent update on the Tienken Road Widening Project. The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) is currently re-analyzing traffic counts as a part of the Environmental Assessment process.

ATTORNEY MATTERS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

2009-0337 Proclamation in Recognition of Conner Arsenault

Attachments: [Agenda Summary.pdf](#)
[Proclamation.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

Mayor Barnett introduced seven-year-old Conner Arsenault, his mom,

Jennifer, and sister, Madeline, and stated that Conner remembered what he had learned from Firefighter Nancy and knew what to do to alert his family and get them out of harm's way when his home caught fire. He reported that Conner was taken out to lunch by Chief Crowell in one of the City's fire trucks to congratulate him.

Council Members congratulated Conner.

Ron Crowell, Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director, commented that it is frightening to think of what would happen if the City did not have Fire Safety Education Programs. He noted that the City's school programs, presented by Nancy Butty, Public Education Specialist-Fire, are some of the best in the County and the State.

Presented.

Whereas, on July 22, 2009 at 12:40 a.m. the Rochester Hills Fire Department responded to a garage fire at 2688 Hickory Lawn; and

Whereas, when Fire Department personnel arrived, they found the garage completely in flames and the house next door 25% in flames; and

Whereas, Fire Department personnel took immediate action to make sure there was no one in the house and all occupants were safely out of the burning structure; and

Whereas, Fire Department personnel were then able to extinguish the fire; and

Whereas, upon investigation, Fire Chief Ron Crowell learned that Conner Arsenault, age seven, was sound asleep when he suddenly woke and saw the fire; and

Whereas, using clear thinking, Conner was able to wake his mother and sister and they were all able to safely exit the house without injury.

Now, Therefore, Be It Known, that the Mayor and City Council of Rochester Hills hereby recognize Conner Arsenault for his bravery in taking action to save his family during an emergency situation.

Be It Further Known, that Rochester Hills Fire Chief Ron Crowell would like to offer his personal thanks to Conner Arsenault for his outstanding valor and heroism.

2009-0339 Presentation on the 2nd Annual Brooksie Way Half-Marathon scheduled for Sunday, October 4, 2009

Attachments: [Agenda Summary.pdf](#)

Linda Davis-Kirksey, Rochester Hills resident and Committee Member for the Brooksie Way Half-Marathon, outlined the preparation and planning for the race scheduled for October 4, 2009. She stated that the organizing committee learned much from last year's race; and as a result, planning activities included the formation of a subcommittee consisting of many individuals from both local communities to provide input. She recognized the following individuals who have been involved in planning activities for the Brooksie Way:

*Randy Speck, Superintendent of Oakland Christian Schools
Adrienne Bass, Director of Alumni Relations, Oakland University
Sheri Heiney, Executive Director, Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce
Kristy Trevarrow, Executive Director, Rochester Downtown Development Authority
Michelle Shafir, Marketing Manager, Village of Rochester Hills
Cheryl Ciske, Public Relations, Crittenton Hospital Medical Center
Mike Hall, Oakland County Sheriff's Office and Crim Fitness Foundation
Captain Mike Johnson, Oakland County Sheriff's Office
Chief Steve Schettenhelm, City of Rochester Police Department
Scott Samuels, Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Rochester College
Melanie Jones and John Gregorich, Sir Speedy of Rochester Hills
Tara Beatty, Chief Assistant to the Mayor, City of Rochester Hills
Mayor Bryan Barnett, City of Rochester Hills
Mayor Jeff Cuthbertson, City of Rochester
Jaymes Vettraino, City Manager, City of Rochester
Jane Leslie, City Clerk, City of Rochester Hills
Leanne O'Connor, City Clerk, City of Rochester
Sue Barnes, Training Committee Member for the Brooksie Way*

Greg Guidice, Co-Chairperson for the Brooksie Way, reported that 4,000 participants ran last year's race and noted that this translates to approximately 2.5 individuals entering the community for each participating runner. He commented that feedback from last year's race led to the extensive community outreach undertaken in preparation for this year, including the following activities:

- The City included announcements regarding the Brooksie Way in the two most recent water bills, encouraging residents to visit the City's or the race website.
- Oakland University included race information in alumni publications, reaching out to over 150,000 individuals.
- Crittenton Hospital Medical Center will have a VIP tent at the race, and included race information on their website and in their Spring Wellness Newsletter, reaching 155,000 readers.
- The Village of Rochester Hills reached out to their merchants with an information campaign encouraging their support and sponsorship.
- The Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce included race information in their E-newsletter, reaching 1,500 weekly.
- The Rochester Downtown Development Authority promoted the Brooksie Way at many of their events, including Dancing in the Street, the Farmers' Market, and included information in their newsletter and on their Facebook page.
- Rochester College and Oakland Christian Schools will provide volunteers.
- A door-knocker campaign will distribute flyers to 8,000 homes in the surrounding areas impacted by the race course on September 21, 2009. The flyers include directions on how residents will be affected and notify them of traffic pattern changes for race day.
- The City, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, the Road Commission for Oakland County and the municipalities have been instrumental in maintaining the course integrity and assisting in solving the access problems encountered last year.

- Changes were made in traffic patterns on race day to maintain two-way traffic on certain areas of Tienken and Brewster, to allow the subdivisions affected by road closures to have access during the race.
- The City's voter signage will be utilized in the next couple of weeks at certain key places on the roadways and along the Paint Creek and Clinton River Trails to alert residents that the Brooksie Way is coming and to let them know where to find information about road closures and access points during the race.

Council Discussion:

Mr. Yalamanchi expressed his appreciation for the update. He questioned whether affected businesses and churches along the route have been contacted and when the roadways will reopen after the race. He inquired as to how access will be maintained during the race to the shopping center at the northwest corner of Walton and Adams.

Mr. Guidice responded that the race committee met with all churches affected and noted that route changes will allow one-way and/or two-way access to many affected roadways. He noted that the Committee is also working with merchants at the Village of Rochester Hills to encourage increased business involvement and support, commenting that the race provides a good revenue opportunity. He explained that last year all roadways were closed at 7:00 a.m.; and noted that this year the roads will have rolling closure and opening times. He stated that the entire course will be re-opened to traffic at 12:00 noon. He commented that roadway access for the center on the northwest corner of Adams and Walton will be maintained.

Ms. Davis-Kirksey stated that safe crossing areas will be utilized on roads that remain open. She noted that the Brooksie Way has a huge economic impact for the community and is a good way to showcase trails and businesses. She encouraged everyone to visit the race website at www.thebrooksieway.com.

Mayor Barnett complimented the race committee, noting that every problem and concern from last year's race was addressed this year.

Mr. Brennan commented that few problems were anticipated in advance of last year's race, however, many were noted and have been addressed for this year. He questioned how many additional registrations are expected.

Mr. Guidice stated that the projection for 5,000 runners is a significant increase, given the current economic situation. He pointed out that a One-Mile Fun Walk is added, along with an expanded area for families at the finish line.

Mr. Pixley complimented the committee on the flyers for the neighborhoods. He commented that last year's race was well-organized for its first year and expressed his appreciation that last year's concerns were addressed.

Mr. Webber commented that planning for this year's race have included better communication efforts.

Mr. Rosen pointed out that the committee should review the directions on the

flyer, questioning whether the directions contained in Area 3 are correct.

A promotional video message for the Brooksie Way was played.

Presented.

2009-0360 Sanitary Sewer Grease Interceptor Presentation; Mike Ellis, Director of Claims for the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA), presenter

Attachments: [Agenda Summary.pdf](#)
[Ordinance Division 4 Only.pdf](#)

Roger Rousse, Director of DPS/Engineering, explained that the City was alerted to weaknesses in the Utility Ordinance after a damage claim occurred a few years ago. He noted that Public Act 222 now limits the City's immunity from sewage backup claims. He explained that the current Ordinance places strong emphasis on the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) as the control authority and stated that while DWSD has an interest in operations, they have less interest in what occurs within the City's internal system. He noted that the proposed Ordinance will include provisions to allow the City to recover costs when damages occur. He pointed out that the City uses new technologies to pinpoint where discharges originate, including a video camera to accurately pinpoint problem areas and stated that the City's Asset Management Program allows a shift from broadcast maintenance methods to more targeted techniques. He commented that business owners have expressed interest in allowing vendors to assume responsibility for Sewer and Water charges, and noted that a provision will be added to the Ordinance to allow this shift to a vendor. He noted that 90 percent of the City's sewers were constructed in the last 30 years and explained that as the system begins to age, the maintenance and management practices developed over the years now warrant these Ordinance revisions. He explained that the Ordinance will be presented for First Reading at a future Council meeting.

Council Discussion:

President Hooper questioned how the 25-percent rule came about and what mechanism triggers this rule.

Mr. Rousse explained the difference between a grease trap and a grease interceptor, noting that a grease trap is placed inside a building and is for a small volume of grease released into the sewer system. He stated that an interceptor is warranted when a larger volume of grease is discharged. He commented that in the case of a large restaurant operation, the commercial dishwashers run at 180 degrees, liquefying any grease discharged into the sewerage system. The grease then cools in the sanitary system and becomes a blockage. He commented that the 25-percent rule dictates whether a trap or interceptor is required to allow grease to pass through the system in liquid form. He explained that the proposed Ordinance revision will not go beyond the requirements of the State Plumbing Code.

President Hooper questioned how often inspections of the system will be performed and whether these inspections would be at the City's expense.

Mr. Rousse responded that the City will determine the frequency for inspection upon discovering grease accumulation in a sanitary sewer. He noted that a new water metering device will record flow to determine peak volumes and allow a determination as to whether the interceptor is sized accordingly.

President Hooper questioned whether the City would incur additional labor costs and questioned whether the 25-percent method will provide an opportunity for the City to recover costs.

Mr. Rousse responded that the City currently uses a broad-cast method and cleans all sewers in the City every two years. He commented that problematic areas are cleaned more frequently and noted that if these areas can be controlled, cleaning activities can be targeted more accurately. He stated that the City will incur additional labor costs in some instances, but save in other areas. He noted that the proposed Ordinance will allow the City to recover costs.

Mr. Ambrozaitis questioned whether businesses will be notified of the change and whether the City's new camera was a good investment.

Mr. Rousse responded that the notification process had already begun. He commented that the City met with a property owner last week after the camera determined that their lead was discovered to be partially blocked and this helped them to avoid a problem. He noted that educational materials will be distributed and commented that Michigan the Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) has an educational DVD which includes techniques to control grease. He stated that the camera is a good investment.

Mike Ellis, Director of Claims for the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, stated that Rochester Hills has an extremely progressive, proactive program; and noted that City staff are included on several MMRMA's committees. He explained that until Public Act 222 took effect on January 1, 2002, this was an evolving area of the law. He stated that in September of 2000, the downriver area was declared a National Disaster Area, as almost 15,000 homes had water and sewage backing up into basements; and he explained that this event was the motivation for the development of Public Act 222, incorporating changes to the traditional methods of fault allocation. He commented that these changes protect municipalities in many ways in defining responsibility, and have also led to increasing technological advances, such as cameras to identify more causes for these blockages. He stated that commercial grease is the culprit in most cases and resulted in draft language for grease interceptors. MMRMA advocates that everyone adopt this Ordinance language requiring that businesses not dump grease into the sewer lines without taking steps to mitigate blockages. He noted that Act 222 brings the power to regulate discharges back to the local communities.

Mr. Brennan questioned whether the need to revise this Ordinance is a recent development, how restaurants will be involved, and the cost associated with this proposed Ordinance for residents, owners or tenants.

Mr. Ellis responded that as technology has advanced, blockage problems can

be identified and related to grease discharge.

Mr. Rousse responded that the City will start with public education and will work with restaurant owners to resolve potential violations before it moves to enforcement activities. He commented that the Ordinance will be a proactive approach to prevent sewer backups caused by liquid grease discharges from dishwashers that solidify in the sewer lines. He noted that the Ordinance does not apply to residents and is targeted toward the industrial kitchen, large restaurant, hotel or motel that exceeds discharge limitations. He stated that there are discharge limitations and as these limits are exceeded, the City will attempt to work with an owner. He noted that owners who are large users may be required to install an interceptor versus grease trap.

Mr. Brennan questioned what penalties would be assessed.

Mr. Rousse stated that the Ordinance specifies only that costs will be recovered.

Mr. Yalamanchi questioned whether the City performs proactive inspections of restaurants and how the City will determine who violates the Ordinance.

Mr. Rousse responded that areas with grease build-ups are identified through the routine cleaning and televising process, property owners are alerted to these problems, and follow-up includes educational materials. He noted that some problem areas cannot be controlled with a grease trap and will require installation of an interceptor. He commented that the sewer televising process can identify problems both in the main lines and in discharge lines and determine whether an interceptor is required. He stated that after a problem area is identified, re-inspection can be performed in six months to determine whether the conditions have improved. He noted that in the case of a single lead serving multiple users, further testing can be performed to identify which user is creating the blockage.

Mr. Yalamanchi suggested that the Ordinance language include more explanation and clarification of the controlling entity.

Mr. Rousse responded that in the past, the City has adopted the suggested DWSD Ordinance language without alteration. He commented that he would review the proposed Ordinance with the City Attorney to determine if any additional clarification is required.

Presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion, without discussion. If any Council Member or Citizen requests discussion of an item, it will be removed from Consent Agenda for separate discussion.

2009-0353 Approval of Minutes - City Council Regular Meeting - July 13, 2009

Attachments: [CC Min 071309.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: RES0236-2009

Resolved, that the Minutes of a Rochester Hills City Council Regular Meeting held on July 13, 2009 be approved as presented.

2009-0354 Approval of Minutes - City Council Regular Meeting - July 27, 2009

Attachments: [CC Min 072709](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: RES0237-2009

Resolved, that the Minutes of a Rochester Hills City Council Regular Meeting held on July 27, 2009 be approved as presented.

2009-0346 Request for Approval of FY2010 Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) Municipal Credit Contract Application between SMART and the City of Rochester Hills in the amount of \$64,681.00

Attachments: [Agenda Summary.pdf](#)
[Smart Application Documents.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: RES0238-2009

Resolved, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby approves the transfer application for the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) for Fiscal year 2010 Municipal Credits to the Older Persons' Commission as presented.

Further Resolved, that the Mayor is authorized to execute and deliver the transfer agreement on behalf of the City.

Passed the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Webber, seconded by Brennan, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 7 - Ambrozaitis, Brennan, Hooper, Pixley, Rosen, Webber and Yalamanchi

The following Consent Agenda items were discussed and adopted by separate motions.

2009-0345 Request for Purchase Authorization - DPS/FACILITIES: Blanket Purchase Order for snow removal services for the 2009-2010 winter season at City Hall, Precinct #5, 52/3 District Court and Oakland County Sheriff's Department Substation in the amount not-to-exceed \$75,000.00; ULTRA Professional

Outdoor Services LLC, Auburn Hills, MI

Attachments: [Agenda Summary \(Amended\).pdf](#)
[Agenda Summary.pdf](#)
[Bid Tabulations.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

Mr. Yalamanchi requested that this item be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Public Comment:

Alice Benbow, 1582 Northumberland, questioned whether the City could afford this expenditure and whether the selected bidder did any business with or contributed to the campaign of any Council candidate.

Council Discussion:

Mr. Yalamanchi questioned whether it could be cost-effective to have City staff perform these services.

Roger Rouse, Director of DPS/Engineering, responded that a contractor is selected for this work to allow City staff to focus on clearing City streets instead of parking lots and noted that it is less economical to have the City's large equipment and crews clearing parking lots and shoveling sidewalks.

Mr. Yalamanchi requested that the Agenda Summary numbers be changed to reflect a correction in the total budget amount for the item.

President Hooper stated that if any Council Member had a conflict of interest with this bidder, it should be declared.

A motion was made by Yalamanchi, seconded by Pixley, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye 7 - Ambrozaitis, Brennan, Hooper, Pixley, Rosen, Webber and Yalamanchi

Enactment No: RES0239-2009

Resolved, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby authorizes a Blanket Purchase Order to ULTRA Professional Outdoor Services LLC, Auburn Hills, Michigan for snow removal services for the 2009-2010 winter season at City Hall, Precinct #5, 52/3 District Court and Oakland County Sheriff's Department Substation in the amount not-to-exceed \$75,000.00.

2009-0351

Request for Purchase Authorization - DPS/ENG: Contract for 2009 Cold-Plastic (Pavement Legend) Program in the amount of \$33,333.83 with a 10% contingency of \$3,333.38 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$36,667.21; R.S. Contracting, Inc., Casco, MI

Attachments: [Agenda Summary.pdf](#)
[Bid Tab.pdf](#)
[Extension of Pricing.pdf](#)
[RCOC Bid Tabulation.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

Mr. Ambrozaitis requested that this item be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Public comment:

Alice Benbow, 1582 Northumberland, questioned whether there is a mechanism in place to verify that the materials purchased will be used as intended and what the guarantee is to ensure that a quality product will be provided.

Council Discussion:

President Hooper stated that although he works in the construction industry, he has no financial connection to the bidder and did not feel a need to recuse himself from this item.

Roger Rouse, Director of DPS/Engineering, stated that the life cycle of legend materials depends on plowing frequency. He explained that if the area experiences a more severe winter, legend materials will be scraped off sooner; and commented that the goal is to get two years out of the marking. He stated that the City receives a guarantee that the material will not remove itself within one year. He noted that the paint alternative has a life cycle of only one year.

Mr. Ambrozaitis questioned whether cold-plastic pavement legend is considered the better alternative.

Mr. Rouse commented that it is the better alternative and noted that an inspector determines whether a marking will last for an additional year. He stated that only necessary areas are redone and commented that any remaining money will go back into the Fund.

A motion was made by Webber, seconded by Yalamanchi, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye 7 - Ambrozaitis, Brennan, Hooper, Pixley, Rosen, Webber and Yalamanchi

Enactment No: RES0240-2009

Resolved, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby authorizes a Contract to R.S. Contracting, Inc., Casco, Michigan, for 2009 Cold-Plastic (Pavement Legend) Program in the amount of \$33,333.83 with a 10% contingency of \$3,333.38 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$36,667.21.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

2009-0277 Nominations/Appointments of two (2) Citizen Representatives to the Board of Trustees to the Retiree Health Care Trust

Attachments: [Agenda Summary.pdf](#)
[Appointment Form.pdf](#)
[Jasinski CQ \(Revised\).pdf](#)
[Kline CQ.pdf](#)
[Probst CQ.pdf](#)
[Wissbrun CQ.pdf](#)
[081709 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)
[Nomination Form.pdf](#)
[Notice of Vacancy \(extended\).pdf](#)
[072709 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)
[Jasinski CQ.pdf](#)
[Notice of Vacancy.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

President Hooper stated that four individuals were nominated to the two Citizen positions on the Board of Trustees for the Retiree Health Care Trust at the August 25, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting and expressed congratulations to all four nominees, stating that everyone nominated was qualified and deserved to be recognized for wishing to serve the community.

The nominated individuals received the following votes:

Don Cline, Jr. - President Hooper, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Pixley, Mr. Webber, Mr. Yalamanchi

Beverly Jasinski - Mr. Ambrozaitis, Mr. Rosen

Brian Probst - Mr. Ambrozaitis

Kenneth Wissbrun - President Hooper, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Pixley, Mr. Rosen, Mr. Webber, Mr. Yalamanchi

President Hooper announced that Don Cline Jr., and Kenneth Wissbrun will be appointed to the Board of Trustees for the Retiree Health Care Trust.

A motion was made by Webber, seconded by Pixley, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye 7 - Ambrozaitis, Brennan, Hooper, Pixley, Rosen, Webber and Yalamanchi

Enactment No: RES0241-2009

Resolved, that the Rochester Hills City Council appoints Don Cline Jr. and Kenneth Wissbrun as Citizen Representatives to the Board of Trustees to the Retiree Health Care Trust.

2009-0343 Nominations/Appointments of two (2) City Council Members to the MR-42E Noise Barrier/Sound Wall Technical Review Committee each for a term expiring December 2009

Attachments: [Appointment Form.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

President Hooper Opened the Floor for Nominations.

Mr. Ambrozaitis nominated himself.

Mr. Webber nominated President Hooper.

Mr. Brennan nominated Mr. Webber.

Mr. Webber declined the nomination.

President Hooper Closed the Floor for Nominations.

President Hooper announced that he and Mr. Ambrozaitis would be appointed as Council Member representatives to the MR-42E Noise Barrier/Sound Wall Technical Review Committee.

A motion was made by Pixley, seconded by Webber, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye 7 - Ambrozaitis, Brennan, Hooper, Pixley, Rosen, Webber and Yalamanchi

Enactment No: RES0242-2009

Resolved, that the Rochester Hills City Council appoints Council Members Erik Ambrozaitis and Greg Hooper to the MR-42E Noise Barrier/Sound Wall Technical Review Committee each for a term expiring December 2009.

2009-0344 Nominations/Appointments of three (3) Citizen Representatives to the MR-42E Noise Barrier/Sound Wall Technical Review Committee each for a term expiring December 2009

Attachments: [091409 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)

[Lagerbohm CQ.pdf](#)

[Lam CQ.pdf](#)

[Masiak CQ.pdf](#)

[McGlynn CQ.pdf](#)

[L. Nitsche CQ.pdf](#)

[O. Nitsche CQ.pdf](#)

[Nori CQ.pdf](#)

[O'Neill CQ.pdf](#)

[Nomination Form.pdf](#)

[Notice of Vacancy.pdf](#)

[Aubuchon CQ.pdf](#)

[Moher CQ.pdf](#)

[Samano CQ.pdf](#)

[Resolution.pdf](#)

Public Comment:

Noelle O'Neill, 3640 Winter Creek, commented that during a meeting with Mayor Barnett, the Mayor noted that studies show that sound walls do not enhance property values. She stated that she has seen numerous studies that prove that sound walls do increase property values.

Tonia Hasani, 3434 Connors, commented that she is not convinced that a noise barrier will have only minimal impact on her home, which is in the middle of Country Creek Village Subdivision. She stated that there are many ways that a sound wall will be beneficial; and commented that the remaining vacant lots in her subdivision are near the freeway, noting that these lots will be difficult to sell

without a sound wall unless greatly discounted in price. She stated that a noise barrier will make the clubhouse, pool and tennis courts more of a marketable amenity for her subdivision and requested Council review the proposed Budget for items that can be cut so that a noise barrier can be added.

Mike McGlynn, 3741 Everett, stated that the City will never have enough funds to act on all projects contained in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and commented that the noise barriers should be ranked separately on their own merit and then combined into the ranking of other CIP projects. He stated that the City should obtain an accurate cost estimate for each wall, noting that estimates vary widely for Federally-funded versus non-Federally-funded projects. He requested that Council utilize parallel timelines in beginning the RFP process for noise barrier projects at the same time that the committee ranking efforts are progressing.

Lynette Nitsche, 3753 Everett, expressed her disappointment that the City and Council is accepting the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) decision not to fund sound walls and commented that MDOT's decision should be challenged. She stated that the City should prioritize projects and eliminate those that are not necessary in favor of including Noise Barrier 10 in the Budget.

President Hooper Opened the Floor for Nominations:

Mr. Pixley nominated Jennifer Lagerbohm, Jim Masiak and Michael McGlynn.

Mr. Ambrozaitis nominated Lynette Nitsche and Noelle O'Neill.

Mr. Brennan nominated Charles Lam.

Mr. Rosen nominated Olaf Nitsche.

Mr. Webber nominated John Nori.

President Hooper Closed the Floor for Nominations.

President Hooper stated that as there were more nominations than Citizen Representative positions on the MR-42E Noise Barrier/Sound Wall Technical Review Committee, the item would return for a vote at the September 28, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting.

Discussed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

(Mr. Ambrozaitis exited at 8:52 p.m. and re-entered at 8:54 p.m.)

2009-0340 Public Hearing for the 2009 Millage Rates (for FY2010)

Attachments: [Agenda Summary.pdf](#)
[Public Hearing Notice.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

Keith Sawdon, Director of Finance, introduced the proposed Millage Rates for

2010 and stated that he recommended that Council move forward in approving these rates. He noted that the Millage Rates must be submitted to Oakland County by the October 1, 2009 deadline.

President Hooper Opened the Public Hearing at 8:51 p.m.

Public Comment:

Alice Benbow, 1582 Northumberland, questioned why the Millage Rate information was not readily available to the public.

Lee Zendel, 1575 Dutton, stated that out of all property taxes paid by residents of Rochester Hills, less than one-third is retained by the City, and only one-third of that amount ends up in the General Fund to fund Police and other City services. He commented that a Council Member stated that the City could not afford a multi-million dollar loss in Ambulance Services, yet it appears that the City will accept a multi-million dollar loss on the City's Parks System. He questioned whether the City was considering how much lives were worth when discussing Ambulance Service losses, noting that there are various ways to reallocate the accounting for these services to yield lesser loss amounts.

Scot Beaton, 655 Bolinger, stated that while the City can boast the lowest Millage Rate in the County, this does not always translate to good leadership. He noted that a Millage Rate should be set to reflect the needs of the residents and increase property values. He commented on several upcoming road projects in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP):

- He spoke against MR-13B, Dequindre Road Widening, stating that Southeastern Michigan sprawl needed to stop at South Boulevard. He noted that reducing this project to three lanes will reduce the City's cost to approximately \$345,000.
- The Budget should reduce the figure for MR-40A, Tienken Road Widening, to reflect the City's support of a three-lane alternative.
- MR-42D, Sound Barrier Installation, should include more aesthetically-pleasing barrier construction.

He questioned whether Mr. Brennan should recuse himself from any Budget or Millage votes that include references to Road Commission projects. He stated that the City should renegotiate union contracts to eliminate wage increases and the Mayor and City Council should consider a five-percent reduction in compensation.

President Hooper Closed the Public Hearing at 8:57 p.m.

Council Discussion:

Mr. Ambrozaitis stated that he disagreed with voting on Millage Rates tonight, commenting that the public hearing process should have been held in advance to allow for more public comment and input.

President Hooper responded that Public Comment has been held for each

budget discussion to date. He noted that the Millage Rates are not proposed to be raised.

A motion was made by Yalamanchi, seconded by Pixley, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye 6 - Brennan, Hooper, Pixley, Rosen, Webber and Yalamanchi

Nay 1 - Ambrozaitis

Enactment No: RES0243-2009

Whereas, in accordance with the provisions of Public Act 2 of 1968, Public Act 621 of 1978, the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act for Local Government, and Section III of the Charter for the City of Rochester Hills, the Mayor, as the Chief Executive Officer for the City, has prepared the proposed budget for the ensuing year and submitted it to the Council at its first meeting in August; and

Whereas, at its August 3, 2009 meeting City Council acknowledged receipt from the Mayor of the Proposed 2010 Proposed Budget and 2011 Projected Budget and set a Public Hearing to be held September 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to hear comments on the proposed budget plan; and

Whereas, at its September 14, 2009 meeting City Council held said Public Hearing and heard comments on the proposed millage rates.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the City Council hereby adopts the following tax rates in accordance with Chapter IV, Taxation, specifically Section 4.1, Power to Tax and Secure Revenue, and Section 4.2, Charter Tax Rate & Special Voted Millage(s) Limitation, to be levied in December 2009 to provide the tax revenues included in the Fiscal Year 2010 Proposed Budget:

General Fund	3.754500
Fire Protection	1.800000
Special Police I	0.782300
Special Police II	0.426000
Pathway Maintenance	0.185800
Drain Debt	0.585700
Refunding Debt - 1998	0.354500
RARA Operating	0.195000
OPC Operating	0.240300
OPC Transportation	0.089100
OPC Building	0.213300
Green Space	0.297200
Library	0.782300
Total	9.706000

The Total Millage rate is per Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) of taxable valuation, as equalized; and

Be it Further Resolved, the City Council hereby adopts the following Special Lighting Levies for the Christian Hills Subdivision at the rate of \$12.28 per lot or description; and for the Denison Acres Subdivision at the rate of \$3.63 per lot or description; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Assessor of the City of Rochester Hills be and hereby is

authorized to have said amounts spread on the 2009 Tax Rolls.

Be It Further Resolved, that the City Council hereby adopts the following proposed tax rate in accordance with Chapter IV, Taxation, specifically Section 4.1, Power to Tax and Secure Revenue, and Section 4.2, Charter Tax Rate & Special Voted Millage(s) Limitation, to be levied in December 2009 to provide the tax revenues included in the Fiscal Year 2010 Proposed Budget.

(Mr. Webber exited at 9:02 p.m. and re-entered at 9:04 p.m.)

2009-0341 Public Hearing for the City of Rochester Hills Fiscal Year 2010 Budget

Attachments:

[091409 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)
[Public Hearing Notice.pdf](#)
[Ambrozaitis Budget Ideas 2010.pdf](#)
[Rosen Budget Comments 2010.pdf](#)
[Webber Budget Questions 2010.pdf](#)
[Yalamanchi Budget Questions 2010.pdf](#)
[Yalamanchi Budget Addl Questions 2010.pdf](#)
[Yalamanchi Proposed Motions.pdf](#)
[Yalamanchi Questions 091409.pdf](#)
[Yalamanchi Dispatch Presentation.pdf](#)

President Hooper Opened the Public Hearing at 9:02 p.m.

Public Comment:

Scot Beaton, 655 Bolinger, stated that the Mayor's Business Council should be eliminated, commenting that it is a duplication of the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce; and suggested that Personal Property Tax levied against businesses should be eliminated as well to spur the creation of jobs. He stated that the City should be looking at ways to decrease health care costs through competitive bidding or employee cost-sharing. He commented that he disagrees with the proposal to close the beach at Spencer Park on Mondays, stating that this will impact holidays and long weekends and noting that revenues will go elsewhere on those days as people will go to other locations.

Melinda Hill, 1481 Mill Race, commented that the City cannot afford to sustain an increasing Budget. She noted that although the City is trying to contain its rising personnel costs, there may be no way to do so without eliminating positions. She made the following observations and requested clarification in the following areas:

- *Why operating expenses are up, including Facilities costs to all funds.*
- *The Facilities Department was eliminated, yet the cost of personnel appears to remain the same.*
- *Line items for Rochester Youth Assistance (RYA) or Avondale Youth Assistance (AYA) should come out of the Mayor's Department - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and not out of the Parks Budget.*
- *She is against transferring more than interest from the Tree Fund to Forestry.*
- *Weed Control Revenues appear to lag behind the Expenditures, yet this should be a pass-through account.*
- *The General Fund cannot continue to transfer large amounts to Local Roads; the maximum transfer to Local Roads should be \$1.5 to \$1.75 million.*
- *She expressed concern regarding the large deficit for Dispatch Services.*
- *She commented that the City cannot sustain declining property taxes, declining revenues and increased transfers from the General Fund to cover the costs for Police and Fire services.*

Lorraine McGoldrick, 709 Essex, noted that the City should look for effective ways to reduce spending. She commented that while many residents are expected to take pay cuts, even no pay increase is difficult to accept. She pointed out that the City could reduce heating and cooling expenditures by changing the temperature in City Hall.

Paul Miller, 1021 Harding, stated that it is a well-known saying that no problem can be solved with the same type of thinking that created it. He stated that less manpower should be used on City projects and smaller vehicles should be used by City workers. He pointed out that the City should consider not assessing some levied millages, such as Pathway or Green Space, as the economic climate has changed and many cannot afford paying these taxes. He commented that sustainable economic and social planning benefits communities and noted that historic preservation and environmental education are two items that make a top-tier community where everyone wants to live and where businesses desire to locate. He made several suggestions for cost-effective, energy-saving measures.

President Hooper Closed the Public Hearing at 9:12 p.m.

In addressing public comments, **President Hooper** noted the following:

- *He requested that Mr. Sawdon comment on Facilities costs.*
- *He questioned where in the Budget that RYA or AYA funds should be included.*
- *He noted that prior Council discussion suggested that interest only be transferred from the Tree Fund.*
- *He questioned if the Weed Control account is a pass-through account, why Revenue and Expenditure amounts differ.*
- *He commented that Council discussion would continue on what amounts are to be transferred in to Local Roads.*

Mr. Sawdon stated that he would have to look further into specific Facilities line items to better address specific concerns; however, he commented that most likely these differences are due to apportioning costs differently. He noted that

whether RYA and AYA are allocated to either the Parks and Mayor's Budget, both are still contained in the General Fund and are a transfer-out from the Community Development Block Grant. He explained that the Weed Control amounts differ most likely due to the timing of billings versus revenue receipts and noted that he would explore these differences further.

Council Discussion:

Mr. Yalamanchi questioned why \$25,000 is included in Council's budget for Deer Management Implementation and not in the Parks Budget and what was planned for these funds.

Mr. Sawdon responded that this amount was included in Council's budget as it was a Council Committee. He noted that these funds are intended to be a bookmark for a funding source and is not intended as a recommendation to spend.

Mayor Barnett explained that this amount is most appropriate in Council's budget and is intended to be a placemark to isolate funds.

Mr. Yalamanchi commented that he would like to see the Deer Management Implementation funding included in the Parks Budget. He stated that he wished to review a ten-year plan for the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA).

Ed Anzek, Director of Planning/Development, noted that \$50,000 is allocated in LDFA for a long-term infrastructure plan and stated that this update is included as part of the M-59 Corridor Study in the 2009 Budget. He stated that the Administration recommends that no additional LDFA funding be spent until this plan is developed.

Mr. Yalamanchi questioned whether the monies in the Local Road Fund proposed for 2010 included both local and State funding and inquired what is planned for 2011 for construction. He questioned what transfer-out is included for Local Roads.

Mr. Sawdon responded that the Local Road Fund decreased by 8.5 percent in 2010 from 2009 and noted that this decrease is a reduction in the amount of money that can be provided by the General Fund. He explained that \$6,903,830 was budgeted in 2009, \$6,318,380 for 2010 and \$4,700,900 for 2011. He noted that the transfer-out was for debt to pay bonds.

President Hooper noted that no construction is slated for 2011 and the 2011 budgeted figure for Local Roads is for maintenance and operations costs only. He stated that if \$3.3 million is not transferred each year to Local Roads, there would be no funds to maintain the basic needs of the road system, as Act 51 only generates approximately \$1 million and miscellaneous revenues equal approximately \$200,000.

Mr. Sawdon explained that if construction is retained in the 2011 projection model, deficits in Fund Balance occur. He commented that when the model is changed to reflect a subsidy to provide only maintenance activities for Local Roads,

\$3.5 million is needed. He explained that the 2011 projection indicates the minimum number needed in the General Fund to fund Local Roads on a maintenance-level only.

Mr. Yalamanchi questioned what steps can be taken to allow funds to be set aside for construction activities and where cuts could be made to find these funds.

President Hooper commented that prior City Councils have struggled with this dilemma for many years and noted that the Police and Road Funding Technical Review Committee (PRTRC) addressed funding with several suggestions.

Mr. Yalamanchi stated that he advocates setting money aside this year for Local Roads and commented that discussions for Local Road Funding should return to Council's agenda as soon as the Budget discussions are complete.

Mr. Rosen stated that he has had discussions with Mr. Sawdon regarding his observations and suggestions for changes to be made to the 2010 Proposed Budget, and made the following comments:

- Projections for the decline, bottoming out, and slow return to increases in Property Tax Revenue suggest that by 2018, revenue will still be 15 percent below 2009 levels. He noted that in 2014, the City's General Fund Revenue will bottom out at approximately \$10.4 million, a drop of 25 percent from 2009 levels. He commented that the City has not made sufficient adjustments to curtail expenses in preparation for the decline.
- The draw from the General Fund for Police services is the biggest concern. He commented that if the historical growth rates of Police expenditures continue, currently increasing at three percent per year, Police Funding as a percentage of the General Fund will grow from one-third to two-thirds by 2014. He pointed-out that the Local Road Fund has historically been used as an "escape valve" for General Fund shortages and noted that Police expenditures are continuing to increase to the levels where there are no funds left for Local Roads.

He outlined three approaches to consider:

- Reduce Local Road transfers to the General Fund, stop construction and stretch out maintenance funds to only necessary services such as snow plowing.
- Parks have historically received 20 percent of its budget from user fees and rentals. Fees and rental rates should be reviewed to determine how they could be raised to increase these revenues to a goal of 40 percent of the Parks budget. The City's Parks are the closest thing to a business with services the City can sell to receive revenues. People should not be cut nor hours of operation reduced. He noted that the City currently holds lotteries for park field times and noted that this competition could be used to the City's advantage.
- A stable source of Police Funding needs to be found as the City cannot continue to transfer increasing amounts from the General Fund to Police Services. City Council should take a lead role in educating and lobbying residents to the needs of Police Funding. Future increases to the transfers for Police Services

from the General Fund for 2011 and 2012 should be capped at the \$3.8 million proposed for 2010. He stated that the County cannot continue to look toward the City to make up shortfalls in police revenues.

He noted that feedback he has received from residents include questions as to when taxes will be reduced and what City expenses will be cut.

President Hooper questioned whether it was Mr. Rosen's intention to cut officers to keep the cap of transfers for Police Services at \$3.8 million for 2011 or whether he had other alternative cuts in mind. He questioned whether Mr. Rosen found the transfer budgeted for 2010 acceptable and noted that capping this transfer for 2011 would reduce the Police Budget by \$660,000 for 2011.

Mr. Rosen responded that although he would like to see the transfer amount lower, he could concur with the \$3.8 million for 2010 and wished to set a cap at \$3.8 million for 2011 as well. He commented that Oakland County is faced with the same budgetary constraints that the City has and stated that the Oakland County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) must also find ways to make do with less. He noted that the OCSO would make decisions on staffing levels. He commented that the City has a year to work on funding options prior to 2011.

President Hooper requested that Captain Johnson address the request to cap the Police Services funding, questioning whether there was a means to maintain the same Police presence in Rochester Hills.

Captain Mike Johnson, Oakland County Sheriff's Office, responded that it would be difficult to provide an answer to that question and reported that information obtained in the recent arbitration award included the following:

- The County prevailed in the most important issue of whether the Deputies would return to a defined benefit retirement plan. If the arbitrator had awarded this portion of the contract to the Deputies, it would have greatly increased the price of a Deputy.
- The County prevailed by requiring an increase in the employee health care contribution. Health care costs are currently increasing at approximately 30 percent per year.
- While the County offered a 10 percent wage increase, the Deputies wanted 14 percent. The Deputies did receive 14 percent over the six years in the arbitration and noted that this signifies an average 2.3 percent increase overall in cost over the course of this contract, which expires at the end of this month. The Deputies have not had a contract in six years.

Captain Johnson stated that while this arbitration award could not be considered a total win, the County believes it did pretty well overall. He noted that County Executive Brooks Patterson asked employees for a 2.5 percent reduction in wages for 2010. He related that Patterson asked for an additional 2.5 percent reduction for 2011 but commented that this might not be negotiable, considering that Deputies have not received a raise since 2003. He commented that if the City wished to cap funding for the Police Services budget over the next several years, it would signify cutting six deputies. He noted that OCSO has already cut 150 positions out of its department. He commented that they will not make cuts

on the City's contract as a flat rate is charged for the officers supplied to the City.

Mr. Rosen commented that OCSO will be in the same position as everyone else. The City simply will not have the funds. He stated that if Council will not devise a long-term plan or Millage proposal for Police Services, cuts will have to be made.

Captain Johnson stated that only a one-year contract will be proposed for Police Services and noted that this year's increase is a little under three percent. He commented that these increases are expected to flatten out for the next couple of years; however, he cautioned that health care and other increases could still drive the contract price up.

Mr. Yalamanchi stated that Council should look at targeted cuts for 2011, and noted that even one officer position could be reviewed for cuts. He commented that if a Council majority voted for a bond proposal, it still could fail at the polls and stated that Council should consider targeting a renewal millage for Local Road funding as there is currently no dedicated millage funding for that. He commented that the Police and Road Funding Technical Review Committee (PRTRC) proposed broader millage language that Council should consider. He noted that the proposed City Budget cuts ten positions and commented that more cuts could be warranted. He stated that the functionality of all City departments should be reviewed along with staffing levels required to provide reduced services and commented that targeted cuts should be in place for the 2011 Budget. He stated that he would not be inclined to cut in the area of DPS as projects need to move forward. He further stated that discussions for 2011 should begin in advance of next August's Budget discussions.

Mr. Webber stated that the PRTRC presented many good ideas that Council should consider further for funding opportunities. He noted that he has difficulty in considering a proposal to cap transfers for Police Services as these services are essential and noted that a Deputy has already been cut from the Police School Liaison Program.

Mr. Pixley stated that Police Services are at the top of the essential services a City provides and commented that while he agrees that the City needs to address long-term funding solutions, he is not in favor of capping or limiting Police Services.

Mr. Rosen commented that this has been a thorough discussion and asked for suggestions of how the City could cut expenses and/or increase revenues to cover budgetary needs for Police Services. He noted that he does not wish to cut Police, Fire, EMS or any essential services; however, he questioned how the City would be able to pay for these services.

President Hooper questioned whether Mr. Rosen had any suggestions for cuts for the 2010 Budget.

Mr. Rosen responded that his preference would be to cut expenses an additional five or ten percent. He noted that once it is decided that cuts would not be made

to Police, Fire or EMS, it does not matter where these cuts come from. He commented that personnel costs, construction or maintenance costs could be areas for cuts and questioned whether any Council Member could suggest that cuts do not need to be made.

President Hooper responded that if the proposed 2010 Budget is not acceptable, suggestions should be made for cuts for 2010.

Mr. Rosen stated that the City is facing a conundrum for 2011 and has time to act in 2010. He commented that he would do as little road repairs and construction as possible for 2010 and that a way to patch concrete to improve the ride quality of the roads would be suggested rather than replacing entire slabs. He stated that these are the kinds of cuts that need to be considered.

President Hooper stated that he wished to bring closure to some of these suggestions, noting that Mr. Rosen suggested cutting another five to ten percent overall and also to consider patching rather than replacement of concrete slabs or asphalt overlays for road maintenance.

Mr. Rosen stated that he did not wish for this to become politicized.

President Hooper responded that he was looking for concrete suggestions rather than generalized statements for cuts from the budget except for Police and Fire.

Mr. Rosen questioned whether his suggestions for changes to Parks could be considered further to increase revenues to 40 percent of the Budget without cutting hours of operation or staffing levels for Parks.

Mayor Barnett commented that the Administration ran various scenarios in evaluating the fee structure for the City's Parks. He stated that a 20 percent cost increase in annual daily permits and rentals along with a 20 percent increase in concession fees would net the City approximately \$40,000 in additional revenue. He commented that a 200 percent increase in all areas would be necessary to achieve the revenue levels that have been suggested. He noted that the daily entrance fee was reduced to \$5 from \$6 this year and commented that Oakland County's entrance fee was reduced to \$5 from \$7 this year as well. He pointed out that a 20 percent increase in fee rentals would bring in only an additional \$5,000. He stated that additional hard data could be provided to Council with suggestions for new fees proposed.

Mr. Rosen stated that his calculations of a 20 percent increase should increase Parks revenues by approximately \$120,000 and commented that residents who use the City's Parks need to realize that they must be more self-sustaining.

Mayor Barnett responded that the Administration's estimates for additional revenues reflect actual data including car counts, shelter rentals and permit fees year to date and commented that raising these amounts would net only \$40,000.

Mr. Webber stated that while Council can review the two-year budgeting

process, it needs to focus on the 2010 Budget.

President Hooper summarized that it appeared to be the consensus of Council to maintain a \$3.8 million transfer for Police Services in the 2010 Budget.

Mr. Rosen commented that while a major reduction in revenue over the next five years is projected, only very small steps are being taken to make cuts.

President Hooper commented that increasing Parks fees substantially could lead to a drop-off in attendance, negating some of the projected revenue increases. He questioned whether there is another method available that would be cost-effective for repairing the City's roads, noting that the City's current method for road repair and replacement attempts to ensure a 25-year lifespan for roads.

Mr. Rousse responded that a technique for white-patching concrete roads is available for areas having a solid base underneath; however, he noted that this technique cannot be used in areas that have underlying drainage problems. He pointed out that white-patching has a repair life of only five to eight years, which translates to a high cost per year for this technique. He explained that roadways do not deteriorate at the same rate and commented that some subdivision roads lose a great deal of road life all at once. He stated that the City is attempting to do preventative maintenance including cold patching and crack sealing to maximize roadway life, but noted that there is a mounting backlog of road repairs.

President Hooper questioned whether white-patching could be recommended as an alternative method for some areas.

Mr. Rousse commented that this method needs additional research and noted that this is a technique to be used before the roadways deteriorate too far. He stated that many problem areas are the result of drainage problems.

Mr. Ambrozaitis stated that 70 percent of the City's revenues are funded by residential homes in the city and noted that there is an epidemic of foreclosures. He commented that City expenditures should have been reduced for past years and stated that spending has to be slowed down. He stated that if the City acts now, it can not only survive this economic crisis, it will thrive. He reviewed the potential shortages and deficits that might be experienced by the City in the coming years and offered the following proposals for reductions in expenditures:

- An exploratory committee should be formed to look at using Oakland County for Assessing Services.
- As compensation or benefits cannot be eliminated for current public office holders, the next City Council should not accept money for cable or computer costs.
- The longevity pay bonus should be eliminated or refined for any new members of the Administrative branch of the City.
- The Mayor should not have an assistant.
- No Mayor should accept a \$400 gas stipend.
- The City cannot afford a million dollar loss each year in Ambulance Services.

Ways to reduce this loss should be explored, such as not purchasing as many ambulances or cutting the number of individuals on the rigs.

- All concerns affecting property values should be addressed, including a three-lane proposal for Tienken Road and a fair solution to fund the sound wall along M-59. He noted that exterior obsolescence, or outside influences such as five-lane highways, affect property values.

He commented that City spending needs to be reduced and suggested that the Budget should be reduced from the proposed \$113,000,000.

President Hooper questioned whether Mr. Ambrozaitis intended for his proposals to be incorporated into the 2010 Budget.

Mr. Ambrozaitis stated that proactive steps should be taken for these suggestions soon to incorporate them into the 2011 Budget process and beyond, and be reviewed starting in January of 2010.

Mr. Webber questioned how Council would be polled on the suggestions raised.

President Hooper responded that either a straw poll could be conducted for all items or a discussion on each individual item could be undertaken.

Mr. Webber commented that while Mr. Ambrozaitis' suggestions deserve honest discussion, these items do not affect the 2010 Budget. He pointed out that Mr. Rosen's suggestions of capping Police transfers for 2011 and 2012 also do not affect 2010 and noted that the suggestions for Parks revenues would not affect the 2010 Budget at least in the short term. He stated that suggestions for Local Roads should be a part of a vote or straw poll. He pointed out that the Directors made good presentations during the Budget meetings and commented that each Department reviewed the cuts that have been made. He stated that he would like to propose more long-term solutions, such as addressing insurance costs. He noted that closure should be brought to the 2010 Budget discussions and commented that the entire Budget process should begin sooner for next year.

Mayor Barnett commented that there appears to be consensus on the big issues affecting the City's budget. He stated that he takes issue with many of Mr. Ambrozaitis' suggestions and commented that the Administration will need to get some specifics before moving forward. He further stated that structural problems will require structural solutions and commented that considerations should be made whether to make cuts in Police or Roads. He asked Mr. Ambrozaitis if he was in favor of cutting Police Funding or Road Funding as a means to reduce the Budget from \$113 million to \$108 million.

Mr. Ambrozaitis stated that he received a request from the Rochester Area Youth Assistance to provide an additional \$4,000 to fund programs for children with disabilities. He commented that the reductions for his six suggestions are obvious and should be debated, and noted that he has never voted for the Mayor's Budgets.

Mayor Barnett commented that revenues have been reduced six percent while

expenses are reduced by ten percent and stated that the City is living within its means. He noted that there will be repercussions from a ten percent cut and commented that tough decisions were made. He noted that there are approximately 29 recommendations to discuss from the PRTRC. He stated that only the items suggested having the majority of Council support should move forward.

President Hooper commented that a straw poll would be the best way to assemble Council's opinions on the suggestions presented tonight and in prior meetings.

Mr. Pixley questioned when a vote is anticipated for the 2010 Budget.

President Hooper responded that if the straw poll is completed next week and discussed at the September 21, 2009 Council Meeting, a vote could take place at the September 28, 2009 Council Meeting.

Discussed.

2009-0367 Request to suspend payments to Authorities, Boards, Commissions, Corporations, Technical Review Committees and City Council for the Budget Years 2010 and 2011

Mr. Yalamanchi introduced a proposal to suspend payments to Authorities, Boards, Commissions, Corporations, Technical Review Committees and City Council for newly-elected officials for the Budget Years 2010 and 2011. He commented that current Council Members by law would not be affected by this proposal.

President Hooper noted that this would amount to approximately \$18,000 in reductions for Boards and Commissions. He pointed out that this would affect Mr. Ambrozaitis, Mr. Rosen and Mr. Yalamanchi, if re-elected.

Mr. Rosen commented that while he understands the sentiment, it sends the wrong message to the individuals who spend years on the Boards and Commissions for essentially nothing. He noted these individuals give up a day or two of their time every few weeks for \$40, \$50 or \$60 in compensation. He commented that Council is focusing on the small items, when large reductions are needed.

Mr. Yalamanchi noted that adding the reduction in City Council compensation and benefits would result in a savings of approximately \$48,000. He stated that every dollar counts and commented that these cuts should be made before City staff is cut or their compensation is reduced.

President Hooper stated that he supported Mr. Rosen's comments, noting that removing meeting pay for appointees is not appropriate. He noted that this compensation is miniscule considering the time that these appointees put in. He stated that City Council has not had an increase in compensation since 2002.

A motion was made by Yalamanchi, seconded by Ambrozaitis, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution. The motion FAILED by the following vote:

Aye 2 - Ambrozaitis and Yalamanchi

Nay 5 - Brennan, Hooper, Pixley, Rosen and Webber

Enactment No: RES0244-2009

Resolved, that the Rochester Hills City Council suspends payments to Authorities, Boards, Commissions, Corporations, Technical Review Committees and City Council for newly-elected Council Members for the Budget Years 2010 and 2011 and reduces the budget amounts to zero, except for MIS charges, in the Council Budget.

Further Resolved, that Council shall re-evaluate this funding in 2011 for the 2012 Budget.

Council Discussion:

Mr. Yalamanchi introduced a proposal to close the Environmental Education Center (EEC) effective December 31, 2009 and evaluate the possibility of combining operations with Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, a non-profit community organization.

Mr. Ambrozaitis commented that he would support this proposal.

President Hooper requested that Mike Hartner, Director of Parks and Forestry, address this proposal. He commented that this suggestion was investigated a couple of years ago and cost savings were reviewed at that time. He questioned whether this was being explored for the future.

Mike Hartner, Director of Parks and Forestry, stated that if the EEC were to be closed, the City would save approximately \$40,000. He noted that this possibility is being explored for 2011 and has been reflected in the projected Budget numbers.

Mr. Ambrozaitis questioned whether the potential for leasing that space out for an additional revenue source was investigated.

Mr. Hartner responded that the City has made a major investment bringing the EEC building up to Code and stated that it would function as a City meeting room; however, as public education would be removed from the building, it would not be used daily. He noted that the one-and-one-half staffing currently located in that building would be transferred to a different location inside the Parks Department.

Mr. Ambrozaitis questioned whether this could be used in place of the Precinct 5 Building on Auburn Road.

Mr. Hartner commented that anything that currently goes on at Precinct 5 could go on at this building.

Mr. Ambrozaitis responded that the EEC would be a larger building than Precinct 5, which could then be shut down. He commented that Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve does a terrific job in educating children about science and stated that Council Member Becker of the City of Rochester has approached him about combining these two facilities.

Mr. Hartner questioned why a City facility would be closed in favor of giving money to a facility owned by another City, noting that Dinosaur Hill is owned by the City of Rochester.

Mr. Ambrozaitis responded that he was not necessarily looking for the City to give money to anyone, and stated that if Dinosaur Hill were going to charge for the services, that would need to be factored into the Budget. He commented that another component could possibly be to leave Precinct 5 open, and release the EEC building back into the private sector and receive tax revenues from it. He stated that the Parks Budget cannot afford all the ancillary services it provides and commented that if Dinosaur Hill can provide these educational services to the children, he would be in favor of this proposal.

Mr. Rosen commented that he was not aware that closing the EEC was planned for 2011. He questioned whether this was reflected in the projected 2011 Budget and whether the EEC would be kept open as a City building.

Mr. Hartner responded that the EEC would be kept as a City meeting facility, as many groups use that building now.

Mr. Rosen commented that if costs to keep the building open would still be there and salaries would not change, there would be little opportunity to save money. He questioned whether zoning issues would prevent closing or selling the building. He stated that he did not support the proposal to close the EEC early and commented that in six months to one year, additional plans for the building could be undertaken.

Mr. Sawdon pointed out that the EEC facility was purchased with Bond proceeds, which places limitations on what can be done with the property.

Mr. Pixley agreed that more time should be given to explore the options for this facility and commented that merging the facility with Dinosaur Hill could generate additional costs and negate the \$40,000 in savings.

Mr. Ambrozaitis stated that in light of Mr. Hartner's comments, he withdraws his support for the proposal and commented that he is in favor of taking additional time to investigate the City's options for the EEC.

(RECESS: 11:00 p.m. to 11:10 p.m.)

2009-0369 Request to seek competitive bids for effective Rochester Hills Fire and EMS Dispatching and Communication Services

Attachments: [Yalamanchi Dispatch Presentation.pdf](#)

Mr. Yalamanchi introduced a proposal regarding the City's Dispatch Services and gave the following presentation:

Purpose:

To eliminate duplication of services, maintain effectiveness and explore cost efficiency opportunities for overall benefit to the community.

- The discussion on consolidation of Dispatch (between Rochester Hills and the Oakland County Communication Center (OCCC)) has been going on for the past six years at a minimum.
- In 2006, the Council led the discussion to ensure that wireless calls for emergency were being answered by OCCC.
- The approach to a solution was decided by hiring a consultant and getting recommendations.
- The City retained the services of Intertech Associates (consultant) at the end of 2007.
- The purpose of the consultant was "to objectively evaluate the City's 911 PSAP and Emergency Communication Center Services and determine the best method to provide its residents with the most effective and cost efficient emergency call answering and dispatch services."
- The consultant provided the report in April/May 2008.
- It was identified that wireless calls which account for 80 to 85 percent of the City's emergency traffic are already being answered by OCCC.
- Landline calls were handled by City's Dispatch (about 15 to 20 percent)
- The report identified that "While it is required by contract that Oakland County and City Communication Centers are obligated to engage periodically, this practice has been abandoned."
- The report identified that for the past several years, a "tandem" answering configuration has been in use. It created innate inefficiencies that result in duplication of service requests and redundancy in Dispatch efforts which may be negatively impacting response times by both police and fire, coordination issues between agencies, and procedural missteps.
- Since that report, efforts were made to ensure that all calls were being handled by OCCC (both wireless and landline).
- Costs paid to OCCC of approximately \$300,000 for Dispatch Services are embedded in the annual contract with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.
- Costs paid to manage City Dispatch Services:
 - * 2005: \$906,629
 - * 2006: \$922,008
 - * 2007: \$943,726
 - * 2008: \$964,899
 - * 2009: \$1,000,180 (budgeted)
 - * 2010: \$940,730 (budget estimate)
 - * 2011: \$972,320 (budget estimate)
- From time to time there are capital expenditures to replace equipment and to keep up with technology which is similar to what OCCC already carries.
- The report identified the productive use of City Dispatch resources was at 46 percent in the afternoon shift (3:00 PM to 11:00 PM), at 31 percent in the day shift (7:00 AM to 3:00 PM), and 23 percent in the midnight shift (11:00 PM to 7:00 AM).
- It is essential that the City eliminate the duplicative efforts, maintain the effectiveness of service delivery and increase cost efficiencies.
- A Request for Proposal (RFP) will identify all required services and will be

based on performance measures.

Mr. Yalamanchi commented that if the City does not pursue an RFP for Dispatch Services, at some point, likely in 2012 or 2013, the Fire Fund will experience a deficit. He noted that if the City does nothing, a deficit could lead to the layoff of Fire personnel at that time. He introduced his proposal to form a subcommittee and assemble and review an RFP for competitive bids for Fire Dispatch Services and noted that there was a possibility that the 2010 Budget could benefit from the savings and proposed that the RFP could be assembled within four weeks. He commented that his proposal included a requirement that a successful bidder give consideration for any open full-time positions to the City's existing Fire Dispatch personnel and stated that City Council would still have the option to not move forward after the RFP.

Mr. Ambrozaitis expressed his concern that the City cannot continue to support the Fire Budget and this proposal could lead to a savings of roughly \$500,000 per year. He stated that he supports pursuing an RFP for Dispatch Services and noted that this change could benefit the City's Fire Department.

Mr. Webber questioned how much an RFP would cost to assemble and review, and noted that this cost should be included in the 2010 Budget.

Keith Sawdon, Director of Finance, responded that the timeframe proposed of four weeks is very tight and unrealistic when dealing with an RFP that deals with public safety. He commented that a consultant should be retained to put this RFP together. He noted that 90 days would be the absolute minimum required for development of the RFP and noted that the evaluation of proposals would follow that time period.

Mr. Webber agreed that an adequate timeframe should be considered for the many steps to be undertaken in the RFP process and stated that he would support including funding in the 2010 Budget.

Mr. Sawdon stated that the City spent six months in finding a Single Trash Hauler and noted that when dealing with emergencies, a similar timeframe should be considered.

Mr. Pixley stated that the proposed timeframe is too aggressive for a safety issue.

Mr. Yalamanchi agreed that a longer timeframe for the RFP process would be acceptable.

Mayor Barnett commented that Jean Farris, Supervisor of Procurement, expressed severe concerns over the initially-proposed timeframe and noted that the process could take six months. He noted that she encouraged utilizing outside assistance to identify the scope of services, complexity of the issue and evaluation by a consultant familiar with the concept. He commented that she estimated that \$15,000 to \$20,000 should be budgeted for consulting services and suggested that the City look toward Intertech for assistance.

Mr. Rosen concurred with utilizing a consultant and commented that a budget item should be included for 2010 with the intention that the process be completed for inclusion in the 2011 Budget. He stated that the development of an RFP is a very small investment that could provide for more solid funding for Fire and EMS for 2013 and 2014.

Mr. Brennan requested that Chief Crowell comment on this proposal and questioned whether this has been done for other communities. He commented that public safety is most important and noted that this should not be given the same consideration as a Single Trash Hauler.

Ron Crowell, Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director, stated that he would not be opposed to an RFP process; however, he wished to emphasize that the health, safety and welfare of the community should be given the greatest consideration. He pointed out that Oakland County currently dispatches for approximately ten fire departments. He noted that the City of Rochester handles its own dispatch services and noted that Rochester Hills is currently one of the only Fire-based Dispatch Centers. He noted that any emergency service organization could provide the service.

Mr. Yalamanchi stated that he would be in agreement with proposing a longer timeframe and utilizing a consultant for the RFP process.

Mr. Sawdon commented that if funding for a consultant is to be included in the 2010 Budget, it cannot be appropriated until after January 1. He suggested that funds for a consultant be included in the 2009 Budget as a part of the Third Quarter Budget Amendment.

Chief Crowell suggested that the proposed motion include language indicating that the RFP will be for Rochester Hills Fire, EMS and Communication Services.

A motion was made by Yalamanchi, seconded by Ambrozaitis, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye 7 - Ambrozaitis, Brennan, Hooper, Pixley, Rosen, Webber and Yalamanchi

Enactment No: RES0245-2009

Resolved, that the Rochester Hills City Council desires to seek competitive bids, eliminate any duplication of services and identify cost efficiencies in the delivery of effective Fire Dispatch services by creating the following:

- 1) A City Council Subcommittee be formed with two (2) Council Members, the City's Supervisor of Procurement, the Fire Chief and other staff members as directed by the Mayor.
- 2) The Subcommittee be charged with the assembling of a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking competitive bids for Fire Dispatch Services.
- 3) The Subcommittee shall return to City Council with a report of the results of the RFP by April 30, 2010.
- 4) The successful bidder, if awarded a contract, will give consideration for any open

full-time positions to the City's existing Fire Dispatch personnel.

5) The RFP will require that the City of Rochester Hills will be provided with 24/7 dispatching services for all Rochester Hills Fire, EMS and Communication Services.

6) The issuing and receiving of an RFP for Dispatch Services does not obligate or require the City Council to award a contract, nor does it disallow continued negotiations with the bidder(s) who respond with responsive, responsible bid(s).

7) \$20,000 be added to the Third Quarter 2009 Budget Amendment for a consultant fee for the assembling, further review and analysis of an RFP.

Council Discussion:

President Hooper questioned whether any Council Member had additional items for discussion for the 2010 Proposed Budget.

Mr. Webber questioned whether discussion will continue at the September 21, 2009 Council Meeting.

President Hooper stated that any Council Member requesting additional information should submit their questions and comments by e-mail to Mr. Sawdon by noon on Wednesday, September 16th.

Mr. Sawdon recapped Council's questions and comments on the following items:

- The Tree Fund Policy should reflect a transfer of interest only to the General Fund rather than the five percent originally proposed.
- Whether funding for Deer Management implementation should be moved from the Council's budget to the Parks budget, or whether this item should be removed.
- Whether the project for improvements to the intersection at Hamlin/John R should move forward.

Mr. Sawdon stated that he would submit the straw poll questions to Leanne Scott, City Council Coordinator, for distribution to Council.

President Hooper noted that Mr. Ambrozaitis' suggestions are targeted for 2011 Budget and would not be included in the straw poll. He commented that the Department Directors will not be required to attend the September 21, 2009 Council meeting, and noted that Council will continue discussions at this meeting. He further stated that a vote on the Budget is planned for the September 28, 2009 Council Meeting.

Discussed.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ambrozaitis requested that Jane Leslie, City Clerk, contact the City Attorney to request a review of an Ordinance adopted by West Bloomfield regarding disallowing the sale of beer and wine at gas stations. He noted that he has been contacted by several party store owners requesting this change. He requested that the Administration have Paul Shumejko, Transportation Engineer, look into concerns expressed by residents for traffic backups on Butler Road at Adams Road. He request Council consider a request for funding by the Rochester Area Youth Assistance (RAYA) for children's programs.

President Hooper noted that Butler Road is controlled by the Road Commission for Oakland County. He stated that RAYA funding will be included in the straw poll.

Mayor Barnett distributed the results of the community survey undertaken by Oakland University. He requested Paul Davis, City Engineer, report on new weight restrictions placed on the Avon Road Bridge, noting that these new restrictions greatly limit the traffic and mentioned that fully loaded garbage trucks and even some DPS vehicles can no longer use the bridge. He stated that this is now the lowest rated bridge in Oakland County and that the Road Commission for Oakland County indicated there are no funds available for repair or replacement. He reported that the City is continuing to work with County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, State Senator Mike Bishop and State Representative Tom McMillin, and the County Commission. The City has contacted Congressman Gary Peters' office, and is actively searching for grant funding for repairs.

Mr. Yalamanchi questioned whether more lanes should be restricted to traffic.

Paul Davis, City Engineer, explained that the westbound right turn lane has holes in the decking and the underside is in a seriously deteriorated condition. He reported that closing the taper on eastbound Avon as well was considered, however, this was not deemed necessary at this point. He noted that inspections will be increased to three month intervals and if deterioration continues to accelerate, the bridge could be closed entirely.

Mr. Ambrozaitis questioned whether there were any estimates for repair or replacement costs.

Mr. Davis responded that a preliminary estimate for replacement is \$2.5 million. He noted that the Master Thoroughfare Plan for Avon Road calls for this corridor to be widened and commented that the City might look at increasing the width of the bridge to stay consistent with the Master Thoroughfare Plan.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Regular Meeting - Monday, September 21, 2009 - 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before Council, President Hooper adjourned the meeting at 12:01 a.m.

*GREG HOOPER, President
Rochester Hills City Council*

*JANE LESLIE, Clerk
City of Rochester Hills*

*MARY JO WHITBEY
Administrative Secretary
City Clerk's Office*

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