



# Rochester Hills Minutes

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## City Council Special Meeting

*Greg Hooper, Nathan Klomp, Adam Kochenderfer, James Rosen,  
Mark Tisdel, Michael Webber and Ravi Yalamanchi*

*Vision Statement: The Community of Choice for Families and Business*

*Mission Statement: "Our mission is to sustain the City of Rochester Hills as the premier community of choice to live, work and raise a family by enhancing our vibrant residential character complemented by an attractive business community."*

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Monday, August 19, 2013

5:30 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

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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 Meeting would commence at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, August 19, 2013, for the purpose of discussing the proposed 2014 Budget, and to conduct regular City business.

### CALL TO ORDER

*President Hooper called the Special Rochester Hills City Council Meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Michigan Time.*

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 5 - Greg Hooper, Adam Kochenderfer, James Rosen, Mark Tisdel and Michael Webber

**Absent** 2 - Nathan Klomp and Ravi Yalamanchi

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**A motion was made by Webber, seconded by Kochenderfer, that the Agenda be Approved as Presented. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye** 5 - Hooper, Kochenderfer, Rosen, Tisdel and Webber

**Absent** 2 - Klomp and Yalamanchi

### PUBLIC COMMENT

*Melinda Hill, 1481 Mill Race, commented that she was disappointed in the Police and Road Funding Technical Review Committee's (PRFTRC) recommendation to take funds from Fund Balance for road maintenance. She stated that she sees it as a band-aid that would only be viable for five to seven years and noted that it is*

her opinion that the community needs a road millage to provide a perpetual solution for roads.

**Sakis Pechlivanidis**, 1250 North Livernois Road, commented that his home is on Livernois north of Tienken and stated that the lack of road maintenance has led to potholes and dust. He mentioned that he has learned that an application of new gravel would cost \$23,000 and there currently is no funding. He stated that he has spoken with representatives from both the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) and the City about applying limestone to Livernois as was done on Washington Road two years ago. He suggested that Tri-Party Funds be used and commented that a new alternative to limestone might be tried as well.

(Mr. Yalamanchi entered at 5:37 p.m.)  
(Mr. Klomp entered at 5:40 p.m.)

**Present** 7 - Greg Hooper, Nathan Klomp, Adam Kochenderfer, James Rosen, Mark Tisdell, Michael Webber and Ravi Yalamanchi

## LEGISLATIVE & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

In response to Public Comment regarding the condition of Livernois Road north of Tienken, **President Hooper** commented that perhaps this could be addressed during the DPS portion of the Budget Presentation. He mentioned that he fully supports the work of the Police and Road Funding Technical Review Committee (PRFTRC) and noted that they are requesting a re-purposing of the Green Space Millage upon its expiration. He stated that \$3.7 million is coming out of the General Fund every year to be spent on Capital Projects, and the PRFTRC is requesting that this amount be raised to \$5 million.

**Mr. Webber** stated that Public Comment criticizing the work of the PRFTRC is unfair and noted that the PRFTRC has been meeting for four years, with many residents comprising the committee over that time. He pointed out that the PRFTRC made over twenty recommendations in 2008, and its recommendation in 2012 led to the passage of a Police Millage. He commented that the concerns over local road funding has been punted down the field a few times, and noted that the current membership of the PRFTRC has been meeting since January. He stated that the PRFTRC's proposal is to secure \$5 million in funding for road work each year for the next seven years. He pointed out that the PRFTRC had proposed repurposing the Green Space Millage as a result of the Financial Forecast discussions noting that it is a potential area for repurposing an expiring millage. He mentioned that the PRFTRC meetings are open to the public, and noted that few residents usually attend.

**Mr. Kochenderfer** commented that from his research and discussions with Oakland County regarding different types of gravel available for road surfaces,

he has learned that there has been some success with new types which have advantages over using limestone. He mentioned that Oakland County will be trying out different types of gravel in nearby communities in the coming weeks and stated that research into alternative gravels will continue.

**Mayor Barnett** commented that he and Mr. Kochenderfer have been working on a variety of gravel road concerns. He pointed out that the City has twenty miles of gravel roadways and stated that it is difficult to determine which roads warrant different treatments.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2013-0294 Discussion regarding proposed Green Space Millage ballot language

**Attachments:** [Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Ballot Language - Admin \(Updated\).pdf](#)  
[081213 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Green Space Ballot Proposal.pdf](#)  
[081213 Draft Resolution.pdf](#)

**Gerry Carvey**, Chairperson, Green Space Advisory Board (GSAB), stated that the GSAB met tonight at 5:00 p.m. to review the Administration's August 12, 2013 changes to the draft Ballot Proposal. He reported that with six of nine members present, a unanimous vote approved the language. He mentioned that he has had a great interest in green space, and commented that currently there is no way to protect the green space after it has been purchased. He stated that this proposed ballot language, if passed by the voters, will allow the GSAB to do that. He added that the revision, using the word "pedestrian", was acceptable to the entire group. He requested Council's full vote of support.

### **Public Comment:**

**Melinda Hill**, 1481 Mill Race, questioned why there is an urgency to place this on the November ballot. She commented that while she is not against stewardship and maintenance of green space properties, she feels that the draft language is very vague, and opens up funding to not just parcels recently purchased, but to what the City already owns, has control over, or may be purchasing. She stated that the proposal does not include the exact language from the 2005 Millage Proposal and questioned what the costs of stewardship for these properties would be. She mentioned that Council has discussed repurposing this millage upon its expiration and commented that it is her opinion that the community would vote to renew the millage for green space.

**Sandra Nix**, 2179 Willow Leaf Court South, expressed support for the proposal, noting that if not properly taken care of, green space properties deteriorate.

**President Hooper** noted that the GSAB approached Council three or four years ago requesting assistance in allocating millage funds for stewardship.

**Mr. Carvey** stated that the GSAB has had three sessions where volunteers

have gone out to remove invasives on green space properties. He pointed out that the GSAB would come before Council each year with a full plan of how the money would be spent.

**President Hooper** noted that Council voted to approve adding that purpose to the GSAB's charge. He commented that the GSAB is confident that the proposed ballot language is not vague. He questioned whether the language is identical to that in the 2005 Proposal.

**John Staran**, City Attorney, stated that the proposed ballot language contains the reference to green spaces and natural features as in the 2005 Proposal. He noted that it is not his intention that the entire ballot proposal would be word-for-word identical to the 2005 language.

**Council Discussion:**

**Mr. Rosen** questioned the definition of a natural feature.

**Mr. Staran** responded that there is no precise legal definition. The GSAB, and ultimately Council, make this determination through policies and criteria for evaluating and ranking properties. He stated that there is no attempt to define the term through the ballot language.

**Mr. Carvey** pointed out that the Niswander Report defines the priorities and can be used to determine which properties meet certain criteria for natural features.

**Mr. Rosen** questioned whether all of the City's green space properties have been purchased with either substantial monies or transferred or contributed to the City for nominal sums through Green Space Fund monies.

**Mr. Carvey** responded that they were.

**Mr. Rosen** questioned whether all of those properties have natural features.

**Mr. Carvey** responded that they do. He noted that as Council helped develop the criteria to evaluate those properties, a determination of natural features was used.

**Mr. Rosen** stated that all of the City's green space properties have natural features; however, there are many places in the community that have natural features.

**Mr. Carvey** added that other properties with natural features were not purchased with green space funds.

**Mr. Rosen** commented that properties with natural features may be owned by the City as parks or could be owned by subdivision associations. He questioned whether the wording could be used as a basis to fund work on properties such as the City Hall parcel or a subdivision association commons. He commented that while he is in agreement with the concept of stewardship on green space properties purchased with green space millage funds, he believes it would violate the trust of the voters to use funds on other properties.

**Mr. Carvey** pointed out that the proposed language limits usage of funds to properties owned, acquired or controlled by the City.

**Mr. Staran** commented that it would apply to properties such as the City Hall parcel.

**Mr. Rosen** stated that a portion of the City Hall property should then be designated as green space. He commented that while the City Hall property should have the same maintenance activity as the others, it should not be done with green space millage monies.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** commented that this issue has been a concern since the formation of the GSAB. He stated that this presents an opportunity to create an endowment. He noted that the funds would be used on City-controlled property and pointed out that green space properties end up in the City's name. He stated he would like to see Council accept the GSAB's recommendations and move forward to place the proposal on the November ballot.

**Mr. Kochenderfer** commented that he believes the GSAB did a fantastic job to further limit the proposal language where it comes to accessibility. He stated that if the City will spend monies on natural features on the City Hall site, he would like to see the designation as green space. He pointed out that proposed work will still go through the GSAB and come before a Council vote and expenditures will undergo strict scrutiny. He commented that the proposal is a very strong contribution and a statement of what the City stands for.

**A motion was made by Yalamanchi, seconded by Tisdell, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye** 6 - Hooper, Klomp, Kochenderfer, Tisdell, Webber and Yalamanchi

**Nay** 1 - Rosen

Enactment No: RES0175-2013

**Whereas**, the voters of Rochester Hills approved a 2005 ballot question for a millage proposal to provide funding to permanently preserve green spaces and natural features within the City of Rochester Hills; and

**Whereas**, GSAB has been diligently working to acquire open space per the Green Space and Natural Features Millage approved in 2005; and

**Whereas**, GSAB has undertaken a steady effort to research elements of a good stewardship program to protect the City residents' investment in city-owned green spaces that include: obtaining baseline assessment studies and developing a management plan for each parcel, recruiting and training volunteers to help implement the plan, and a continual education and communication program with surrounding property owners and the community; and

**Whereas**, GSAB has reviewed the alternate ballot question dated August 12, 2013 drafted by the City Attorney and voted to recommend its approval to City Council at its open meeting of August 19, 2013;

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved**, that Rochester Hills City Council hereby approves the proposed ballot question for the November 2013 General Election that revises permissible uses of the Green Space Millage to include future stewardship in order to protect, care and maintain green spaces and natural features owned, acquired or controlled by the City of Rochester Hills:

BALLOT PROPOSAL

**PROPOSAL TO REVISE PERMISSIBLE  
USES OF GREEN SPACE MILLAGE**

At the September 13, 2005 Primary Election, City of Rochester Hills voters approved a Proposal to provide funding to permanently preserve green spaces and natural features within the City "by funding the purchase of land and interests in land, and enabling the City to seek matching grant funds by levying a new millage of up to 0.3 mills." It is proposed to revise the permissible use of tax revenues derived from this millage to authorize it to be used to fund the protection, care and maintenance of, and to improve pedestrian accessibility to and within, green spaces and natural features owned, acquired or controlled by the City, in addition to funding the purchase of land and interests in land.

Therefore, shall the permissible use of tax revenues derived from the green space millage be revised to authorize it to be used to fund the protection, care and maintenance of, and to improve pedestrian accessibility to and within, green spaces and natural features owned, acquired or controlled by the City, in addition to funding the purchase of land and interests in land? If approved, this proposal will not authorize any new or additional tax or renewal of any current tax.

Yes \_\_\_

No \_\_\_

## PROPOSED 2014 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

2013-0284 General Budget Overview - 2014

**Attachments:** [Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[081913 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[082613 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[081213 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Presentation.pdf](#)  
[081213 Resolution.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Budget Overview Presentation.pdf](#)

**Mayor Barnett** introduced **Keith Sawdon**, Director of Finance, and stated that Mr. Sawdon would present the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and projected 2015 and 2016 Budget.

**Mr. Sawdon** noted that this is the first of two Budget Meetings. He gave the following presentation, starting with the General Budget Overview:

[General Budget Overview - 2014](#)

- *The Budget process starts with Capital Improvement Plan.*
- *The City's Strategic Plan guides and sets priorities.*
- *The Seven-Year Financial Forecast helps the City to be proactive and not reactive, and allows the expenditures to be adjusted to match available revenue sources and prevent surprises.*
- *General Fund transfers 40 percent to other funds.*
- *Local Streets needs additional funding sources to support operations, rehabilitation and reconstruction.*
- *The Water Resource Fund needs a funding source by 2019.*
- *There is a potential opportunity to repurpose the Green Space Millage going forward without affecting the millage rate.*
- *Revenues:*
  - \* *Taxable values have turned positive for FY 2014.*
  - \* *Building activity is improving.*
  - \* *State Shared Revenue is increasing.*
  - \* *The Gas Tax is staying flat.*
- *Expenditures - past expenses in line with available revenue sources.*

*Additional information was highlighted:*

- *Citywide Revenues increase by 0.2 percent from the 2013 Amended Budget due to Property Tax Revenues, State Shared Revenues, Charges for Services and Building Permits.*
  - \* *\$8.5 million from Fund Balance to cover \$13.6 million in capital projects.*
- *Citywide expenditures increase 0.6 percent from the 2013 Amended Budget, with the \$13.6 million allocated for capital projects.*
- *No use of Fund Balance to support operations.*
- *General Fund can provide additional funding for capital improvements to local streets.*
- *The City's new Core Health Care Plan continues to provide savings.*
- *The proposed millage rate is held at 9.7060, the same as FY 2013, and lowest of cities in Oakland County.*

**See Legislative File 2013-0291 for Council Discussion.**

**Discussed.**

**2013-0285**      Discussion - General Fund (100's) - 2014 Budget

**Attachments:** [081913 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[082613 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[Suppl General Fund Revenue Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Mayors Dept Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Genl Fund Transfer Out Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Assessing-Treasury Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Planning Dept Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Building-Ordinance Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Clerks Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Human Resources Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Parks and Forestry Presentation.pdf](#)

**Keith Sawdon**, Director of Finance, continued the presentation of the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and projected 2015 and 2016 Budget:

#### GENERAL FUND REVENUE

- General Fund Revenues are down by 1.6 percent over FY 2013 as Amended.
- General Fund Property Taxes revenues are reduced by 7.2 percent due to the adoption of the new road millage, and a roll back to keep the City rate at 9.706.
- State Shared Revenue increases by 1.0 percent.
- License and Building Permits are up by 2.4 percent.
- Service Charges increase by 2.8 percent.

#### MAYOR'S DEPARTMENT

##### Mayor's Department (171)

Accomplishments include:

- Placemaking and Partnerships
  - \* Community Garden
  - \* \$400,000 secured in grant funding
  - \* First landscaped designed roundabout
  - \* Collaborations resulting in over 16 unique Inter-Local Agreements
- New for 2014
  - \* Professional Services - MIS Charges for the Financial Software System Replacement project to impact the Fiscal arm.

##### Accounting (201)

- New for 2014
  - \* Move a part-time Clerk I to full time status
  - \* Professional Services include MIS charges for the Financial Software System Replacement project

##### Legal Services (210)

- No change in dollars. Reclassification of all non-Fire Labor Attorney costs to this cost center. The City Attorney's cost is down this year.

##### Building Authority (279)

- No change. Three meetings each year are included in the Budget; however, most likely the Building Authority will only need to meet once.

Street Lighting (448)

- No changes. This is a pass through.

Community Development Block Grant (666)

- No changes. The same funding level is expected as in prior years. The bulk of funding is used for minor home repairs for low income residents and yard services for low income seniors. Local Organizations are supported as well.

Community Events (760)

- No planned changes for 2014. The City has been able to raise \$500,000 in sponsorships to date to fund Community Events.

## GENERAL FUND TRANSFER-OUT

- New for 2014:

\* Reduction of the Transfer-Out to the Local Street Fund due to the new Local Street Millage.

\* Reduction of the Transfer-Out to the Special Police Fund to balance operations.

**See Legislative File 2013-0291 for Council Discussion.**

**Discussed.**

**2013-0287** Discussion - Debt Services Funds (300's) - 2014 Budget

**Attachments:** [081913 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Debt Funds Presentation.pdf](#)

**Keith Sawdon**, Director of Finance, reviewed the Debt Funds for the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and projected FY 2015 and 2016 Budget:

## DEBT FUNDS

- City-Wide Outstanding Debt Per Capita is decreasing. It is \$357 for FY 2013 and \$307 for FY 2014.

- Debt continues to drop downward for FY 2015 and 2016.

- In comparison, debt per capita for the State of Michigan is \$2,646, for the United States it is \$52,152, and for the City of Detroit it is \$25,714.

**See Legislative File 2013-0291 for Council Discussion.**

**Discussed.**

**2013-0288** Discussion - Capital Funds (400's) - 2014 Budget

**Attachments:** [081913 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[082613 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Capital Improvement Fund Presentation.pdf](#)

**Keith Sawdon**, Director of Finance, reviewed the Capital Improvement Fund for the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and projected FY 2015 and 2016 Budget:

Capital Improvement Fund (420)

- Planned Projects include the construction of Riverbend Park, with a contribution of \$700,000 from a donor and a projected Capital Outlay of \$713,600.
- Additional transfer-out for the Spencer Park Storage Building Addition and for the Assessing Software Upgrade.

**See Legislative File 2013-0291 for Council Discussion.**

Discussed.

**2013-0290** Discussion - Internal Service Funds (600's) - 2014 Budget

**Attachments:** [081913 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[082613 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Insurance Fund Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl MIS Presentation.pdf](#)

**Keith Sawdon**, Director of Finance, reviewed the Insurance Fund for the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and projected FY 2015 and 2016 Budget:

Insurance Fund (677)

- Insurance premiums are determined in July and carry over to the following year; therefore, the premium is split between years. While this year's premium carrying through to 2014 is known, next year's premium beginning July 1, 2014 is not yet known. The premium for FY 2013, net of the asset distribution, is approximately \$110,000. Premiums are under control and are not increasing.

**See Legislative File 2013-0291 for Council Discussion.**

Discussed.

**2013-0291** Discussion - Trust and Agency Funds (700's) - 2014 Budget

**Attachments:** [081913 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Retiree Trust Fund Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Clerks Presentation.pdf](#)

**Keith Sawdon**, Director of Finance, reviewed the Supplemental Retiree Trust Fund for the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and projected FY 2015 and 2016 Budget:

Supplemental Retiree Trust Fund (736)

- Investment earnings increased 12 percent to reflect investment performance.

*Funds are invested under Public Act 314. The trust allows investment in equity and fixed income markets.*

- Personnel services changed to better reflect actual activities performed for the Trust.*
- An Actuary Report will be needed in FY 2014.*

*Mr. Sawdon expressed his thanks to Council and Mayor Barnett. He stated that the City could not have gotten through the past three years without everyone working together.*

**Council Discussion:**

**President Hooper** requested more information on the Accounting Clerk position which is proposed to go from part time to full time.

**Mr. Sawdon** responded that staff is not spending as much time on the background documents as they should. He explained that because general City functions must be done under strict deadlines, frequently only superficial reviews of background data can be completed. He stated that when the department is backlogged on functions such as accounts payable and payroll, those functions take priority and background work falls by the wayside. He commented that it is a crack in the system due to staffing limitations.

**President Hooper** commented that it appears that performance indicators such as checks written and transactions processed have gone down. He stated that as more functions are moved to the Internet, less accounting functions should be necessary. He questioned what the insurance rebate is for 2013.

**Mr. Sawdon** responded that the City received \$254,000 in rebate, noting that the check came in on July 15th, and was too late to include in the Budget documents.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** requested the Fund Balances noted on page 28 and 29 of the Budget Book include internal funds such as Facilities and MIS.

**Mr. Sawdon** responded that the City is required to show Fund Balances for governmental funds. He explained that governmental funds are done on a modified accrual basis, while enterprise funds are done on a full accrual and are treated as retained earnings. He stated that it can be misleading to show them together when they are tracked with differing accounting processes. He offered to provide information regarding these fund balances separately, noting that it would be difficult to bring the figures into the Budget Documents.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** requested the following information:

- How expiring millages are treated.*
- How changing assessments affect the budget model.*
- How Taxable Value is shown.*
- Whether a move to online payments has had an effect on accounting functions.*
- Whether Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are expected to remain the same.*

- Whether funding for the Supplemental Retiree Trust Fund is as expected.
- Whether the City could maximize the General Fund by allocating out Finance, Accounting and Purchasing functions to the various other funds they support.

**Mr. Sawdon** responded with the following:

- When a millage is expected to expire, and it is one that can be expanded, the General Fund will expand up to millage rate. General Fund will then capture the millage and use it to fund Local Roads.
- Adjustments of interest rates and changes to the Consumer Price Index are passed through the model to determine assessment data. Taxable Value is reflected on page 112 of the Budget Documents.
- The City recently put into place an online notification that a water/sewer bill is available for review and payment. Customers must sign up for the online notification service. Online notification saves on printing and postage costs; however, it does not provide an overall labor savings. The breakeven point for online notification to offset the cost of the services is 1,200 customers.
- The City's Supplemental Retiree Program is fixed and closed, and was fully funded by Council in 2012. He mentioned that equities have gone up since that time and it appears that the program will be overfunded in 2014.
- It is not the intention to fully fund the Implicit Fund Subsidy.
- Other City funds are charged an administrative fee to allocate the different costs of each city function.
- The Administration still does not have CDBG funding figures for 2013.

**Joe Snyder**, Senior Financial Analyst, stated that CDBG funding appears to be going down overall.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** suggested that Council and Administration consider continuing support for CDBG activities. He commented that these funds help the most vulnerable individuals in the community. He requested that Council consider establishing a threshold floor of \$130,000 for CDBG funds.

**President Hooper** questioned how the expiration of street millages are treated.

**Mr. Snyder** stated that a straight renewal of these millages is assumed.

**Mr. Webber** requested information on the following:

- How software replacement is determined.
- Whether the Community Events Budget, including the Community Garden, should be extracted into its own fund to show the public a revenue and expense side.
- Why there is an increase in Water & Sewer Inter-Fund charges.
- Whether the City is experiencing any claims above its Self Insured Retention amounts.

**Mr. Sawdon** responded with the following:

- Software is depreciated on a five year schedule.

- *Dinosaur Hill is keeping the revenue stream for the Community Garden to cover their activity costs. They will also eventually pay for the water used through billing by the Water & Sewer Department.*
- *Water & Sewer Inter-Fund Charges are driven by capital work.*
- *He is not aware of any claims against the City above the Self Insured Retention amounts.*

**President Hooper** suggested that information on the new Police Millage be listed on a separate line from the expiring Police Millage I and II for clarity.

**Mr. Sawdon** responded that the Police Millages passed actually included the renewal and the additional amount. He stated that they were reflected in the Budget Documents as two separate line items to match the ballot.

**Mr. Kochenderfer** mentioned the decreasing insurance distribution.

**Mr. Sawdon** responded that the decreasing insurance distribution is most likely equity-related as it is following a time of bad performance in equities.

**Mr. Kochenderfer** questioned the debt per capita for Oakland County.

**Mr. Sawdon** responded that this figure is on the City's Fast Facts sheet.

**Mr. Rosen** expressed his support and praise for the three year budget process and the seven year financial forecast. He commented that Plante Moran's predictions were right on the money, which helped the City through the Recession. He pointed out how relatively shallow the City's economic decline was in comparison to other communities. He praised Council, the Mayor, and the Finance team. He mentioned that he was stunned by the debt per capita comparisons. He questioned whether there is any way beside a Charter Amendment for Council to ensure that the general millage rate stays the same.

**Mr. Sawdon** responded that there was no way that he knew of. He stated that the Charter sets the maximum, and the Headlee Amendment rolls it back.

**Mr. Rosen** mentioned recent news that Saginaw and Grand Rapids have reported difficulties in bond issuance and questioned whether Detroit's financial troubles will affect the City.

**Mr. Sawdon** responded that communities encountering difficulties are issuing new debt. He commented that the City is not issuing bonds any time soon. He added that when the City approaches the rating agencies, it does get a chance to tell its own story. He stated that yes, it will have an effect; however, the City has been on a good path of late.

**Mr. Klomp** mentioned that CDBG funds have been dropping. He added that funds support Camp Safari through Rochester Area Youth Assistance.

**Mr. Sawdon** responded that the Community Development Block Grant increased the amount available for minor home repair programs and decreased the percentage available for community organizations. He added that the City

receives many more requests than available funding for home repairs. He cautioned that the City receives many requests from repeat customers and noted that the program is designed to help more individuals rather than the same people multiple times.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** stated that he is impressed with what the City has been doing. He added that the City's fiduciary responsibility should be taken seriously. He commented that the City does the best it can with the revenue model and stated that it is not fair to compare the City to the State of Michigan or to the United States overall.

Discussed.

(Mr. Rosen exited at 7:30 p.m. and re-entered at 7:32 p.m.)  
(Mr. Webber exited at 7:30 p.m. and re-entered at 7:33 p.m.)  
(Mr. Klomp exited at 7:37 p.m. and re-entered at 7:39 p.m.)  
(Mr. Rosen exited at 7:54 p.m. and re-entered at 8:01 p.m.)

2013-0285 Discussion - General Fund (100's) - 2014 Budget

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[Suppl Human Resources Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Parks and Forestry Presentation.pdf](#)

**Kurt Dawson**, Director of Assessing/Treasury, introduced **Linda Osiecki**, Deputy Treasurer, and **Laurie Taylor**, Deputy Assessor. Mr. Dawson noted the following for the proposed FY 2014 and projected FY 2015 and 2016 Budget.

#### ASSESSING/TREASURY

##### Assessing (209)

- The Assessing Department annually develops a tax roll, through equitable, fair and uniform assessments.
- The Department ensures good records by reviewing 27,000 property records annually, performing door to door appraisals and property reviews, conducting personal property audits, maintaining the Transfer Affidavit Program and the Principal Resident Exemption Program.
- To ensure resident input, the staff performs property reviews by appointment, holds an Assessor's Review in February, assists residents with Board of Review and Tax Tribunals, and assists taxpayers with assessment-related issues and information.
- The Department's staff of eight have 155 combined years of experience. Seven of the eight are certified with State of Michigan in Assessing.

He noted the changing economy:

- Property values are stabilizing, with fewer listings and rising prices. Proposal A limits the increase in property tax revenue.
- Foreclosures are declining. There are currently 82 properties in the name of financial institutions. Staff track foreclosure sales.
- Decreases are noted in appeals before March Board of Review and Michigan Tax Tribunal.
- Taxable value peaked in 2008, dropped, and is recovering. The recovery is limited by the rate of inflation.

He noted that the city is the fifth largest taxing unit in Oakland County and mentioned that Rochester Hills represents 0.86 percent of total State Equalized Value for 2012.

#### Board of Review (247)

- Highest in 2008 and 2009, the Board of Review held 15 days of hearings in those years. Declining by 80 percent, only three hearing days were necessary in 2013.
- Tax Tribunals, which take much staff time in preparation, have been dropping. The State has made a concerted effort to catch up on open appeals. As the open appeals drop, funding set aside for the tax tribunals decreases. The City has been forced to require full appraisals for the tribunals more than any time in history.

#### Treasury (253)

- The Treasury Department effectively manages the timely collection, distribution and prudent investment of City funds.
- Staff continually seek further departmental efficiencies.
- Recent initiatives include the inclusion of a QR code on tax bills and invoices, and offering electronic auto pay options for taxes.
- One-third of taxes are paid over the counter; one-third through the lockbox; and 26 percent through mortgage companies. The City discourages cash payments as it is most expensive to process cash transactions.

#### **Council Discussion:**

**Mr. Yalamanchi** questioned whether the City reviews the status of each of the 82 homes currently in foreclosure.

**Mr. Dawson** responded that staff do not check on each home, and commented that banks typically do not let taxes go delinquent.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** questioned whether houses that are sold out of foreclosure are reoccupied.

**Ms. Taylor** responded that anything foreclosed that sold, is typically reoccupied as a main residence or as a rental. She stated that the homes are typically occupied unless undergoing renovation.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** questioned how delinquent amounts are sent to the County for collection.

**Mr. Dawson** responded that mortgage companies typically review tax bills to ensure that payments are paid. He explained that 97 to 98 percent of the City's tax bills are paid with less than three percent going to the County. He noted that the City sends a reminder card when taxes are unpaid past February 14th. He added that the State of Michigan now requires notice of the unpaid tax bill to be placed on the subsequent bill.

#### PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Ed Anzek**, Director of Planning and Economic Development, introduced **Jim Breuckman**, Manager of Planning and **Pamela Valentik**, Manager of Economic Development, and highlighted the Planning Department's proposed FY 2014 and projected 2015 and 2016 Budget. He covered the following areas:

#### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Planning Commission (400)

Planning Department (401)

Zoning Board of Appeals (410)

Historic Districts Commission (804)

Brownfield Redevelopment (843)

Local Development Finance Authority (848)

SmartZone (851)

Economic Development Corporation (893)

- The Planning Department's charge is to support quality development, preserve neighborhoods, enhance the tax base, provide jobs, and keep Rochester Hills a premier residential and business address.
- Staff provide support to seven key Boards and Commissions, Mayor's Business Council and RHISE (Rochester Hills Innovators and Senior Executives).
- Meeting activity, site plan activity and residential units approved or in process are increasing.

**Mr. Breuckman** listed recent Planning activity:

- Master Land Use Plan Update, PACE District, Twist Drill Site partial historic designation, the Hamlin/Livernois roundabout design, and increased development activity.

**Mr. Anzek** highlighted recent economic development results:

- The unemployment rate is decreasing.

- 2010 was the high point for new jobs and companies in the community. While numbers are still good, the reason the number of new companies coming into the community is dropping is the City does not have enough inventory of available spaces. Most jobs created now are from the growth of existing companies.
- The industrial vacancy rate is five percent, which is extremely low for the region.
- Rochester Hills has the second highest lease rates among peer communities, and has competitive vacancy rates.
- The Mayor's Business Council has been a tremendous asset at no cost to the City.

**Ms. Valentik** highlighted the City's Economic Development Strategy:

- Implementing a plan of economic development and business attraction while staying competitive.
- Monitoring the new Michigan tax structure, which has seen a more competitive atmosphere between the City's partners and other municipalities.
- Three key initiatives are the focus, including Supply Chain Development, International Business Attraction and Medical Main Street.
- Strategies for International Business Attraction include memberships in national and regional German Chambers of Commerce and a trade mission to Germany.
- Supply Chain Development Initiatives include alliances and activities with economic development partners.
- Medical Main Street initiatives include attendance at the MEDTEC Europe trade show, Life Science Assets and coordination with Oakland University's Health and Human Services.

**Mr. Anzek** reviewed the loss of projected revenues from Tax Increment Financing (TIF) due to the recession and commented that there has been a slight recovery. He mentioned that the City has been working with its legislative consultant to track how TIF will be changed in Lansing. He noted the impact of the proposed personal property tax exemption and stated that it could be a setback to the redevelopment of the M-59 corridor. He noted that OU INC. has had its first successful spinoff company. He mentioned that the Planning and Economic Development Department has no significant changes to the General Fund cost and is not projecting to add staff. He added that the outlook for 2014 includes the following activities:

- A stable budget.
- Increasing development.
- Regional Employment Center zoning update.
- Monitor LDFA funding.

**Council Discussion:**

**Mr. Webber** questioned how the OU Inc. has changed their focus for the SmartZone and what is going on regarding Medical Main Street development.

**Mr. Anzek** responded that the SmartZone is a 25 year commitment. The City's

obligation is that of a pass-through organization. He commented that staff is working with the owners of the Suburban Softball site to try to get them organized to move forward.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** requested information on the following:

- What efforts are taking place for Medical Main Street and what percentage of companies coming in are focused on the automotive industry versus other sectors.
- What is going on with the Volkswagen/Audi property on Hamlin Road.
- Whether the LDFA area cover almost all the light industry that the City has.
- Whether it is possible to create a revolving loan fund for businesses coming in.
- What Brownfield activities are currently taking place.

**Mr. Anzek** responded that Medical Main Street activities are focusing on organizing efforts.

**Ms. Valentik** responded with the following:

- Medical Main Street is a branding initiative for the whole county. The City continues to work with Oakland County on the initiative. During the recession, many of the City's automotive suppliers diversified and rethought their strategies. While the automotive industry is coming back, these companies are being encouraged to keep the relationships going in other sectors. The State's Pure Michigan Business Connect Initiative encourages large companies to do business with each other in the state.
- Ms. Valentik participated in a meeting last week with the broker of the Volkswagen/Audi property and a prospective tenant.

**Mr. Anzek** noted:

- The LDFA Plan was recently amended to cover a portion of property on Hamlin Road and Devondale.
- Brownfield monies collected are being held until property owners undertake eligible activities.

**Discussed.**

**2013-0292** Discussion - Component Units (800's) - 2014 Budget

**Attachments:** [081913 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[082613 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Planning Dept Presentation.pdf](#)

**See Legislative File 2013-0285 for Council Discussion.**

**Discussed.**

**(Recess 8:21 p.m. to 8:46 p.m.)**

**2013-0285** Discussion - General Fund (100's) - 2014 Budget

**Attachments:** [081913 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[082613 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[Suppl General Fund Revenue Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Mayors Dept Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Genl Fund Transfer Out Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Assessing-Treasury Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Planning Dept Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Building-Ordinance Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Clerks Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Human Resources Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Parks and Forestry Presentation.pdf](#)

**Scott Cope**, Director of Building/Ordinance Compliance, introduced **Kelly Winters**, Deputy Director, and **Bob White**, Supervisor of Ordinance Services. He noted that there has been evidence of continued economic growth and stated that his presentation would highlight the challenges of that growth and how the Department proposes to address these challenges. He introduced the proposed Budget for Building/Ordinance Compliance.

#### **BUILDING/ORDINANCE**

##### Building Department (371)

**Mr. Winters** began by highlighting:

- Building Safety Month's public activities and new innovative ways to engage the residents and customers.
- Change in code violation policies.
- Permits for new house starts and building activities are up.
- Total Construction Value is up significantly; larger buildings require more inspection.
- Staffing levels are down from 2006. Levels are proposed to increase for 2014.
- Shared Services and the use of these agreements to date.
- The service goals are not where they need to be. Work load has increased substantially.
- The Department is proposing the addition of a Building Inspector. The Department has reached the capacity of its staffing resources.

**Mr. Cope** continued:

##### Ordinance Compliance (372)

- The Single Hauler is in the fifth year of its contract. Only two percent of residents expressed dissatisfaction with the program.
- RecycleBank is a successful program.
- Homeowners Association meetings continue to be held in spring and fall.
- Workload indicators for the Ordinance Division show complaints up by 22 percent. This is a warning sign. The Division is not meeting service goal for proactive patrols, due to staff reductions which occurred in 2011.
- The laptop program was implemented this year. While it is beginning to help, it will not improve the proactive service goal.
- The Department is proposing the addition of a part-time Ordinance Inspector.

**Mr. White** continued:

Weed Control (535)

- A postcard program notified property owners of vacant properties of the weed regulations. It has been successful in requiring less City involvement in weed cutting activities on private properties.

Facilities Division Fund (631)

- Manages \$54 million in City assets.
- Workload indicators, meeting setup, building maintenance projects have increased.
- It is proposed to contract out cleaning services for Museum and Fire Station 1.
- A re-evaluation was completed on all City buildings in the spring.
- A maintenance plan for the future is being developed.

**Mr. Cope** commented that the past few years have been the most challenging in his career.

Council Discussion:

**Mr. Klomp** commented that the Department has been successful in doing more with less. He questioned the following:

- Whether the complaints received are for definite Ordinance violations.
- How the increase in properties being held as rentals affect the community.

**Mr. Cope** responded with the following:

- The complaint numbers cited are verified for an Ordinance violation.
- A survey was presented to Council in 2005 highlighting the condition of known rental properties to determine whether there is a need for rental inspections. The determination at that time was that there is no need for a rental inspection program. These programs typically do not cover costs without becoming overburdensome for rental owners.
- A few years ago, the Ordinance Division undertook an aggressive program toward foreclosures. It is hoped that the focus can be back on this program if staffing challenges can be addressed. Currently there are no monthly checks on foreclosed properties.

**President Hooper** questioned the "RDP" certification for the Building Inspector/Plan Reviewer.

**Mr. Cope** responded that the certification is that of Registered Design Professional.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** questioned the following:

- Whether the Department was requesting a net increase of one staff position.
- Whether there has been a positive reaction from owners after the elimination of the Red Tag program.
- What the effect has been of the Vacant Property Ordinance and whether there is a way to know which properties are vacant.
- Why there has been an increase in complaints received.

**Mr. Cope** responded with the following:

- Three positions were reclassified as the individuals are now registered, allowing them to complete reviews that used to be subcontracted out and saving the City money.
- In discussions with builders, it was found that the Red Tag program was driving a wedge between the builder and the property owner.
- There are concerns raised when a property goes vacant. Oftentimes these properties are not maintained, leading to broken water lines and much maintenance required. The Ordinance enables inspectors to go in after a property vacant for a period of time and require an inspection to verify that everything is safe for the next person that occupies it.
- The Department hopes to work with Assessing to identify properties that are in the foreclosure process. The Ordinance would require those homes to get that inspection.
- Since proactive enforcement has been curtailed, complaints have gone up. Responding to complaints actually takes more time than proactive enforcement.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** commented that his hopes are for the development of a zero waste program.

**Mr. Tisdell** commented that he appreciates the Department's timely response when contacted with a complaint.

**Discussed.**

**2013-0290** Discussion - Internal Service Funds (600's) - 2014 Budget

**Attachments:** [081913 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[082613 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Insurance Fund Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl MIS Presentation.pdf](#)

**Bob Grace**, Director of MIS, and **Kevin Krajewski**, Network Coordinator/Deputy Director of MIS, presented the proposed FY 2014 and projected 2015 and 2016 Budget for MIS.

MIS Fund (636)

**Mr. Grace** noted:

- The MIS Team is responsible for Network Infrastructure & Security, GIS and to update & implement technology.
- There are 213 different software applications used throughout the City.

- Budget changes for 2014 include Software Upgrades, and Training.

**Mr. Krajewski** continued:

- A Network Upgrade in 2013 updated security and firewall, and antivirus protection.
- Printers and copiers throughout the City were consolidated into multi-function devices.
- A new Building Department permitting system was implemented.

**Mr. Grace** continued:

- The City's survey of residents recorded a 93 percent satisfaction rating for the City's website. Website stats continue to rise.
- Website upgrades include a rollout of a virtual parks tour.

**Council Discussion:**

**President Hooper** questioned what the budget increase for additional training will be in 2014.

**Mr. Grace** responded that previous amounts were in the range of \$600, and included mileage. He explained that \$18,500 is budgeted this year as much department cross-training is anticipated.

**President Hooper** questioned whether all training activities would take place within the State of Michigan.

**Mr. Grace** responded that while he usually attends Michigan local government association events, training for GIS or JDEdwards functions are frequently held out of state.

**President Hooper** questioned the need for Project 12A, the upgrade to the financial system, citing its expense at over a million and a half dollars.

**Mr. Grace** pointed out that the City is currently using the JDEdwards system. He noted that there is a need for upgrade to both hardware and software and explained that supporting applications are dependent on third parties. He mentioned that during the economic downturn, the Department chose to stop doing upgrades. It is now to the point where upgrades cannot be deferred any longer in order to run on the next version of servers.

**President Hooper** questioned what savings was gained over the last three years by not performing regular upgrading.

**Mr. Grace** responded that the City has saved over \$600,000 to date. He noted that even if previous upgrades were undertaken, the City would still be scheduled to do another upgrade in late 2014 and 2015. He explained that the City is almost breaking even by doing the scheduled upgrade now.

**President Hooper** questioned what portion of the total upgrade figure is for implementation and training, where the City is on its process, and if other vendors will be considered.

**Mr. Grace** responded that the software itself is approximately \$350,000 to \$400,000. He explained that the Request For Proposal is out and is due back in by this or next Thursday. He noted that the Administration would like to come before Council in mid-November for a decision to move forward. He added that the City is looking to continue with JDEdwards software as the upgrade will result in only minor changes to screens and will allow the conversion of data from within itself. He noted that the variability in cost will be in the implementation of the system.

**President Hooper** questioned the longevity of an upgrade.

**Mr. Grace** responded that upgrades are necessary every three or four years; however, he explained that the next upgrade will most likely be in the range of \$375,000 based on past history. He commented that a tools upgrade is done every other year and is roughly \$14,000.

**Mr. Webber** expressed his appreciation for the MIS Department's assistance to the Older Persons' Commission with their computer upgrades.

**Discussed.**

2013-0285 Discussion - General Fund (100's) - 2014 Budget

**Attachments:** [081913 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[082613 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[Suppl General Fund Revenue Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Mayors Dept Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Genl Fund Transfer Out Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Assessing-Treasury Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Planning Dept Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Building-Ordinance Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Clerks Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Human Resources Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Parks and Forestry Presentation.pdf](#)

**Tina Barton**, City Clerk, introduced **Leanne Scott**, Deputy Clerk. She expressed her thanks to the MIS Department noting that they rendered much assistance as she took over the Clerk's Office this past March. She highlighted the details of the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and projected 2015 and 2016 Budget for the Clerk's Department:

CLERKS

City Council (102)

Elections (191)

Clerk's Department (215)

Cemetery (276)

Stoney Creek Perpetual Care Trust (752)

- Department Reorganization included the elimination of the City Council Coordinator position, redistribution of job responsibilities and physical relocation of staff members. This has allowed for opportunities for staff growth and promoted unity and teamwork.

- A Part-Time Youth Council Liaison was added.
- Departmental employees were highlighted along with their various responsibilities, including Elections, Vital Statistics, Records Management, Solicitation Licenses and Cemetery Administration.
- Fewer Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests were received than previously received in the last two years. The majority of FOIA requests currently received concern requests for technical information such as the location of underground storage tanks on potential development sites.
- A business plan for the Cemetery is in development. GIS mapping options will possibly be added to the PONTEM system. The system was also installed on computers at the Cemetery.
- A new sign was installed at the Cemetery to replace the sign which had deteriorated. Currently the condition of entrance gates are under review to determine whether they can be repaired or will need replacement.
- The laborer position at the Cemetery will be offered to one of the candidates this week, and a part-time position will also be filled.
- An imaging contract program currently available through the State of Michigan could prove less expensive for the City than the current contract. Options are being explored.
- Staff provide support to a number of City Boards, Commissions and to Council. Council staff also process passports, hitting the 1,000 mark this year, and resulting in over \$30,000 in revenue. Staff provide photo service. Notary service is also available.
- The new Rochester Hills Government Youth Council (RHGYC) Liaison will coordinate the group's activities and communicate with Youth Council members. The RHGYC donated over \$16,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Troy, and recently hosted a Senior Prom at the American House.

#### **Council Discussion:**

**President Hooper** commended Clerk Barton for her leadership.

**Mr. Webber** questioned why the Deer Management Advisory Committee budget contains \$750 more for 2014 than for 2013.

**Mayor Barnett** responded that the cost for the aerial survey has gone up.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** questioned what the City's current imaging options are.

**Clerk Barton** responded that the State is offering imaging as a contract option. She added that the contract with Docustore is also up this year and will be reviewed.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** questioned whether documents would be scanned.

**Clerk Barton** responded that one of the State's options is microfilming. She commented that she previously worked with Graphic Sciences at her prior community.

**Discussed.**

**2013-0291** Discussion - Trust and Agency Funds (700's) - 2014 Budget

**Attachments:** [081913 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Retiree Trust Fund Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Clerks Presentation.pdf](#)

**See Legislative File 2013-0285 for Council Discussion.**

**Discussed.**

**2013-0285** Discussion - General Fund (100's) - 2014 Budget

**Attachments:** [081913 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[082613 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[Suppl General Fund Revenue Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Mayors Dept Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Genl Fund Transfer Out Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Assessing-Treasury Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Planning Dept Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Building-Ordinance Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Clerks Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Human Resources Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Parks and Forestry Presentation.pdf](#)

**Pamela Gordon**, Director of Human Resources, introduced **Nancy Bowman**, Senior Human Resources Analyst, and **Helen Sultana-Kelly**, Human Resource Analyst/Program Coordinator. She noted that Ms. Sultana-Kelly received recognition from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) for her development of a drivers training program for seasonal parks employees. **Ms. Gordon** presented the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and projected 2015 and 2016 Budget for the Human Resources Department:

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

##### **Human Resources Department (233)**

The department's focus is on the City's workforce. She reported that the 2013 Public Opinion Survey noted that those surveyed indicated a 97 percent satisfaction rate with employee professionalism.

##### **Workforce Challenges**

- Managing workload with fewer people, maintaining a productive and engaged workforce and providing attractive/competitive compensation and benefits.
- Staff numbers have decreased by 20 percent in the last seven years. No change in full-time budgeted positions proposed for 2014.
- Focus on maintaining a productive and engaged workforce. Stress is a great health risk.
- The City must compete with the private sector for employees. A survey noted that one-quarter of the workforce is not satisfied with pay and benefits. Adjustments have averaged less than one percent since 2009.
- One-third of the employees are eligible for retirement.
- Legislative mandates include Public Act 152 and Healthcare Reform.
- Wellness program enhancements include a new vendor and personalized goals, improved communication tools and verified participation.
- Improved Safety Awareness - (34 percent increase in Workers Compensation Premiums)

- Opportunities for:
  - \* Collaborative Labor Relations
  - \* Support for Employee Engagement
  - \* Effective Recruitment and Selection

**Council Discussion:**

**Mr. Klomp** thanked Ms. Gordon and her department members for their presentation.

**Mr. Webber** commented that the City has moved to a new normal in terms of staffing, salary and benefits. He questioned whether the Michigan Municipal League offered any safety training programs.

**Ms. Gordon** responded that the Administration is looking at programs and resources from all sources.

**PARKS**

**Mike Hartner**, Director of Parks and Forestry, **Alan Buckenmeyer**, Parks Operations Manager, and **Dave Etz**, Forestry Ranger II, were in attendance to present the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and projected FY 2015 and FY 2016 Budget for the Parks and Forestry Department.

**Mr. Buckenmeyer** highlighted the Parks Division:

**Parks Department (756)**

- Fourteen City Parks, 1,000 acres of parkland, Rivers, Trails and Environmental and Historical programs.

**Mr. Hartner** pointed out that park attendance is weather-dependent, and the City may see its benchmark of one million visitors dip slightly this year due to the weather.

- Three-quarters of all City residents have visited a City Park in the past year.
- Parks Revenue has increased by 63 percent since 2006.

He reviewed the various parks and noted recent projects and improvements:

- The Bloomer Park Velodrome surface was replaced through a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Passport Grant, and volunteer labor. More community events and fund raisers are being held at Bloomer Park.
- Yates Park features great fishing on the Clinton River. Many more kayak and canoe enthusiasts are using an improved Clinton River for recreation.
- Borden Park continues to have a strong soccer and ball field demand. More tournaments and special events are being held there.
- Attendance at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm has hit an all-time high.
- The Calf Barn project was undertaken with \$636,200 in private pledges.
- Environmental Education is alive and well. The program is based at the Museum and utilizes other park sites.

- The Riverbend Park Master Plan is progressing.
- Community Garden is thriving.
- Proposed Operating Expenses for FY 2014 are almost identical to 2009 levels.

**Mr. Etz** presented the proposed Budget for the Forestry Division, noting the following:

Forestry (774)

- Established in 1985, the Forestry Division maintains pathway and river clearance, cares for 19,000 street trees, and performs storm damage cleanup.
- Proposed service levels for 2014 are the same as in 2013.

**Mr. Hartner** continued:

Tree Fund (232)

- It is proposed to continue the policy of transferring interest earned to fund Forestry operations.
- It is proposed to continue the tree planting program.

Green Space (299)

- Green Space will continue seeking grant monies, evaluate and make recommendations on nominated properties.
- A revised Scope of Authority will include stewardship of natural features.

Council Discussion:

**Mr. Klomp** expressed his appreciation to the Parks and Forestry Department, noting that staff does a terrific job.

**Mr. Rosen** questioned how lottery entrants receive sports field times.

**Mr. Hartner** responded that everyone who enters the lottery receives field time. The lottery determines who receives the most popular time slots. He commented that it is a fair system.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** requested the following information:

- Whether the Riverbend Park design is complete and has been presented to the residents.
- Whether the Riverbend Park design may be viewed on the Internet.
- Whether the goal of the Forestry Division is to plant 300 trees in the Cooperative Tree Planting Program.
- How the Tree Management Districts were determined.

**Mr. Hartner** responded with the following:

- The Riverbend Park design was well-received by residents in attendance.
- The proposed design is viewable on the Parks page of the City's website.
- Of 300 trees planted in total, 146 of those were through the Cooperative Tree Planting Program.

- Tree management districts were set up in 1985.

**President Hooper** noted a concern expressed by a resident whose car registration was in the name of a business not in the City, who was not allowed to enter Spencer Park as a resident. He did, however, have a driver's license with a Rochester Hills address. He questioned how this should have been handled.

**Mr. Hartner** responded that in that instance, the booth attendant should have requested a supervisor come to the booth. The supervisor would have then explained other documents acceptable to prove residency such as a utility bill.

**Discussed.**

**2013-0286** Discussion - Special Revenue Funds (200's) - 2014 Budget

**Attachments:** [081913 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[082613 Budget Presentation Schedule.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Parks and Forestry Presentation.pdf](#)

**See Legislative File 2013-0285 for Council Discussion.**

**Discussed.**

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

## NEXT MEETING DATE

*Special Budget Meeting - Monday, August 26, 2013 - 5:30 PM*

## ADJOURNMENT

*There being no further business before Council, President Hooper adjourned the meeting at 10:25 p.m.*

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GREG HOOPER, President  
Rochester Hills City Council

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TINA BARTON, Clerk  
City of Rochester Hills

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MARY JO PACHLA  
Administrative Secretary  
City Clerk's Office

*Approved as presented at the September 30, 2013 Regular City Council Meeting.*