



# Rochester Hills Minutes City Council Special Meeting

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*Melinda Hill, Bryan K. Barnett, John L. Dalton, Jim Duistermars,  
Barbara L. Holder, Linda Raschke, Gerald Robbins*

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Saturday, May 7, 2005

8:00 AM

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 Budget Work Session Meeting would commence at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 7, 2005, for the purpose of discussing the 2006 Budget.

## CALL TO ORDER

*President Hill called the Special Rochester Hills City Council Budget Work Session Meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. Michigan Time.*

## ROLL CALL

**Present:** Melinda Hill, John Dalton, Barbara Holder and Linda Raschke

**Absent:** Bryan Barnett, Jim Duistermars and Gerald Robbins

Others Present:

*Pat Somerville, Mayor  
John Staran, City Attorney  
Jane Leslie, City Clerk  
Ed Anzek, Director of Planning/Development  
Alan Buckenmeyer, Parks Operations Manager  
Scott Cope, Director of Building/Ordinance Enforcement  
Ron Crowell, Fire Chief  
Kurt Dawson, Director of Assessing/Treasurer  
Bob Grace, Director of MIS  
Mike Hartner, Director of Parks & Forestry  
Julie Jenuwine, Director of Finance  
Pam Lee, Director of Human Resources  
Roger Rousse, Director of DPS/Engineering  
Captain Robert Smith, Oakland County Sheriff's Department*

## PUBLIC COMMENT

*None.*

**2005-0054**

Discussions Regarding 2006 Budget

**Attachments:** Agenda Summary.pdf; 050705 Agenda summary.pdf; Mayor.pdf; Fiscal.pdf; Planning 1.pdf; Planning 2.pdf; Planning 3.pdf; Planning 4.pdf; Planning 5.pdf; DPS and Engineering.pdf; Building.pdf; Parks.pdf; Forestry.pdf; Fire.pdf; OCSD.pdf; MIS.pdf; Clerks.pdf;

*Mr. Dalton* noted that Mayor Somerville had advised City staff and the City Attorney to cease working towards water reservoirs in the City. He stressed that City Council sets the budget for the City and it is the Administration's duty to carryout that budget. He stated that the Mayor does not have the authority to prevent projects approved in the City budget from moving forward.

*Mayor Somerville* noted that the reservoir project is not affordable and indicated that she would like to see information from other communities that have implemented water reservoirs before moving forward with this project.

Several Council members agreed with Mr. Dalton that requests for further investigation and financial analysis with regards to water reservoirs should not be hampered by the City Administration.

*Mr. Dalton* departed the meeting noting that he saw no reason to continue setting the budget if it would not be implemented.

**Discussed**

**(Council Member Dalton exited the meeting at 8:25 a.m.)**

**Present:** Melinda Hill, Barbara Holder and Linda Raschke

**Absent:** Bryan Barnett, John Dalton, Jim Duistermars and Gerald Robbins

**(Recess 8:27 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.)**

## ADJOURNMENT

*President Hill* adjourned the meeting at 8:35 a.m. due to a lack of quorum and until such time as a quorum was present.

**(Council Member Duistermars entered the meeting at 9:30 a.m.)**

**Present:** Melinda Hill, Jim Duistermars, Barbara Holder and Linda Raschke

**Absent:** Bryan Barnett, John Dalton and Gerald Robbins

## RECONVENE

*President Hill* reconvened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. as a quorum had been achieved by the entrance of Council member Duistermars.

**2005-0054**

Discussions Regarding 2006 Budget

**Attachments:** Agenda Summary.pdf; 050705 Agenda summary.pdf; Mayor.pdf; Fiscal.pdf; Planning 1.pdf; Planning 2.pdf; Planning 3.pdf; Planning 4.pdf; Planning 5.pdf; DPS and Engineering.pdf; Building.pdf; Parks.pdf; Forestry.pdf; Fire.pdf; OCSD.pdf; MIS.pdf; Clerks.pdf;

*Council and City staff members discussed the following:*

**Public Relations:**

\* *There is a need to enhance communication with City residents, as well as other communities and entities.*

\* *Release the Hills Herald more frequently in a reduced format.*

- \* *Prepare and mail informative newsletters to neighborhood associations.*
- \* *Increase press releases.*
- \* *Hire a public relations professional to promote City issues.*
- \* *Partner with other organizations.*

**JD Edward Software:**

- \* *Should the JD Edward (JDE) system continue to be maintained, or should another software package be acquired and implemented?*
- \* *Most City departments are working well with the JDE software with the exception of budgeting, which requires a great deal of manual input.*
- \* *There does not appear to be an alternative integrated software package.*

**Planning/Development:**

- \* *The Historic Districts Committee, Planning Commission, and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority need to have more meetings as their agendas are cumbersome.*
- \* *Many issues that would typically appear before the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) are being addressed and corrected prior to requiring ZBA intervention.*
- \* *There is a need for more Technical Committees.*

**DPS/Engineering:**

- \* *DPS is trying to maintain local roads without laying off employees.*
- \* *Utilizing outside contractors to work on local roads would be problematic due to the unions.*
- \* *Layoffs will result in lower service levels.*
- \* *As the City ages, the maintenance and repair of roads will become more costly.*
- \* *Bids have been prepared for possible grants to fund the DPS facility.*
- \* *The Pedestrian Pathway Committee needs to meet more frequently.*

**Fire Department:**

- \* *To meet State and County requirements, the City must hire six new EMS technicians by 2007.*
- \* *Elected officials need to be kept informed during emergencies such as the recent gas leak.*
- \* *Amber Alerts should be included in all City-wide pages.*
- \* *Can dispatch services be handled through the County?*

**Oakland County Sheriff's Department:**

- \* *Need to address long-term funding to keep staffing levels sufficient.*

**MIS:**

- \* Resources are spread very thin.
- \* Workstation and network upgrades have been postponed.

**City Clerk:**

- \* Staffing has been reduced while department responsibilities have increased such as additional elections per year.
- \* Records management will require assessment for paper and electronic records retention.

**Assessing:**

- \* Equalizer is now available via the City's new website.

**Treasury:**

- \* Cash receipting software may need replacement in near future to increase functionality.

**Human Resources:**

- \* Need to examine wage adjustments.
- \* It is conservatively estimated that health care costs will increase 12% to 13% over the next year.
- \* Possibly implement a wage freeze for City employees.
- \* It will be difficult to find qualified, experienced workers with current wages.
- \* Job security and benefits are most important to public sector workers.

**Discussed****ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*None.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business before Council, President Hill adjourned the meeting at 12:52 p.m.*

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*MELINDA HILL, President  
Rochester Hills City Council*

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*JANE LESLIE, Clerk  
City of Rochester Hills*

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

*Approved as presented at the August 24, 2005 Regular City Council Meeting.*