



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

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**Legislative File No:** 2006-0779

**TO:** City Council Members  
**FROM:** Jim Rosen, City Council President  
**DATE:** October 25, 2006  
**SUBJECT:** December City Council Meetings

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As noted last week, two Members of Council will be absent for the December 6, 2006 meeting. It has been suggested that we move the December 6, 2006, Regular Meeting to November 29, 2006. Doing so would then make the December 13th meeting the first meeting in December at which the Council will select officers and committee appointments. (As I recall essentially the same thing happened last year.)

In considering the request, I have been looking at the Charter and the Council Rules of Procedure very carefully.

The Charter specifies that at the first meeting in December each year the Council shall elect its President. It seems to me it is technically possible by the *Charter* to do what is suggested, because there is no prohibition on doing so, nor is there any specificity of which day the first meeting in December shall be.

However, the Council Rules of Procedure are much more specific. In Article III, the Rules specify that the December regular meetings shall be on the first Wednesday of December (as it normally would) and on the second Wednesday of December (rather than the third as it normally would) in obvious recognition of the Holidays. The Rules further specify that the yearly schedule shall be established at the first meeting in December, which in the very next section specifies those first and second Wednesdays for December meetings. In Article IV, the Rules specify the election of a President, as specified in the Charter, and a Vice-President, at the very same meeting on the first Wednesday of December.

Even though the Rules allow changes in the meeting schedule to be made by resolution (with appropriate notice, etc.) I have concerns about changing the date or schedule of the first meeting in December to accommodate either travel plans or any other ordinary reason. The Rules are very specific about the first meeting in December. Its importance to the Council for the following year's operation and to the public is very clear. Everybody is looking to that first meeting to set the scene for the following year. I have discussed my concerns with City Attorney Staran, and he does not attach the same significance to the Rules of Procedure specifying the two December meetings that I do.

While I think it is important for all Members to be included in Officer selection, I also think it is important for all Members to be included in the Committee assignment process. In this particular situation, the need for all present appears to out-weigh strictly following our stated Rules of Procedure. In the future, perhaps the Rules should be strengthened to be more specific about the December meetings.

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**RESOLUTION**

**NEXT AGENDA ITEM**

**RETURN TO AGENDA**

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