



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

1000 Rochester Hills Dr.  
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**Legislative File No:** 2008-0362 Updated

**TO:** Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Water & Sewer Technical Review Committee  
Prepared by Julie Jenuwine, Finance Director ext 2535

**DATE:** July 15, 2008

**SUBJECT:** SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO NEW DIVISION 6, OUTDOOR WATERING, TO ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 102, UTILITIES, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, TO REGULATE THE OUTDOOR WATERING OF LANDSCAPING; REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, AND PRESCRIBE A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS

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**REQUEST:**

Request that City Council support the administration's education campaign to encourage water conservation and accept the second reading and adoption of an Ordinance to the new division 6, Outdoor Watering, to article III of Chapter 102, Utilities, of the code of Ordinances of the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, to regulate the outdoor watering of landscaping; repeal conflicting ordinances, and prescribe a penalty for violation.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Detroit Water and Sewage Department's (DWSD) current rate methodology factors in the total *demand* and *peak* usage by a community/wholesale customer. Based on the methodology, it would be financially advantageous for the City of Rochester Hills and its water customers (residents) to level out, as well as reduce, the daily amount of water drawn from Detroit's system.

In an effort to reduce the City's peak usage the City of Rochester Hills Water & Sewer Technical Review Committee is recommending that the City Council adopt the enclosed ordinance that allows for the watering of lawns, gardens, plants, trees, scrubs and other landscape *with programmable sprinklers or irrigation systems* between the hours of midnight to 5 am *only*. A water user (of the City's system) may manually irrigate landscaping at any time.

This new program will help reduce the City's costs by lowering peak demand (balance out usage) and possibly lower overall daily demand. Savings realized by the City, will be passed on to the City's customers/residents through lower water commodity charges.

A comparable neighboring community that has negotiated a new contract with DWSD has estimated to save approximately one half of one million dollars annually with a similar watering regulation program.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommend that City Council support the administration’s education campaign to encourage water conservation and accept the second reading and adoption of an Ordinance to the new division 6, Outdoor Watering, to article III of Chapter 102, Utilities, of the code of Ordinances of the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, to regulate the outdoor watering of landscaping; repeal conflicting ordinances, and prescribe a penalty for violation.

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<b>APPROVALS:</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>Department Review</b>		
<b>Department Director</b>		
<b>Mayor</b>		
<b>City Council Liaison</b>		