



Rochester Hills Minutes

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City Council Special Work Session

*Erik Ambrozaitis, Jim Duistermars, Barbara Holder, Greg Hooper,
Linda Raschke, James Rosen, Ravi Yalamanchi*

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

7:30 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

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 be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

President Rosen called the Special Rochester Hills City Council Work Session to order at 7:34 p.m. Michigan Time.

ROLL CALL

Present: Erik Ambrozaitis, Barbara Holder, Greg Hooper, Linda Raschke, James Rosen and Ravi Yalamanchi

Absent: Jim Duistermars

Others Present:

*Bryan Barnett, Mayor
Jane Leslie, City Clerk*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REVIEW OF AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. John Dalton, 2602 New England Drive, asked that the water reservoir project be reinstated as a solution to water pressure problems as well as a cost savings.

LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

Ms. Holder agreed with Mr. Dalton, noting the cost savings to the City if water reservoirs were constructed.

Mr. Ambrozaitis stated that he would oppose any plan to expand Tienken Road to five lanes. He cautioned residents to wear reflective clothing at night when walking through subdivisions.

Ms. Raschke also agreed with Mr. Dalton and stated she would pursue having the water reservoir issue addressed by Council. She further noted that she had received no contact from residents expressing concern about the Tienken Road Bridge being expanded to five lanes. She stressed how the new bridge will allow for expansion in the distant future.

Mr. Yalamanchi clarified his request for a report regarding the \$2.5 million the City is required by Consent Judgment to pay Grand Sakwa for the ring road on their development. He noted his belief that, although unintentional, errors were made in communicating this information clearly to Council. He further requested that the report include the evaluations of scenarios that could defer or reduce these costs.

President Rosen noted that he had discussed Mr. Yalamanchi's request for a report on the matter with the Mayor. He thanked Mr. Yalamanchi for further clarification of his request.

Mayor Barnett assured Mr. Yalamanchi that his administration was working to provide him and his colleagues on Council with a report on the Grand Sakwa matter and it would be forthcoming. He then announced an upcoming football game between Rochester and Rochester Hills to raise money for a local charity. He also noted that former Congressman William Broomfield recently made a generous donation to the City's museum.

ADMINISTRATION

CITY COUNCIL

2007-0080

Review of 1999 Vision and Strategic Plan

Attachments: Agenda Summary.pdf; Preface Strategic Plan 1999.pdf; Chapter 1 Strategic Plan 1999.pdf

Council members and the Mayor noted the following while discussing the 1999 Vision & Strategic Plan results as well as how a new Strategic Plan should be approached:

- The cost of the 1999 project was approximately \$150,000.
- Council should move forward with a new strategic planning process that includes resident input.
- There were significant efforts to include diverse groups and residents in the 1999 process.
- The process by which individual comments were evaluated likely skewed the results.
- The Steering Committee did not necessarily consist of "ordinary people."
- With the prevalence of better technology such as the Internet, it has become easier for residents to participate in oversight of the City's functions.
- The process used in 1999 was a unique way to engage residents and take the pulse of the community.
- The Council and Administration should never stray too far from gaining resident input.
- No matter what type of strategic planning process is used there will always be flaws.
- A Strategic Plan provides much needed direction.
- Every entity should have Strategic Management Principles derived from a Strategic Plan.

- *Government should not be in its own "silo" but rather should be considering the global environment.*
- *The results from the 1999 process do offer value and can be used as a jumping off point for a new Strategic Plan.*
- *It is the responsibility of the City to find out what the residents want.*
- *Residents do not come to public forums, but rather prefer alternate ways of communicating such as surveys, email, etc.*
- *Surveys are designed to gain input from various areas and individuals as opposed to hearing from residents on a random basis.*
- *The City has changed a great deal since 1999.*
- *The 1999 results provide a good historical perspective; but the City has moved beyond its usefulness.*
- *The 1999 process was too complicated, having addressed too many issues but none of them well.*
- *The central vision of the City needs to be established based on a set of ideals, beliefs and values.*
- *The City needs to be in a position of strength in order to survive.*
- *There needs to be a structured process in place to pursue a Strategic Plan.*
- *Any plan must take into account external factors, such as reductions in State-shared revenues.*
- *Surveying residents is only part of the process; internal strengths and weaknesses must also be evaluated.*
- *Participation in the process should include not only City Council members, but also the Mayor, department heads, business leaders and the Chamber of Commerce, Oakland University representatives, members of the healthcare community, etc.*
- *The survey proposed by the Mayor to be done with the assistance of Oakland University will provide a valuable tool in this new Strategic Plan process.*
- *A formal survey is unnecessary as Council members are approached daily by residents who share their concerns, opinions and ideas.*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Lee Zendel, 1575 Dutton Road, noting that he had been a participant in the original 1999 Strategic Planning process, indicated that the process was too costly with the results easily skewed by the participants.

Discussed

2007-0078

City Council Mission Statement

Attachments: Current Mission Statement.pdf

Following are suggested City Council Mission Statements resulting from Council's discussion:

Mr. Hooper: "The City Council of Rochester Hills, by possession of legislative and policy forming powers, shall provide for the public peace, health and safety of the persons and property within the City at the most cost effective rate possible."

President Rosen: "To protect and maintain the City of Rochester Hills as a premier place to live and work."

Ms. Holder: "Rochester Hills City Government mission is to create synergies with residents, business and visitors to maintain an upscale and balanced community for the present and future for all."

Resident Lee Zendel, 1575 Dutton Road: "The mission of the City Council is to make sound, informed legislative decisions using its Charter-granted powers for the positive benefit of the residents."

Other Mission Statements mentioned during discussion were as follows:

Included in the packet materials: "The mission of the City Council is to represent the citizens of Rochester Hills and through open communication, responsibly establish goals and adopt policy that meets the needs of the community."

City Hall Mission Statement: "Our mission is to establish customer service as the primary goal for Rochester Hills City Government through continued professional growth of our employees, through credible pro-active improvements to our procedures and technologies, through effective planning for our infrastructure needs and the affective retention and attraction of residents and businesses."

Mayor Barnett's Mission Statement: "To make Rochester Hills the premiere place to live, work and raise your family."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Juan Munoz, 498 Kensington, suggested that any Mission Statement should include ensuring the City's survival in the future. He also noted that setting goals is only the beginning of the process and specific, implementable plans and ideas are needed.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mayor Barnett suggested compiling all of the suggestions and then incorporating the different pieces into a final Mission Statement.

President Rosen agreed with Mr. Munoz about explicitly noting in the Mission Statement preservation of the City into the future and also noted that some mention of security may be needed as well. He stated he would work with the Clerk's staff to compile these suggestions and bring the issue back to Council for a final decision in the near future.

Discussed

2007-0079

City Council Goals and Objectives for 2008 Budget

Attachments: Chapter 2 Vision Goals.pdf

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Juan Munoz, 498 Kensington, suggested examining the practices of other cities not just in Michigan, but cities in other states as well.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Ms. Raschke reminded Council that Rochester Hills used to engage in a "Mayor's Exchange Day" wherein representatives from Rochester Hills visited comparable cities such as Farmington Hills to share ideas.

Mr. Ambrozaitis stressed that competitiveness between cities in regard to attracting businesses has increased greatly. He noted that Rochester Hills must become more competitive while streamlining operations. He noted that processes such as a "Mayor's Exchange Day" is an example of a good program that is cost effective.

Mr. Yalamanchi suggested that the first step towards defining goals and objectives is to choose those individuals who will be involved in the process. He noted that City staff could provide invaluable input and should be included. He also noted that determining the final Mission Statement would provide needed direction as well.

President Rosen expressed his concern that while communication by City Hall to residents has improved, receiving feedback from citizens remains a challenge. He noted that Council needs to seek ways to get residents more involved. He further indicated that Council already has a list of several issues they intend to address during upcoming Work Session meetings such as the City's tax assessing process and a possible elected board to set City employee salaries, etc.

Council members discussed the agenda for the next Work Session and expressed concern that the meeting may be too lengthy if it included both the tax assessing discussion and Mr. Hooper's presentation on the police funding issue. It was requested that Mr. Hooper's presentation be moved to the start of the meeting or perhaps to the next regular Council meeting.

President Rosen stressed that there is a process in place that dictates the order of items on Council agendas, however, he would evaluate the request further and discuss it with members of the Clerk's staff.

Discussed

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Holder read quotes by Mr. Ambrozaitis that appeared in the "Rochester Eccentric" questioning the functioning of the City Council. She stressed that the Council has been working together to address the issues of the City.

Mr. Ambrozaitis stated, "I stand by my comments written in the newspaper."

Ms. Raschke requested that the Water Reservoirs issue be added to an upcoming Council agenda. She then suggested that the City investigate the possibility of enclosing the Velodrome at Bloomer Park for usage during the winter months.

Mayor Barnett noted that water service had briefly been disrupted in a portion of the City and praised City staff for correcting the problem quickly.

President Rosen announced the following issues would be addressed during upcoming Council meetings:

- Local Roads
- Police funding
- Review of the Capital Improvement Plan process
- Explanation of the Asset Management Program
- Elected board of residents to a Compensation Committee
- Water rates update

He noted he would add the issue of Water Reservoirs and an enclosed Velodrome to the list as well.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Work Session - Wednesday, February 7, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before Council, President Rosen adjourned the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

*JAMES ROSEN, President
Rochester Hills City Council*

*JANE LESLIE, Clerk
City of Rochester Hills*

*MARGARET A. CASEY
Administrative Secretary
City Clerk's Office*

Approved as presented at the April 11, 2007 Regular City Council Meeting.