



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS

City Council Workshop

Minutes

October 7, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor McDaniel at 5:40 PM

LOCATION: Admin Conference Room, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Present: Mayor McDaniel, Council Members Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, Moniz, Verbeke

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Assistant City Manager Grice, City Attorney Roberts, City Clerk Pierce, Finance Director/Treasurer Schulz, Deputy Finance Director/Deputy Treasurer Farmer, Director of Public Works Melchert, Mgr of Municipal Properties Torres, Fire Chief Taylor, Police Chief Baker, Recreation Director Hegdal, Director of Authorities Skopek, Engineer Juidici, City Assessor Griffin, City Planner Keenan, Senior Program & Volunteer Coordinator Stasyk, Administrative Assistant Weber, Management Intern Hagge

Presentation of Lodge Color Rendering and Interior Design Amenities

Mr. Grice reviewed the location, floor plans, and materials for the proposed new lodge at Hawk Woods. He explained that future amenities include a restroom facility that is closer to the cabins.

Council members expressed concern with the cost of the fireplace design, the individual rooms, added technology, and the scale of the lodge. Mr. Tanghe explained that the idea was to combine the two uses, nature center and lodge, with additional technology options for enhanced training opportunities. Mr. Grice explained that it is anticipated there will be corporate trainings at this location. He noted that the biggest request from groups who used the existing lodge was for Wi-Fi. He noted that the additional room uses will depend on the type of programming offered.

Mr. Tanghe noted that this is just a basic building with some extras. He explained that funding has been allocated in the General Fund from the tree fund. Mr. Knight noted that the tree fund can be used because it is a nature related project.

Council members noted that if it is going to be built, it should be built using good quality materials and the space should be flexible enough to do many things. It was noted that it is always nice to have the breakout rooms. It was also noted that there should be an office space. Mr. Grice confirmed that the patio will be concrete.

Several council members commented that they should have been consulted on the floor plan options.

Discussion of Future Millage Needs

Mr. Tanghe shared material from other communities in regards to an income tax. He noted that there are about two dozen cities with an income tax being collected.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential gas tax and where it would be reallocated, the impact of an August, 2020 millage election and amount of revenue generated, and speculation on the

amount that would be collected with an income tax. Mr. Beckerleg noted that an income tax would have to be voted on by the residents.

Mr. Tanghe noted that a millage election has less of an impact for recruiting efforts. He pointed out a study where Auburn Hills appeared in the top ten on three data points for being one of the most business friendly communities in the country.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor

Laura M. Pierce, City Clerk