



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS

City Council Workshop

Minutes

January 6, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor McDaniel at 5:30 PM

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

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

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Assistant City Manager Grice, City Attorney Beckerleg, City Clerk Pierce, DPW Director Melchert, Fire Chief Taylor, Director of Community Development Cohen, Recreation Director Hegdal, Senior Services Director Adcock, Recreation Coordinator Mullins, Director of Authorities Skopek, Engineer Juidici, Management Intern Hagge

City Council discussed the Seyburn Mansion and the building formerly leased by OHM. Mr. Tanghe explained that the Seyburn Mansion is currently used for storage. It would require a lot of work to bring it up to code as updating the fire suppression system, bathrooms, driveway and deck. He questioned whether there would be demand for alternate use of the spaces. In addition, Mr. Tanghe questioned whether Council would want to market the building formerly leased by OHM for office space. It was noted that both buildings are part of the history of the City, but are not historically designated.

Ideas for the mansion included: a day care center, an honors college living quarter, or a museum. It was also suggested demolishing the mansion and adding a pavilion that could be rented out. A barn could be added to the back for storage or a museum component or one of the existing wings of the mansion could be maintained. Concern was expressed at how often a museum would be visited. It was suggested that if the mansion was removed, some of the existing materials could be used in the new structure.

Council agreed to direct the City Manager to obtain a quote to demolish the mansion. It was noted that this is only direction to obtain a quote, not to tear it down.

Discussion continued regarding the building formerly leased by OHM. It is a nice building that has been renovated. It was suggested that the building could be used for storage, a portion used for the Historical Society or for professional development or teen space. It was also suggested to use the building as a multi-purpose facility encompassing a museum, storage, and general work space. There was consensus to not market the building for rental.

Mr. Tanghe recapped the meeting as follows:

- Obtain a quote for the complete demo of the Seyburn Mansion, with the idea of replacing it with a pavilion.
- Complete an evaluation of uses for the building formerly leased by OHM, which would include the Historical Society.

Mr. Knight made the following suggestions:

- replace the eternal flame in the cemetery with an LED light
- relocate the Mom’s Memorial to the cemetery
- combine the eternal flame, Mom’s Memorial and add a veterans memorial to establish a memorial at the cemetery.

Ms. Verbeke suggested adding yellow ribbons to the lamp posts downtown with the name of a service person to acknowledge their commitment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor

Laura M. Pierce, City Clerk