



Rochester Hills Minutes City Council Special Meeting

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

Tuesday, August 14, 2007

6:00 PM

Fieldstone Golf Club of Auburn Hills,
Clubhouse Meeting Room

JOINT WITH THE CITY OF AUBURN HILLS

CALL TO ORDER

The Joint Meeting of the City Council of Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS CITY COUNCIL

Present: Jim Duistermars, Barbara Holder, Greg Hooper, Linda Raschke, James Rosen and Ravi Yalamanchi

Absent: Erik Ambrozaitis

ROLL CALL OF THE AUBURN HILLS CITY COUNCIL

Present: Mari Edwards, Robert Kittle, Henry Knight, Otis Newkirk, Maureen Hammond, Dan Pillsbury

Absent: James McDonald

Others Present:

Michael Culpepper, Auburn Hills City Manager
Tom Tanghe, Auburn Hills Asst. City Manager
Jane Leslie, Rochester Hills City Clerk
Leanne Scott, Rochester Hills City Council Coordinator

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

By Auburn Hills City Manager Michael W. Culpepper

Auburn Hills City Manager, Mike Culpepper, opened the meeting by welcoming the City of Rochester Hills. He stated this meeting provides a good opportunity for the two cities to do brainstorming on items of mutual interest, such as zoning in the communities along their borders; working with Oakland County and the Oakland County Road Commission on road issues; City Departments working together, such as Public Service and Fire. He further stated that there are different levels at which the two communities can work together: at a higher level, the Councils; mid-level, training (HR) and purchasing; and at a lower level, the departments themselves. He mentioned this is a good time to be proactive and begin these discussions, rather than waiting until someone is in a crises mode.

DISCUSSION OF ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

By President Rosen, Mayor Edwards, and Council Members

President Rosen pointed out that the Fire Departments of the two communities currently work very well together, and there is good communication between the Oakland County Sheriff's and the Auburn Hills Police Departments. He stated that he believes this is a fundamentally good idea to coordinate efforts between the two cities where it makes good sense to do so. He suggested that it would be a good idea for the two Councils to get together and look at each other's Master Plans. He stated that the City of Rochester Hills is open to discussing anything, nothing is out of bounds.

Mayor Edwards stated it is good sound government practice to pull resources together when it makes sense. She mentioned the two cities could look at sharing specialized and large item purchases. She referenced a street sweeper and a sewer vac. She further stated her belief that the two communities could work together in a variety of ways as they share borders and infrastructure, but in doing so she cautioned that they need to be prudent.

In keeping with the discussion on cooperative initiatives, Auburn Hills' Councilmember Knight recalled a mutual agreement with regard to the development of the "Four Corners" intersection of Squirrel Road and South Boulevard. Mr. Knight recalled that, during the period Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills were transitioning from townships to cities, both municipalities, along with Bloomfield Township and the City of Troy, had agreed that properties at this intersection be developed for residential use only. Despite much pressure to do otherwise, Mr. Knight noted that Auburn Hills had honored the agreement and had not developed its corner until a desirable residential development had been proposed and he was hopeful that Rochester Hills would do the same.

The two Councils, Mayor Barnett, City Manager Culpepper, and Assistant City Manager Tanghe continued their discussion and presented the following suggestions and ideas as to where the two communities could begin their efforts together:

- *Sharing equipment purchases on specialized and large items*
- *Developing a strategy to promote a single trash hauler, which in turn would save the residents money as well as wear and tear on the roads*
- *Preparing joint resolutions to submit to the County on road issues, such as placing a light at the intersection of Bald Mountain Rd. and Dutton Road*
- *Looking into shared city services*
- *Options for rates and containing/conserving water*

It was noted that the two cities working collectively on mutual issues could set the trend and be an example for other municipalities in Southeast Michigan.

President Rosen concluded the discussion by reiterating that the main purpose is to save the cities and the residents money, as well as prevent potential and/or serious disasters.

Mayor Edwards encouraged the Sister City Committee to schedule another meeting between the two Councils in approximately six (6) months.

ADJOURNMENT

The Joint Meeting of the City Council of Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

*JAMES ROSEN, President
Rochester Hills City Council*

*JANE LESLIE, Clerk
City of Rochester Hills*

*LEANNE SCOTT
City Council Coordinator*

Approved as presented at the (insert date, or dates) Regular City Council Meeting.