



**City of Rochester Hills
AGENDA SUMMARY
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS**

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Legislative File No: 2009-0206

TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Jane Leslie, Clerk
DATE: May 13, 2009
SUBJECT: Amendment to Council Rules of Procedure

REQUEST:

That Section .04 (iii), Minutes of the Rochester Hills City Council Rules and Procedures be amended.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, the Rochester Hills City Council Rules and Procedures, Section .04 (iii), Minutes reads “a brief synopsis of each meeting of the Council will be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the City within ten (10) days following each meeting.” Due to the changes in the newspaper business, the Clerk’s Office is recommending publication on the City’s web site. The change of language being recommended is to replace “published in a newspaper” to “published on the City of Rochester Hills’ web site...”

The Open Meetings Act, Act 267 of 1976, Section 15.269 (3) requires that the City “shall make proposed minutes available for public inspection within eight (8) business days...” As the Rochester Eccentric will cease publication on May 31, 2009, the City has had to seek proposals from other sources. The cost of publishing has increased considerably, and the cost for publishing in a “newspaper of general circulation” will be doubled. As the Open Meetings Act does not require the publication of the Synopsis of a meeting and in consideration of budgetary issues, it is recommended that the City’s web site be utilized for the publication of the Synopsis. Other requirements of State Law continue to use a “newspaper of general circulation” and will continue to be used for the notices that are required by the City Charter and State Laws.

Publication in a “newspaper of general circulation” has become problematic throughout the State. The Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks members have been contacting their state legislators to review the possibility of changing the requirements for all notices to better utilize today’s technology. Senator Bishop’s office has done some research that is included with the packet.

RECOMMENDATION:

To amend the Rochester Hills City Council Rules and Procedures changing the publication of the Synopses of City Council Meetings from the newspaper to being posted on the City’s web site.
