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# Rochester Hills

## Minutes

### City Council Regular Meeting

*Erik Ambrozaitis, J. Martin Brennan, Greg Hooper, Vern Pixley, James Rosen,  
Michael Webber and Ravi Yalamanchi*

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Monday, April 28, 2008

7:30 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

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#### CALL TO ORDER

*President Hooper called the Regular Rochester Hills City Council Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Michigan Time.*

#### ROLL CALL

**Present** 6 - Erik Ambrozaitis, J. Martin Brennan, Greg Hooper, Vern Pixley, Michael Webber and Ravi Yalamanchi  
**Absent** 1 - James Rosen

#### Others Present:

*Bryan Barnett, Mayor  
Scott Cope, Director of Building/Ordinance Compliance  
Julie Jenuwine, Director of Finance  
Jane Leslie, City Clerk  
Roger Rousse, Director of DPS/Engineering  
John Staran, City Attorney  
Robert White, Supervisor of Ordinance Services  
Kelly Winters, Deputy Director of Building/Ordinance Compliance*

*Council Member James Rosen had given previous notice that he would be unable to attend and asked to be excused.*

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

*Boy Scout Troop 356 from St. John Lutheran School, Presented the Colors.*

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**A motion was made by Webber, seconded by Yalamanchi, that the Agenda be Approved as Presented. The motion CARRIED unanimously.**

**Aye** 6 - Ambrozaitis, Brennan, Hooper, Pixley, Webber and Yalamanchi

**Absent** 1 - Rosen

## PUBLIC COMMENT

**David Kibby**, 558 Whitney, spoke in favor of the concept of a soccer facility at Borden Park. He likened nearby resident's concerns to the example that lakefront owners have no control of boaters, and boater fees generate revenue. He stated that parks are not just for green space, they are for people to use and play in.

**Catherine Paklaian**, 367 Old Perch Rd., requested Council address the deer problems in Rochester Hills. She feels that the deer overpopulation could lead to a serious accident, and stated that something needs to be done to reduce the deer overpopulation and the problems it causes in the City.

## LEGISLATIVE & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

**Mayor Barnett** made the following announcements:

- The Community Prayer Breakfast is being held tomorrow morning at Oakland University. The featured speaker is Ruth Graham, daughter of Billy Graham. Eight to nine hundred attendees are expected.

- The second phase of the Sound the Alarm Campaign was in the Providence Avon manufactured home community off of Auburn Road. Volunteers were allowed into 254 homes and replaced 75 inoperable smoke detectors, provided 85 additional detector installations, and changed batteries on 63 detectors. The remaining funding will begin to target homes built before 1974.

- Arbor Day activities were held on Friday, April 25. This is Rochester Hills' 18th consecutive year as a Tree City. The Forestry Department is largely responsible for the City's activities, and since 1984 has planted over 6,500 trees on neighborhood streets and in common areas. This year, a tree was planted in the Powderhorn Ridge Boulevard near the Brewster entrance to Shadowwoods Subdivision, as a memorial to the late John Strelka, a City resident who had been very involved in tree-planting activities. The planting was accomplished with the assistance of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a Cub Scout troop.

- The Rochester Hills Government Youth Council's Youth Summit was held on April 26. Mayor Barnett stated that he is proud of the group's leadership and ingenuity, and thanked the Clerk's staff and other departments for their efforts in making the Summit a success.

**Angie Jackson**, Rochester Hills Government Youth Council Representative, related that through vigorous planning and local support, this Youth Summit was a success. The Summit was based on the theme of Youth Leadership and Involvement in Local Government. She reported that the Mock Council sessions were the most engaging and entertaining portion of the day. She wanted to

*thank the sponsors, the Mayor, the contributing Department Heads, Copper Rizzo, Councilman Very Pixley, and the Clerk's Council Staff Leanne Scott, Christine Wissbrun and Mary Jo Whitbey, for their efforts and assistance.*

**Mr. Yalamanchi** introduced Scoutmaster Dirk Mammen of Troop 356.

**Scoutmaster Dirk Mammen**, Troop 356, chartered out of St. John Lutheran Church and School, thanked Council for allowing the Troop the opportunity to Present the Colors as a part of their Merit Badge process, as well as a rank advancement. He also thanked Council Member Yalamanchi for spending time with the Troop and answering their questions prior to the meeting.

**Mr. Pixley** stated he was proud of the Youth Council for the leadership they bring to the community. The Summit was an exceptional, extremely well-organized event. He gave special thanks to the Clerk's staff, especially Leanne Scott, City Council Coordinator and Adult Advisor for the Youth Council, and the Department heads who participated and provided guidance and explain what the City does on a daily basis. He stated that the Mock Council was tremendous. He also stated that the upcoming Prayer Breakfast is an outstanding and rewarding community event and encouraged attendance.

**Mr. Ambrozaitis** extended his congratulations to the Boy Scouts. He stated his next door neighbor is a third grader at McGregor Elementary, involved in a project for recycling and greening of the City. He asked for Council's support of the McGregor project.

**Mr. Brennan** stated he was also concerned about the deer overpopulation. He wanted residents to know that the City is being proactive and studying this issue. He also stated that he had received excellent feedback regarding the Youth Summit.

**President Hooper** echoed Council's comments on the Youth Summit, stating he was truly impressed with the concept and performance of this project. He felt the Summit is an excellent way for students to become proactive. He also stated that the Sound the Alarm campaign was outstanding, and felt the Fire Department and other employee volunteers were truly dedicated. The community they visited on Saturday consisted of primarily seniors, and he felt this campaign made a difference.

## ATTORNEY MATTERS

**City Attorney John Staran** had nothing to report.

2008-0199      Litigation - Donnelly vs. The City of Rochester Hills

**Attachments:** [Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Resolution.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by Ambrozaitis, seconded by Webber, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 6 - Ambrozaitis, Brennan, Hooper, Pixley, Webber and Yalamanchi

**Absent** 1 - Rosen

Enactment No: RES0093-2008

Whereas, the City Council met in closed session to discuss the Donnelly vs. City of Rochester Hills pending litigation and possible strategies.

**Resolved**, that the City of Rochester Hills City Council hereby accepts the City's attorney Ms. Laura Amtsbuechler's recommendation and City Council authorizes her to proceed with her recommendation regarding the Donnelly vs. City of Rochester Hills case, as discussed in the closed session earlier this evening.

## CONSENT AGENDA

All matters under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion, without discussion. If any Council Member or Citizen requests discussion of an item, it will be removed from Consent Agenda for separate discussion.

**2008-0202** Approval of Minutes - City Council Work Session - August 30, 2007

**Attachments:** [CC Min 083007.pdf](#)  
[Resolution.pdf](#)

**This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: RES0094-2008

**Resolved**, that the Minutes of a Rochester Hills City Council Work Session held on August 30, 2007 be approved as presented.

**2008-0197** Approval of Minutes - City Council Work Session - September 5, 2007

**Attachments:** [CC Min 090507.pdf](#)  
[Resolution.pdf](#)

**This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: RES0095-2008

**Resolved**, that the Minutes of a Rochester Hills City Council Work Session held on September 5, 2007 be approved as presented.

**2008-0203** Approval of Minutes - City Council Regular Meeting - September 12, 2007

**Attachments:** [CC Min 091207.pdf](#)  
[Resolution.pdf](#)

**This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: RES0096-2008

**Resolved**, that the Minutes of a Rochester Hills City Council Regular Meeting held on September 12, 2007 be approved as presented.

**2008-0200** Approval of Minutes - City Council Work Session - September 19, 2007

**Attachments:** [CC Min 091907](#)  
[Resolution.pdf](#)

**This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: RES0097-2008

**Resolved**, that the Minutes of a Rochester Hills City Council Work Session held on September 19, 2007 be approved as presented.

**2008-0204** Approval of Minutes - City Council Regular Meeting - September 26, 2007

**Attachments:** [CC Min 092607.pdf](#)  
[Resolution.pdf](#)

**This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: RES0098-2008

**Resolved**, that the Minutes of a Rochester Hills City Council Regular Meeting held on September 26, 2007 be approved as presented.

**2008-0169** Approval of Minutes - City Council Work Session Meeting - October 3, 2007

**Attachments:** [CC Min 100307.pdf](#)  
[Resolution.pdf](#)

**This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: RES0099-2008

**Resolved**, that the Minutes of a Rochester Hills City Council Work Session Meeting held on October 3, 2007 be approved as presented.

**2008-0045** Approval of Minutes - City Council Regular Meeting - October 10, 2007

**Attachments:** [CC Min 101007.pdf](#)  
[Resolution.pdf](#)

**This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: RES0100-2008

**Resolved**, that the Minutes of a Rochester Hills City Council Regular Meeting held on October 10, 2007 be approved as presented.

- 2008-0196** Request for Purchase Authorization - DPS/GARAGE: Blanket Purchase Order for "2008" Thermoplastic Marking Program in the amount not-to-exceed \$38,517.45; R.S. Contracting Inc., Casco, MI

**Attachments:** [Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Bid Tabulation.pdf](#)  
[Contract Extension.pdf](#)  
[2008 Program.pdf](#)  
[Resolution.pdf](#)

**This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: RES0101-2008

**Resolved**, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby authorizes a Blanket Purchase Order to R.S. Contracting Inc., Casco, Michigan for the "2008" Thermoplastic Marking Program in the amount not-to-exceed \$38,517.45 through December 31, 2008, and further authorizes the Mayor to execute a contract on behalf of the City.

**Passed the Consent Agenda**

**A motion was made by Pixley, seconded by Yalamanchi, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye** 6 - Ambrozaitis, Brennan, Hooper, Pixley, Webber and Yalamanchi

**Absent** 1 - Rosen

**NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

- 2008-0190** Request to Confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Deborah Brnabic as Planning Commission representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a one-year term to expire March 31, 2009.

**Attachments:** [Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Resolution.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by Yalamanchi, seconded by Webber, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution to Reappoint Deborah Brnabic. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 6 - Ambrozaitis, Brennan, Hooper, Pixley, Webber and Yalamanchi

**Absent** 1 - Rosen

Enactment No: RES0103-2008

**Resolved**, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby confirms the Mayor's reappointment of Deborah Brnabic as Planning Commission representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a one-year term to expire March 31, 2009.

**2008-0198** Nomination/Appointment of one (1) Citizen Representative to the Zoning/Sign Board of Appeals for a three-year term to expire March 31, 2011.

**Attachments:** [Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Nomination Form.pdf](#)  
[Cockey Candidate Questionnaire.pdf](#)  
[Colling Jr Candidate Questionnaire.pdf](#)  
[Long Candidate Questionnaire.pdf](#)  
[McCarthy Candidate Questionnaire.pdf](#)  
[McIntosh Candidate Questionnaire.pdf](#)  
[Mueller Candidate Questionnaire.pdf](#)  
[Stein Candidate Questionnaire.pdf](#)  
[West Candidate Questionnaire.pdf](#)  
[Zendel Candidate Questionnaire.pdf](#)  
[Notice of Vacancy.pdf](#)  
[Resolution.pdf](#)

**Mr. Yalamanchi** nominated **Mr. Ernest Colling, Jr.**

*There were no additional nominations. President Hooper closed the nominations.*

**Mr. Ambrozaitis** wanted to thank **Mr. Colling** for his service to the City and stated that he is happy to support his reappointment.

**A motion was made by Webber, seconded by Ambrozaitis, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution to Appoint Ernest Colling Jr. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 6 - Ambrozaitis, Brennan, Hooper, Pixley, Webber and Yalamanchi

**Absent** 1 - Rosen

Enactment No: RES0102-2008

**Resolved**, that the Rochester Hills City Council appoints Ernest Colling Jr. to serve as a Zoning/Sign Board of Appeals Representative for a three-year term expiring March 31, 2011.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**2008-0083** Discussion regarding Single Trash Hauler

**Attachments:** [Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[042208 Building Memo.pdf](#)  
[Solid Waste Survey \(Revised\).pdf](#)  
[Solid Waste Survey.pdf](#)  
[022508 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Mayor Memo 021208.pdf](#)  
[CC Min 032906.pdf](#)  
[CC Agenda 032906.pdf](#)  
[Cope Memo 032406.pdf](#)  
[2004 Recommendations.pdf](#)  
[CC Minutes 051403 & 012804 and Agenda 072104.pdf](#)

**President Hooper** stated that Council directed the Administration to survey adjacent or similar sized communities and determine what their current status was regarding a single trash hauler, and present that information back to City Council.

**Public Comment:**

**Rev. Dr. Pamela Whately**, 1600 North Livernois Road, stated she was a senior citizen on a limited income, and felt that going with a single trash hauler takes away her right of choice. Her reasons for opposing this include: preventing her from changing haulers; not being able to take advantage of a senior discount; and not being able to suspend service if she was going to be out of town. She would like to retain the right to call the hauler herself if she had complaints.

**Alice Benbow**, 1582 Northumberland Drive, stated she is in favor of smaller government. She feels that if the City goes with a single trash hauler, billing should be done through the water bills. She feels residents should be given an opt-out. She questioned how the foreclosure rate in Oakland County will affect this and mentioned that this may be a hardship for some residents and could lead to additional liens put on homes for nonpayment.

**Lee Zendel**, 1575 Dutton Road, commented that it was his opinion that the survey did not include enough cities that had single trash haulers. He stated that questions regarding fuel surcharges, tipping, and other additional fees must be considered before a millage was levied. He felt many residents will wish this to be millage-based because then businesses will cover residential costs. He questioned the differences in haulers, indicating that Waste Management has 36 registered subsidiaries in Oakland County. He further questioned whether a new RFP would be issued when a contract expires, or if the City would renegotiate with the hauler selected.

**David Kibby**, 558 Whitney, spoke in favor of a single trash hauler. He feels that as a single household he has no power and that the City, representing 70,000 residents, would have more pull.

**Rea Siffring**, 971 Dutton Road, stated she was on the Ad Hoc Committee for Solid Waste in 2000, and highlighted some of the concerns that they had at that time:

- The list of complaints at the time regarding trash service was small.
- An Oakland County report given to the Committee in 2000 advised

communities to leave this service in the private sector.

- She also related that West Bloomfield set up a "recommended hauler" by bidding, they received a good price on that basis, and it was successful, with a little over 90 percent of households signing up for that service without government involvement.
- She is not in favor of mandating a single trash hauler because she feels it constitutes government's involvement in private enterprise.

**Judy Daggett**, 6600 Orion, expressed that she is opposed to the idea of a single trash hauler. She stated that she lives on a main road and feels that there are more trucks involved in road damage than just trash haulers.

**Melinda Hill**, 1481 Mill Race, stated that with rising gas, food and medicine costs, she looks for ways to reduce costs and curb spending. She stated she is not a fan of big government, but feels that government could facilitate trash hauling services at a better cost than residents can for themselves. A single trash hauler will reduce the number of trucks on the road, and reduce the days of the week trash is at the curbs. She would prefer billing to be by the tax rolls, rather than a separate billing process. Each household will pay according to taxable value, but households will still save over current costs. She stated that condominiums owners pay taxes for roads and receive no road maintenance services from the City, and condominium associations could adjust their fees to remove these trash hauling costs. Fines could be levied by the City against errant haulers, helping to ensure a higher quality of service, and the contract could specify an option for the City to end it.

**Christine Doan**, 873 Fieldstone, stated she strongly supports a single hauler. She feels it exercises her freedom to not have trucks on her street every day and smell their emissions. She trusts that the City can negotiate a contract to satisfy the needs of all residents at a cost that would save money.

**Paul Franklin**, 2136 Elkhorn, President of Cumberland Hills Subdivision Homeowners Association, stated that his subdivision has been successful in negotiating with Waste Management for ten years. This is the Subdivision's third year of its third contract with them. They have a rate now of \$14.85, and this will be going up to \$15.85 for the fourth year, with no fuel surcharge and no environmental fee. They know that when this contract is up, they will not maintain these low costs and lack of fuel surcharges. Their board of directors is strongly in favor of the City negotiating, and are strongly supportive of it being a part of tax rolls.

**Harper West**, 155 Arizona, supports having a single trash hauler, and presented 229 signatures on a petition supporting the single hauler. She believes that roads are a major consideration. She stated that part-time residents who own homes in the City still pay for other services while they are away, and trash services should be no different. She feels that the City would put a mechanism for complaints in place.

**Brenda Brannack**, 232 Thalia, stated her support of a single trash hauler. She stated that she did not want to see trash out five days a week in neighborhoods.

**Mary Jo Dinha**, 851 Dressler, stated she is opposed to having a single trash hauler, as she feels it would create a monopoly and deny freedom of choice. She feels residents should negotiate their own contracts, and feels condo owners would be double-dipped, as well as commercial owners. She feels vacant property owners will have increased taxes, and those part-year-residents would not be able to cancel service for part of the year. She feels a trash tax on property is discriminatory because it is based on value.

**Naomi Eliezer**, 2080 Avoncrest Court, stated she supports a single hauler. Her reasons included fewer trucks, less money, and the ability to deduct this from taxes. She questioned if there is a way to decrease the burden on senior citizens. She hopes that the savings from the economies of scale the City would receive would be credited to the citizens. She would like to see inclusion of hazardous waste disposal.

**Tom Zelinski**, 1127 Kingsview, stated he supported the single trash hauler concept, but was opposed to having this added to taxes. He feels cost should not be determined by the taxable value of a house. He recommends that the City should make the trash hauler selected be responsible for billing and collecting fees, and should also address any complaint issues.

**Pat Turner**, 2407 Culbertson, came at the request of Cecilia Strine, who could not attend. She cited the following data:

- One garbage truck trip is equivalent to 1,500 car trips in terms of pavement damage
- Recycling vehicles have the same impact as 535 automobiles
- Rear loader garbage trucks are usually used in residential areas. They have capacities of 20 to 30 cubic yards, and a gross vehicle weight of 40,000 pounds, which does not include the trash.
- Garbage trucks have a large enclosed compartment, a heavy hydraulic compressor for compacting and hauling refuse, dual wheels or a second rear axle for carrying additional weight.
- Research has also shown that the physics of stopping and starting further increase the impact of weight
- Pavement wear increases with axle weight
- Pavement impacts are also influenced by vehicle suspensions, tire pressure and tire type
- Calculations based on California DOT studies indicate that one trip by a garbage truck is equivalent to 9,700 trips with an average size auto. A vehicle weighing 5 tons causes over 100 times as much damage as a vehicle weighing one ton
- Based on the 2005 report by James Cannon, there are more than 136,000 refuse trucks that travel America's streets, contributing to air and noise pollution. Nearly 99 percent run on diesel fuels and their emissions pose serious threat to public health.

**Jim Moscato**, 3146 Kenwood, does not support a millage to pay for garbage hauling. He asked if the millage could be scaled down as the value of the house increases. He feels the City should not be involved in billing and questioned the manpower needed to manage a City-run trash hauling system. He suggested a

solution where the five or six subdivisions would get together to contract. He feels the best deal may not be in servicing 16,000 homes, but possibly 500-800 homes.

**John Krauss**, 522 Allston, expressed concerns regarding the millage aspect of a single trash hauler. He is a new homeowner and feels he would be impacted more than a long-standing resident. He felt this should be an issue voted on by the people, not decided by Council.

**Mike Moreno**, 1700 East Auburn, stated that as a business owner, and a 65-year resident, he is concerned about businesses not being included in trash hauling services. He feels businesses pay higher property taxes than homeowners. He has had success in negotiating his own contracts and does not think the City needs to be involved.

**Susan Moreno**, 500 Allston, questioned whether an owner of multiple vacant properties would be required to pay more for services she would not use. She feels that if the City ultimately decides to do this, it should be on a fee-basis, not a millage.

**Council Response:**

**President Hooper** addressed the public comment issues: The last time Council discussed this, they directed the Administration to conduct a survey. It was not intended to be an exhaustive survey which would cover everything, but be a representative sample.

- Part of a proposal option could be to suspend service for someone who left the area for long periods, and Council could review whether this would lead to additional costs or a savings. He felt a single trash hauler would save the money for the majority of residents.

- Adding trash hauling service billing to the water bill is a possibility, however not everyone in the City has a water and sewer bill. The millage rate might be the least expensive way, but an option could be presented for an invoiced-based service.

- A number of people supporting a millage rate like the fact that it is deductible on taxes for those that itemize.

- He stated he would not rule out the option of a trash hauler billing residents directly.

- The main reason for a single hauler is that the City, through economies of scale, could achieve a less expensive price for the majority of residents of Rochester Hills. During his recent campaign, residents stated that the single trash hauler was important.

- An RFP would lock in prices for a period of time. The successful bidder would take that upon their risk, and would have to guarantee a price. The length of the contract would also be part of the RFP process.

- Heavy trucks do damage roads. Reducing the number of trips on the road by trucks would reduce this damage.

- He acknowledged that millage-based billing would be discriminatory, but likened it to school taxes. Businesses and vacant land owners pay school taxes. Residents not a part of the Older Persons Commission (OPC) pay OPC tax. The system would look at what the majority of residents would benefit from. If the City were to include business service, obviously businesses would receive a benefit. Individuals with more expensive homes would pay more, but if the majority of residents receive a lower rate compared to the service rate they pay now, it would be a benefit.

**President Hooper** asked the Building Department to comment on the City's involvement.

**Scott Cope**, Director of Building and Ordinance Compliance, stated that a rough estimate is about 0.25 of a person for a year's time, translating to roughly a \$20,000 City cost in managing a single-hauler system.

**President Hooper** addressed additional comments:

- With a single trash hauler, trash would not be out in neighborhoods on multiple days. He would like to see a single trash hauler only four days a week in the city. When a holiday falls within that week, the fifth day would be the holiday pickup, and therefore there would never be trash out on a weekend.

- There are six different waste haulers servicing communities in the survey. This does not support the claim of a monopoly.

- Associations could address costs by lowering fees if condos and apartments were included.

- The survey proves communities with a single hauler pay less.

**Mr. Cope** responded to President Hooper's questions as follows:

- The City is in a No Haz group with other Oakland County communities. The City pays \$35,000.00 to \$45,000.00 per year for this. No hauler responding to the City's prior RFP would include household hazardous wastes.

- One proposal to handling complaints was to have a number at a desk at City Hall for a Supervisor of the trash hauler to come in and check complaints on the system twice a day. He would be required to provide the City with a report that these complaints were resolved within 24 hours. The City would follow through to verify these complaints were addressed. The responsibility for the actual follow-through on complaints would be the Trash Hauler's responsibility.

- Approximately 22,000 households are currently included.

- The City would not be allowed to use and extra dollars collected, if done by

millage, for anything but solid waste issues. The proposal is that if this was a millage method, this would be re-evaluated each year and the millage adjusted to the current cost of the program.

- State law enables Council to levy a millage of up to three mills specifically for solid waste only.

**President Hooper** indicated that businesses could be included as a part of the RFP as an option. He stated that the City could implement city-wide recycling to move toward more environmental conservation.

**Council Discussion:**

**Mr. Brennan** stated that this topic was thoroughly covered and many good comments were made. He stated that as District 2 Representative, the single trash hauler was something the residents in his district want the City to address. He is in favor of sending out an RFP to give this issue further study.

**Mr. Webber** stated it is his opinion that the City has gotten to a point in its maturity that this issue needs to be studied more closely. His remaining questions include decisions on a millage versus a billing process. He stated that he would like to see a fairly broad RFP process to see what these options are, and would like the RFP to include an opt-out design.

**Mr. Pixley** thanked the residents who came to speak tonight. He stated that he has seen overwhelming support in favor of a single trash hauler. He thinks that a request for proposal should go out that includes businesses, discusses billing, whether tax or separate, addresses complaints through a complaint bureau, addresses senior discounts and addresses accountability from the City's standpoint. He would also like to include a hold for vacation in the proposals.

**Mr. Yalamanchi** thanked Mr. Cope and Mr. White for their efforts in providing information, and stated that a key reason to study this at this time is the continually increasing costs and multiple trash haulers on city streets. He stated that in addition to trucks, damage occurs from roadway design, maintenance, the freeze and thaw process, and water running down street during heavy rains. He would like to look at more environmentally-responsible solutions, such as two-week collections and increased recycling. He stated that he is hesitant for the City to get involved in trash hauling for the following reasons:

- Currently residents deal directly with trash haulers.

- If the billing is done by the City, it is estimated that there will be 25 percent of a staff member's time devoted to this and he suspects there would be a higher level of involvement than this, with both Building and Accounting involvement. If this is a millage-based system, Finance would be involved as well.

- Anytime there is a middleman, issues do not get resolved quickly. More residents will have a reason to get upset with the City for hauler problems. He feels Council's focus will be taken away from critical issues.

- *This would take away from critical resources. The benefit of low costs, if any, could be short term. He would rather ask residents at an appropriate time to share burden of costs on roads or police, or other key essential services.*
- *He would be in favor of one company under the following conditions: Residents should contract with the hauler themselves. There should be no additional involvement by the City. Bids should explore the possibilities of increasing recycling, and two-week pickups. Billing should be done directly by the company to the residents. He would like to see timely pickup on the appointed day, not leaving any mess.*
- *Once a company is selected, all communications should be between residents and trash hauler.*
- *He mentioned the need for a solution for part-time residents, those subdivisions already in a contract, businesses and condominiums.*
- *A hauler should only be on City roads four days a week.*
- *He stated that he would like to see the City adopt a resolution to promote the encouragement to use only paper and not plastic bags.*

**President Hooper** stated that encouraging the use of paper bags over plastic bags could be added to Council's Goals and Objectives for the year.

**Mayor Barnett** stated that many of the resident's comments tonight were addressed in the RFP. The study provided includes companies that already offer senior discounts, as well as part-year service for a fee. He is a supporter of a single hauler solid waste, and stated that Rochester Hills is currently the exception rather than the rule in Oakland County. While the survey only shows a dozen communities in close proximity, 65-70 percent of the communities in Oakland County have municipal government involved in trash. He does not think that in a community of 70,000 everyone will be happy, however the majority should be happy. He stated that a complaint mechanism could be specified in the RFP. He believes this takes advantage of economies of scale, and that other companies would express interest because of the extent of the City's contract. He suggested that he would like Council to review the RFP from 2004.

**President Hooper** stated he supports going out for the RFP, and reiterated that the RFP process does not commit the City to anything. He stated that a basic RFP plus options should be prepared for a five-year contract with a five-year renewal option. It should be millage based but with the option of an invoice by hauler, or invoice by the City on the water bill. He believes there should be a price for residents, for multi-family and condominiums, and business owners as options. Along with that, he wanted to see dumpster rental prices. He would like to see options for opt-out, a senior discount, hazardous waste disposal, and a system for complaint resolution with a damage clause. He would also explore reviewing the option of bi-weekly service.

*Mr. Cope explained that the 2004 RFP was for collection only, not disposal. There would be an assembly of a number of different options, and correct wording is critical. He stated that they will do their best to do this as quickly as possible.*

*Mayor Barnett stated that in reviewing City Council's goals and objectives, this is Council's Number One priority, after Police and Roads, and Charter Non-Structural. He asked if Council could meet in subcommittee to work with administration to refine process.*

*It was the consensus of Council that an RFP process should be started.*

**This matter was Discussed.**

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Police and Road Funding Technical Review Committee**

*Mr. Webber reported that the Committee met on April 17, and will be meeting again on May 1.*

### **Rochester Area Youth Assistance**

*Mr. Ambrozaitis announced the 34th Annual Youth Recognition Banquet for the Rochester Area Youth Assistance (RAYA) is set for April 29, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the River Crest Banquet Facility. He stated this was an exciting 50th anniversary for RAYA.*

### **Water and Sewer Technical Review Committee**

*President Hooper stated that the Committee has met twice and has been going through proposals on rates.*

### **Charter Non-Structural Technical Review Committee**

*President Hooper reported that the Committee has met twice and will be meeting again on May 21.*

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*None.*

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

*Monday, May 5, 2008 - 7:30 PM*

## ADJOURNMENT

*There being no further business before Council, President Hooper adjourned the meeting at 9:38 p.m.*

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*GREG HOOPER, President  
Rochester Hills City Council*

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*JANE LESLIE, Clerk  
City of Rochester Hills*

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*MARY JO WHITBEY  
Administrative Secretary  
City Clerk's Office*

*Approved as presented at the June 16, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting.*