



Rochester Hills Minutes City Council Work Session

1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
(248) 656-4660
Home Page:
www.rochesterhills.org

*Melinda Hill, Bryan K. Barnett, John L. Dalton, Jim Duistermars,
Barbara L. Holder, Linda Raschke, Gerald Robbins*

Thursday, August 25, 2005

7:30 PM

Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Dairy
Barns, 1005 Van Hoosen Road, Rochester Hills,
MI

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 Budget Work Session would commence at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2005 for City Council to discuss the proposed 2006 Budget.

CALL TO ORDER

President Hill called the Special Rochester Hills City Council Budget Work Session Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Michigan Time.

ROLL CALL

Present: Melinda Hill, Bryan Barnett, John Dalton, Jim Duistermars, Barbara Holder and Linda Raschke

Absent: Gerald Robbins

Others Present:

*Pat Somerville, Mayor
Jane Leslie, City Clerk
Ed Anzek, Director of Planning/Development
Ron Crowell, Fire Chief
Julie Jenuwine, Director of Finance
Mike Hartner, Director of Parks & Forestry
Roger Rousse, Director of DPS/Engineering*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

2005-0514 Discussion regarding 2006 Budget

Attachments: Agenda Summary Budget Adoption.pdf; 092805 Final Recap all changes.pdf; 091405 Agenda Summary.pdf; Memo Jenuwine 090205.pdf; Memo Jenuwine 082205 - 2006 Q&A.pdf; Memo Jenuwine Monday responses.pdf; Memo Jenuwine Tuesdays II responses1.pdf; Memo Jenuwine

101 GENERAL FUND / 756 PARKS DEPARTMENT

Ms. Kristen Myers, Trailways Coordinator for the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, requested \$7,040 from Council to commission a Boundary Map Survey to determine the specific trail boundaries in an effort to reduce border disputes with residents living along the Trailway. Additionally, Ms. Myers requested \$750 as Rochester Hills' share of the cost to bring the Trailways Commission into compliance with GASB 34.

The Consensus of Council was to add both of these expenses to the 2006 budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Lois Golden, 645 Apple Hill Lane, thanked Council for their support of these projects.

202 MAJOR ROAD FUND / 492 ADMINISTRATION**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES****801000 Professional Services**

PS-08 Master Thoroughfare Plan (50% / 50% - split with Planning Department)

Mr. Anzek noted that 50% of the Master Thoroughfare Plan (MTP) should be financed from the Planning Department budget, as it is the next step of the Master Land Use Plan.

President Hill reasoned that the MTP is specifically for transportation planning and, thus, should be financed by the Major Road Fund. She further noted that, as half a mill is transferred from the General Fund to the Major Road Fund, in effect, the General Fund is already paying a portion of the MTP.

The Consensus of Council was to pay 100% of this expense from the Major Road Fund.

101 GENERAL FUND / 401 DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES****900000 Printing & Publishing**

Economic Development Marketing

Mr. Anzek explained that the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) can fund a portion of these expenses but only those solely expended for the promotion of the LDFA. City-wide marketing efforts would need to be funded through the Planning Department.

The Consensus of Council was to split this expense, with the LDFA funding \$20,000 and the Planning Department funding the remaining \$10,000.

Discussed**2005-0519**

Discussion regarding Water and Sewer Funds - 2006 Budget (500's)

Attachments: 0519 Resolution.pdf

530 WATER - OPERATING & MAINTENANCE

Mr. Anzek indicated that he had "misspoke" during the previous evening's budget meeting when he indicated that the cost to demolish the City-owned industrial building on Hamlin Road would be paid with the proceeds from the sale of the two western parcels of land. He explained that those proceeds will, in fact, be split between the Water & Sewer Funds. The demolition will be funded using LDFA monies, which will in turn be reimbursed using Tax Increment Financing (TIF) money captured once the area is redeveloped.

The Consensus of Council was to use LDFA funds to finance the demolition of the Hamlin Road industrial building.

Discussed

2005-0514

Discussion regarding General Fund - 2006 Budget (100's)

Attachments: Agenda Summary Budget Adoption.pdf; 092805 Final Recap all changes.pdf; 091405 Agenda Summary.pdf; Memo Jenuwine 090205.pdf; Memo Jenuwine 082205 - 2006 Q&A.pdf; Memo Jenuwine Monday responses.pdf; Memo Jenuwine Tuesdays II responses1.pdf; Memo Jenuwine

101 GENERAL FUND / 756 PARKS DEPARTMENT**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES****801000 Professional Services**

PS-02 - Undeveloped Parkland / Concept Plans for Nowicki Park

Ms. Raschke questioned whether this was a "critical" expense or could it wait and the funds placed back in the CIP.

Mr. Hartner indicated that this item has been delayed in previous years and could be again; however, without these plans the City is very limited in its ability to gain grant funding for park development.

Mr. Dalton encouraged the inclusion of this item in the 2006 budget noting that all of the City's parks are on the east side and "I'd like to see us start working on trying to develop parks on the west side of the City."

Ms. Raschke expressed her concern that congestion on Adams Road would increase if the park were developed.

Mr. Hartner explained that all of the City's parks are developed on major roads and that most park access takes place outside of peak travel times.

The Consensus of Council was to maintain this expense in the 2006 budget.

101 GENERAL FUND / 401 DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES****801000 Professional Services**

PS-03 - Non-Motorized System Evaluation

Mr. Anzek explained that a question had been raised as to why this item was not being funded from the Pathways budget.

Ms. Jenuwine provided the ballot language for the dedicated Pathways millage noting that these dedicated funds were intended " . . . to establish, construct, maintain and repair pathways . . . "

The Consensus of Council was that an opinion be sought from City Attorney John Staran on this matter.

Discussed

2005-0516

Discussion regarding Special Revenue Funds - 2006 Budget (200's)

Attachments: 0516 Resolution.pdf

214 PATHWAY MAINTENANCE FUND

President Hill addressed the matter of not levying the full millage amount for the

Pathways and questioned whether the Construction Fund money could be used to complete sections of pathways, if there was not enough money to complete entire projects. She also noted that she did not believe that there was "any hard fast rule" as to the funds being split three ways: a third for maintenance, a third for construction and a third for rehabilitation.

Ms. Jenuwine explained that the millage funds are deposited into the Pathways Maintenance Fund and are then transferred to the Construction Fund. it will have to be determined by Council what to do with any surplus funds in the Construction Fund if a future millage is either not sought or does not pass.

Mr. Barnett encouraged the Pathways Committee to meet and begin discussions on these matters so as to provide recommendations to City Council in the near future. He further noted that if the Pathways millage were levied at its full amount, it would, in effect, raise the "bottom line" General Millage for the 2006 budget. He suggested instead that the Pathways millage be levied for only that amount that would maintain the General Millage status quo from 2005.

The Consensus of Council was to levy the amount of Pathways millage funds only in the amount that would maintain the General Millage rate from 2005.

207 SPECIAL POLICE FUND

Mr. Dalton noted that there have been no additions to police staffing in the past four years and there are times when there is no supervisor on duty. He asked that City Council budget for the addition of one sergeant. He suggested that the inception of a false alarm program would result in added revenue, but more importantly, would result in officers responding to fewer false alarms, thus freeing officers to remain on patrol.

Mr. Barnett, while agreeing with Mr. Dalton, suggested that perhaps a deputy could be elevated to the level of sergeant, thus solving the supervision issue, while maintaining the budget at the 2005 level. He stressed that despite the apparent need for another officer, residents have not been in support of increasing millage funds for police protection. He expressed his fear that if the City adds another officer financed from the General Fund, it will damage the City's chances of passing a police millage in the future.

Mr. Dalton acknowledged Mr. Barnett's point but stressed that "our first and foremost obligation is health and safety." He noted there were several other items that could be removed from the budget to increase the police department by one officer.

The Consensus of the Council was that more information on the matter be provided by Oakland County Sheriff's Department **Captain Bob Smith**.

206 FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND / 343 DISPATCH

PERSONNEL SERVICES

It was noted that dispatch overtime has increased due to a turnover in employees. The City is in the process of hiring and training replacement employees, which will eventually reduce the need for overtime.

President Hill encouraged the administration to examine other dispatch options in terms of perhaps regionalizing the services as a means of curbing costs.

206 FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND / 339 FULL TIME FIREFIGHTERS

PERSONNEL SERVICES

Mr. Barnett requested an analysis of the budget impact of hiring six new firefighters in

the 2006 budget year versus hiring three firefighters in 2006 and three additional firefighters in 2007. He questioned what the impact would be considering the concession the firefighter's union was willing to make in forgoing a two percent raise if all six firefighters were hired in 2006.

Ms. Jenuwine stated that the different scenarios had not yet been analyzed, but that information could be made available. She stressed that the two percent concession was not being viewed by the administration as a measure that would off-set any of the additional staff members.

Fire Chief Ron Crowell noted that while one of the reasons for this staff increase request is that it meets a County requirement; another pressing need is to ease the burden of existing firefighters and it will mitigate job burnout.

The Consensus of Council was that Ms. Jenuwine provide further information and analysis on the addition of six full time firefighters.

203 LOCAL STREET FUND / 484 WINTER MAINTENANCE

Mr. Rousse clarified that despite the number of employees allocated to snow plowing, in an emergency employees are drawn from other departments to service the local roads.

Discussed

2005-0517

Discussion regarding Debt Funds - 2006 Budget (300's)

Attachments: 0517 Resolution.pdf

DEBT FUNDS

Ms. Jenuwine noted that in the previous budget year the debt fund resolution was not passed by Council unanimously. She asked that any Council members with questions or concerns please allow her to address them prior to the vote. Ms. Jenuwine further noted that the debt service policy needs to be addressed in the near future because these debt funds must be paid out and "we cannot invest our monies and receive a rate of return higher than the arbitrage yield on the bond."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Debbie Geen, 3128 Walton Boulevard, Chairperson of the Residential Vision Committee, noted her contention that snow removal should be considered "a basic, guaranteed service." She suggested that the City should be making reductions in police and fire budgets, as are other communities, rather than increasing them.

Discussed

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Regular Meeting - Wednesday, September 7, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before Council, President Hill adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

*MELINDA HILL, President
Rochester Hills City Council*

*JANE LESLIE, Clerk
City of Rochester Hills*

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

Approved as presented at the March 1, 2006 Regular City Council Meeting.