



# Rochester Hills Minutes City Council Special Work Session

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

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Wednesday, May 31, 2006

7:30 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

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## DRAFT

*In accordance with the provisions of Act 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, as amended, the Open Meetings Act, notice was given that a Special Rochester Hills City Council Work Session would be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing 2006 and 2007 Budget Goals and Objectives.*

## CALL TO ORDER

*President Rosen called the Special Rochester Hills City Council Work Session Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Michigan Time.*

## ROLL CALL

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

Others Present:

*Bryan Barnett, Mayor  
Scott Cope, Director of Building/Ordinance Enforcement  
Susan Galeczka, Deputy Clerk  
Bob Grace, Director of MIS  
Julie Jenuwine, Director of Finance  
Pam Lee, Director of Human Resources  
Roger Rousse, Director of DPS/Engineering  
Robert Smith, Captain - Oakland County Sheriff's Department*

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Mr. Lee Zendel**, 1575 Dutton Road, questioned whether one of the Council members who sits on the Financial Services Committee did not ask questions during the committee's recent discussion regarding the proposed budget because, unlike Council meetings, those committee meetings are not televised.

**Mr. Dan Shulte**, 672 Shelley Drive, resident of the Hampton subdivision, described a situation wherein the company managing the nine-hole golf course owned by the Hampton Property Owner's Association has permitted an illegal residence in one of the golf course buildings. He indicated that this matter was brought to the attention of the City's Building Department in September of 2005 and, while action has been taken, there has been no resolution to the situation after several months.

**President Rosen** stated that he would contact the City Attorney for a "thorough review" of the matter.

**CITY COUNCIL**

**President Rosen** indicated that he had received requests from fellow Council members about maintaining order at the Council meetings. He acknowledged that, as Council President, he is charged with the duty of preserving "order and decorum" at these meetings. However, he cautioned Council members that they are not his employees, but rather they answer to the people who elected them. Thus, he urged his fellow Council members to "recognize their responsibility to live up to our rules."

**Ms. Raschke** announced that the Tons of Trucks event would be taking place on Saturday, June 3rd.

**Mr. Ambrozaitis** urged Mr. Scott Cope, Director of Building/Ordinance Enforcement, to assist with the situation in the Hampton subdivision. He also questioned the City's policy for notifying residents when a matter that concerns them is discussed at Council meetings, specifically noting the project to widen John R Road.

**Mr. Roger Rousse**, Director of DPS/Engineering, explained that the plans for the project had not yet been discussed at Council, but rather the issue of purchasing easements for that project had been considered. He noted that in that case only those property owners from whom easement were to be purchased would have been notified.

**Ms. Holder** announced that the City was currently accepting applications for the Rochester Hills Government Youth Council and urged interested students to contact the Clerk's Department for more information.

**2006-0398**

Discussion of City Council Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives for 2007 Budget

**Attachments:** Agenda Summary.pdf; CC Budget Statement.pdf

**Mr. Yalamanchi** requested that Council create a new mission statement, as he felt that the current statement is not unique and does not distinguish Rochester Hills from other communities. He further noted that the goals and objectives for Council should also be reexamined, as he felt that there were some goals without objectives and some objectives that were, in fact, goals. He indicated that the mission statement needs to "communicate what type of City we are" and City Council's goals and objectives must be tied to that vision. Mr. Yalamanchi stressed that rewriting the mission statement should be a group effort, as it would be inappropriate for him to rewrite it himself.

**President Rosen** stated he would welcome any suggestions from Council members and the mission statement, goals and objectives can be addressed further at upcoming meetings. He indicated that Council was asked to submit their rankings of goals and objectives, the results of which would be tabulated and ready for review by the end of the meeting.

**Discussed****2006-0201**

City Millage Summary - Expiring Dedicated Millages

**Attachments:** Agenda Summary.pdf; Millage Summary.pdf; Suppl Info - Financial Policies.pdf; Suppl Info - Millage Summary.pdf; Suppl Info - Atty opinion.pdf; Suppl Info - Tax levies.pdf; 0201 Minutes.pdf

At the request of President Rosen, **Director of Finance Julie Jenuwine** presented data illustrating the anticipated financial impact of absorbing expiring dedicated millages, such as Pathways, R.A.R.A. and Police II, into the General Fund. If this policy were adopted the General Levy would go from 9.6681 mills to 7.85 mills, and the City would reach its Headlee ceiling on the General Levy by December of 2007.

**President Rosen** referred to a letter from City Attorney John Staran that addressed the

issue of millage restructuring. Mr. Staran's letter noted the following:

- Debt millages cannot be combined.
- Charter millages could be changed through a Charter amendment, not a Charter revision.
- Special voter approved millages can be phased out in a manner in which once the millage has expired the City can request a millage amount that will increase the General Levy with the intent, but not the commitment, that the funds will be used for a specific use, such as Pathways or R.A.R.A.

**President Rosen** cautioned that to phase millages out in this manner would be a very long process.

#### Discussed

2006-0112

#### Pathway Millage

**Attachments:** Referral Pathway Millage Notice.pdf; Referral Pathway Millage Resolution.pdf; Agenda Summary.pdf

Council members, **Ms. Julie Jenuwine**, Director of Finance and **Mr. Roger Rousse**, Director of DPS/Engineering, discussed the expired pathway millage, its potential renewal and the policy of installing and maintaining pathways on both sides of 118 miles of roads.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Ms. Melinda Hill**, 1481 Mill Race, expressed her concern that the total allowable maximum of the Pathways Millage was not levied in its final year. She also noted that at the very least if a renewal is not sought the Pathways program will end.

#### COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

It was determined that the current policy should be reexamined and perhaps modified to focus more on maintenance and closing gaps in the current pathways system, as well as possibly extending the deadline of reaching full pathway coverage over a longer period of time. **Ms. Holder** also suggested that funding for pathways be incorporated into a new millage that would support the parks; thus freeing monies from the General Fund for other uses such as local roads.

The consensus of Council was to pursue a millage renewal of 0.1859 mills in November.

#### Discussed

2005-0233

#### Police Funding

**Attachments:** Agenda Summary.pdf; Supplemental Memo Jenuwine dtd 2-17-06.pdf; Supplemental Memo Jenuwine dtd 2-13-06.pdf; Supplemental Memo Jenuwine dtd 5-09-05.pdf; Memo Jenuwine dtd 3-31-05.pdf; 2005 - OCSD Millage Analysis.pdf; 2005 - OCSD Millage Analysis R&E.pdf;

**Ms. Julie Jenuwine**, Director of Finance and Captain Robert Smith, Oakland County Sheriff's Department, discussed the expiring Police II Millage noting that, if renewed, the millage would assist in maintaining current police staffing and services at their current level.

**Mr. Ambrozaitis** and **Mr. Yalamanchi** expressed their support for requesting renewal of the Police II Millage in November, however, it was noted by **Mr. Barnett** that the subsidy from the General Fund would have to increase steadily even with the renewal. He further noted that it would be wiser to determine the financial

needs of police services in the future and than "work backwards" to determine the current millage request.

Several Council members stressed the need for time to educate residents as to the need for increased funding for police services.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Ms. Melinda Hill**, 1481 Mill Race, stressed there is no need for a 15% to 20% fund balance in a contracted service. She opposed a straight renewal of the Police II Millage noting it would be more beneficial to pursue a millage for November of 2007 that would eliminate the subsidy while allowing enough time to educate the public.

**Mr. Lee Zendel**, 1575 Dutton Road, stressed the need for a police millage "to carry us through for a lot of years."

(Recess 9:32 p.m. - 9:52 p.m.)

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

It was the consensus of Council that the issue of police services funding be referred to a joint meeting of the Public Safety Committee and the Financial Services Committee.

**Mr. Yalamanchi**, again, stressed his desire that the City request renewal of the Pathways and Police II Millages in November of 2006, thus allowing time to explore other funding proposals for the November 2007 election.

**President Rosen** voiced his concern that it would be risky to ask taxpayers to pass millage requests for the same services two years in a row.

**Discussed**

2006-0126

City Council Goals and Objectives - 2006 and 2007 Budget Years

**Attachments:** Millage History and Max Allowable.pdf; Mayor-Council 2006 GOs 030206 for 030806.pdf; Past budget cuts 041205 ver7.pdf; Goals and Objectives definitions.pdf; 030906 Agenda Summary.pdf; 2007 Budgeting Policies and Issues.pdf; 2005 goals for 2006 budget 0302

Council members reviewed the results of their informal survey noting that there may have been some confusion as to the ranking system used to evaluate current goals and objectives. However, **Ms. Julie Jenuwine**, Director of Finance, indicated that the results would assist her in preparing the proposed 2007 Budget.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Ms. Melinda Hill**, 1481 Mill Race, upon reviewing the survey results, expressed concern that Council did not appear to support paving the Clinton River Trail. She also suggested that Council needs to have more discussion regarding sharing resources with other communities and privatizing certain services.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

**Mr. Yalamanchi** again suggested that a cooperative effort be undertaken to rewrite the mission statement involving Council members and administrative staff.

**President Rosen** noted his appreciation for Mr. Yalamanchi's suggestion and indicated that he would speak to the Mayor regarding the matter.

**Discussed**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*None.*

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

*Regular Meeting - Wednesday, June 7, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business before Council, President Rosen adjourned the meeting at 10:22 p.m.*

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*JAMES ROSEN, President  
Rochester Hills City Council*

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*JANE LESLIE, Clerk  
City of Rochester Hills*

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*MARGARET A. MANZ  
Administrative Secretary  
City Clerk's Office*

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