

MINUTES of the Special Rochester Hills City Council Work Session held at the City of Rochester Hills Municipal Building, 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, on Wednesday, December 01, 1999.

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 Work Session would commence at 6:00 p.m. Michigan Time on Wednesday, December 01, 1999, for the purpose of discussing the Tienken Road Corridor.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Vice President Robbins called the Special Rochester Hills City Council Work Session to order at 6:10 p.m. Michigan Time.

Present: Vice President Gerald Robbins, Members Bryan Barnett, John Dalton, Jim Duisternars, Melinda Hill, Barbara Holder

Absent: Lois Golden (6:17 p.m.)

QUORUM PRESENT

Others Present: Pat Somerville, Mayor
Stephen Dearing, Traffic Engineer

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the audience provided comment(s).

4. TIENKEN ROAD CORRIDOR

(Enter Ms. Golden 6:17 p.m.)

Mr. Dearing introduced Mr. Richard Beaubien and Mr. P. Nannapaneni of Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. (HRC) who have been working on the Tienken Road Corridor Study-Executive Summary.

Mr. Dearing provided background information on why the Corridor Study was necessary, what information would be presented and proposals for future consideration.

- Previously residents had expressed opposition to widening Tienken Road. Traffic projections made in the past were not believed to be accurate by the residents; it was assumed that traffic would build up slowly over a long period of time.
- There exists a significant crash problem on Tienken Road, west of Rochester Road, up and over the hill between Pine and Winry, near Bedford Square; and in the valley and trailway crossing (the top of the hill, near Pine and Winry, limits sight distance due to its sharp crest).
- It was suggested that the hill be cut down for better sight distance and convert Tienken from a two-lane to a three-lane road (third lane being a center lane to handle the numerous left turn movements).
- Tri-Party funds would be the funding source for the project (funding from the City of Rochester Hills, the Road Commission of Oakland County and Oakland County). The City has been saving funds since approximately 1997 to improve of the road segment because of the safety issues.
- Growth exploded in the area due to:
 - City of Rochester hooking up to Detroit Sanitary Sewer
 - The addition of 1300 homes, Rochester will be at build-out
 - A new high school being built on Tienken Road
- Shelby Township and Washington Township growth far exceeding

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- projections
- Current Tienken Road traffic volumes exceeding the volumes that were projected to occur in fifteen (15) years

Mr. Dearing reported the final report would be completed shortly and direction is needed from City Council. The study is a specialty study focusing on all of the changes occurring in the area of Tienken Road (from Livernois Road to the roundabout at Washington and Runyon). The study was conducted to evaluate all of the changed assumptions, focusing on traffic and pedestrian safety issues and to provide recommendations. Mr. Dearing inquired if City Council would like to hold public informational meetings or public hearings on the matter. In the event the City Council determines to move forward with improvements, Mr. Dearing would attempt to obtain Federal Aid. Requests for Federal Aid occur only once a year through their "Call For Projects" for funding. Federal Aid requests must be submitted by the end of January 2000.

Mr. Beaubien distributed a summary, dated November 30, 1999, to City Council. The summary referenced the following:

- Traffic Safety Issues
- Trip Generation for Proposed Developments
- Recommended Improvements for Tienken/Rochester
- Paint Creek Trail Crossing Alternatives
- Pedestrian Safety Path Options in the Historic District
- Recommended Improvements for Tienken Road

Mr. Beaubien projected a computer model of the Rochester Road/Tienken intersection which indicated traffic flowing through the area as it currently exists and as proposed.

The following improvements were recommended by HRC:

- Tienken/Rochester Road
 - A boulevard design with a signalized left turn cross over on all approaches.
- Paint Creek Trail Crossing Alternatives
 - A pedestrian refuge island installed in the center lane of Tienken Road (assuming that Tienken is built as a three lane road in the future).
- Pedestrian Safety Path in the Historic District
 - Alley improvements parallel to Tienken Road between Van Hoosen and Washington for a non-motorized safety path.
- Tienken Road
 - Addition of a center left turn lane to the two lane section of Tienken whenever possible. If Tienken is reconstructed as a three lane pavement, the vertical alignment should be revised to improve sight distance (make the crest of the hill less severe).

Mr. Dearing noted, other than a boulevard on Tienken at Rochester, all other components in the study, in terms of its recommendations, conform to the Planning Commission's direction given in the Master Plan Update. Mr. Dearing inquired if City Council could provide guidance so that he could begin working on the project applications. He noted that the City Council has already provided direction to staff regarding the three lanes and to cut down the hill on Tienken in the area of Bedford Square because of the number of crashes occurring in that area.

City Council members will be provided with the expanded report once it becomes available. It was noted that City Council may consider an additional Work Session or Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission on this matter. No resolutions were presented.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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No Other Business was discussed.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss before Council, Vice President Robbins adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

GERALD ROBBINS, Vice President
Rochester Hills City Council

MARILYN A. PAULSEN-TOMASZEWSKI
Administrative Assistant
to the City Clerk

BEVERLY A. JASINSKI, Clerk
City of Rochester Hills

Approved at the January 05, 2000 City Council Meeting, as Presented
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