



Rochester Hills

Minutes - Draft

City Council Special Meeting

1000 Rochester Hills Dr
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Home Page:
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*Greg Hooper, Nathan Klomp, Adam Kochenderfer, James Rosen,
Mark Tisdell, Michael Webber and Ravi Yalamanchi*

Vision Statement: The Community of Choice for Families and Business

Mission Statement: "Our mission is to sustain the City of Rochester Hills as the premier community of choice to live, work and raise a family by enhancing our vibrant residential character complemented by an attractive business community."

Monday, April 29, 2013

6:00 PM

Fieldstone Golf Course 1984 Taylor Road

JOINT WITH THE CITY OF AUBURN HILLS

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Hammond called the Joint Meeting of the City Councils of Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills to order at 6:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL - AUBURN HILLS CITY COUNCIL

Present 6 - Maureen Hammond, Anne Doyle, Robert Kittle, Henry Knight, Kevin McDaniel, and Cheryl Verbeke

Absent 1 - James McDonald

ROLL CALL - ROCHESTER HILLS CITY COUNCIL

Present 4 - Greg Hooper, James Rosen, Mark Tisdell and Michael Webber

Absent 3 - Nathan Klomp, Adam Kochenderfer and Ravi Yalamanchi

Others Present:

Bill Bullard, Jr., Strategic Communications Solutions
Angela Rivers, Oakland County Commissioner
Stephanie Carroll, Auburn Hills Coordinator of Community Relations & Legislative Affairs
Terri Kowal, Auburn Hills City Clerk
Bryan K. Barnett, Rochester Hills Mayor
Tina Barton, Rochester Hills City Clerk
Leanne Scott, Rochester Hills Deputy Clerk

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Mayor Pro Tem Hammond opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to the members of the City of Rochester Hills.

DISCUSSION OF ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

Auburn Hills Council Member Kittle reflected on the state of the economy and situations other municipalities are faced with and stated that both the City of Auburn Hills and the City of Rochester Hills are very fortunate.

Palace of Auburn Hills

Discussion ensued relative to the amount of business the Palace brings to the area. Restaurants, hotels, shopping, and gas stations all benefit from the Palace traffic. The consensus was that we are fortunate to have the Palace in Oakland County and hope it remains here.

Water and Sewer Services

Both communities agreed that discovering ways to reduce rates for the residents is a priority. President Hooper mentioned the Flint water line, which is proposed to run from Port Huron to Flint, and stated that when that line is constructed, Flint will be withdrawing from the Detroit Water and Sewer (DWSD) service. Doing so will leave the fixed costs and maintenance costs for the DWSD on the remaining customers. Lengthy discussion ensued relative to options. Mayor Barnett stated that he feels that the area should have a representative on the Detroit Water Board.

Resident Surveys

Auburn Hills Council Member Kittle questioned how often Rochester Hills surveyed their residents. Mayor Barnett responded that a survey conducted by Oakland University's Public Affairs Research Laboratory (PARL) is conducted every two years. He stated that similar questions are asked with each survey so that the City can benchmark the results. He noted that the person to contact is J.P. Piskulich, Director, PARL, and offered to send a copy of the next survey to Auburn Hills.

Police and Fire Services

The costs associated with police and fire services for each community were discussed. Mayor Barnett spoke about contracting with Oakland County for dispatch services. He mentioned that at first staff was concerned about the transition, but now they are pleased with how smoothly it is working.

Solid Waste Hauling

The recycling program in Rochester Hills has been very successful. The recycling containers have microchips that can be read by the truck picking up the recycling. Once the truck has completed a particular route, the recycling collected is weighed and everyone on the route that contributed is awarded points that can be redeemed for coupons which may be used at local businesses. Ideas for encouraging residents in Auburn Hills to recycle were discussed.

Leaf Burning

In response to questions raised by Council Member Verbeke, Mayor Barnett stated that Rochester Hills banned leaf burning in 2003. He explained that they phased in the ban, allowing burning to take place in September and October the first year. The following year burning was only allowed in October, and then no burning was allowed thereafter. Prior to the ban residents were allowed to burn throughout the season as long as they had a permit. Mayor Barnett clarified that recreational burning is still allowed without a permit as long as it is in a commercially manufactured fire pit (purchased from a store) and they are burning only dry, seasoned firewood; otherwise a burn permit is required.

Cable Television Programming

Auburn Hills Council Member Doyle inquired about Rochester Hills' Cable TV programming stating that they broadcast a large variety of shows. Mayor Barnett responded that cable programming is done in-house using PEG funds to help cover the expenses. He further stated that the resident surveys indicated that 48 to 52 percent of the residents watch the City's cable programming.

Economic Development Cooperation

Mayor Barnett stated the two communities have a very beneficial relationship; the public safety departments support each other and leads on potential developments are shared. Members of the Rochester Hills' and Auburn Hills' Economic Development Departments meet routinely to identify if there are any leads on development that could work for either community. Any development in the area brings income to the entire region, and the spirit of cooperation is very beneficial to both cities.

Senior Citizen Services

Vice-President Webber discussed the Older Persons' Commission (OPC) and all that it offers for seniors. He stated that he would like to attract more seniors to reside long term in Rochester Hills. Auburn Hills Council Members McDaniel and Doyle spoke briefly about the "Community for a Lifetime" program with AARP, and suggested contacting Karen Adcock, Auburn Hills Senior Director, for more information.

Recreation Facilities

Mayor Barnett reported that Rochester Hills is in need of sports fields and recreational facilities for both adults and youth. He indicated that there is a demand for soccer fields and baseball diamonds and suggested the two communities could potentially benefit from shared facilities.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Hammond and President Hooper thanked both Councils for being good neighbors, and for sharing information.

Auburn Hills Council Member Knight expressed appreciation for the fine service of outgoing Rochester Hills Council Members Jim Rosen and Ravi Yalamanchi.

Council Members congratulated both Auburn Hills Council Member McDaniel and Rochester Hills Council Member Webber for being named as Oakland County Executive Brooks Patterson's "40 Under 40" for 2013.

Mayor Pro Tem Hammond adjourned the Joint Meeting of the City Councils of Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills at 8:49 p.m.

*GREG HOOPER, President
Rochester Hills City Council*

*TINA BARTON, Clerk
City of Rochester Hills*

*LEANNE SCOTT, Deputy Clerk
City Clerk's Office*

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