MARCH 2015
(3-3-15)

03  Board of Review, 9:00 a.m., Council Conference Room ◆
03  Downtown Development Authority - Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:00p.m., Admin Conference Room ❖
09  Board of Review, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Admin Conference Room ❖
09  City Council Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Council Conference Room ◆
09  City Council, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber ◆
10  Board of Review, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Admin Conference Room ❖
10  Tax Increment Finance Authority, 4:00 p.m., Council Chamber ◆
12  Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber ◆
17  Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber ◆
18  Beautification Advisory Commission, 6:00 p.m., Council Conference Room ◆
19  Leaf Burning Committee, 6:00 p.m., Admin Conference Room ❖
23  City Council, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber ◆
24  Library Board, 5:45 p.m., Library Conference Room ✏
31  Brownfield Redevelopment, 6:00 p.m., Admin Conference Room ❖
The City of Auburn Hills
Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2015 ♦ 7:00 p.m.
*Workshop 5:30 p.m.*

Council Chamber ♦ 1827 N. Squirrel Road ♦ Auburn Hills MI
248-370-9402 ♦ www.auburnhills.org

*Workshop – Industrial Build-Out Analysis and Leaf Burning*

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 23, 2015
5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS
   5a. Reappointment – Trina Burrell to the Zoning Board of Appeals
   5b. Introduction of Bianca Karjo, Human Resource Generalist
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. CONSENT AGENDA
   All items listed are considered to be routine by the City council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.
   7a. Board and Commission Minutes
      7a.1. Pension Board – February 11, 2015
      7a.2. Retiree Health Care Board – February 11, 2015
      7a.3. Beautification Advisory Commission – February 18, 2015
8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
   9a. Motion – Approve and Set Public Hearing for Liquor License Renewals
10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL
11. CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT
12. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT
13. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Detectives Labor Negotiations
14. ADJOURNMENT

*NOTE: Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the City Clerk’s Office at 370-9402 or the City Manager’s Office at 370-9440 48 hours prior to the meeting. Staff will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements.*
**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor McDaniel at 7:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:**
City Council Chamber, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Present: Mayor McDaniel, Mayor Pro Tem Kittle, Council Members Burmeister, Hammond, Knight, Mitchell, Verbeke

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Assistant City Manager Grice, Police Chief Olko, Fire Chief Manning, City Clerk Kowal, DPW Deputy Director Herczeg, Community Development Director Cohen, Finance Director Schulz, City Attorney Beckerleg, City Engineer Juidici

12 Guests

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

4a. Regular Council Meeting – February 9, 2015

Moved by Knight; Seconded by Verbeke.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the February 9, 2015 City Council regular meeting minutes.

**VOTE:** Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke  
No: None  
Motion Carried (7–0)

Resolution No. 15.02.030

4b. Council Workshop – February 9, 2015

Moved by Mitchell; Seconded by Kittle.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the February 9, 2015 City Council Workshop meeting minutes.

**VOTE:** Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke  
No: None  
Motion Carried (7–0)

Resolution No. 15.02.031

4c. Executive Session

4c.1. November 10, 2014

4c.2. February 9, 2015

Moved by Knight; Seconded by Burmeister.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the November 10, 2014 City Council Executive Session meeting minutes.

**VOTE:** Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke  
No: None  
Motion Carried (7–0)

Resolution No. 15.02.032

Moved by Verbeke; Seconded by Kittle.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the February 9, 2015 City Council Executive Session meeting minutes.

**VOTE:** Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke  
No: None  
Motion Carried (7–0)

Resolution No. 15.02.033
5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5a. Motion – Reappointment of Glen Nelson to TIRC, term to expire July 31, 2018

Glen Nelson introduced himself and is pleased to continue serving on the Tax Incentive Review Committee.

Mayor McDaniel thanked Mr. Nelson for his willingness to serve on the Committee.

Moved by Verbeke; Seconded by Burmeister.

RESOLVED: To confirm the Reappointment of Glen Nelson to the Tax Incentive Review Committee for a term ending July 31, 2018.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke
No: None

Resolution No. 15.02.034

5b. Presentation – Promotions to Detective & Oaths of Office for Jeramey Peters and Ivette Brown

Police Chief Olko explained these two Patrol Officers have passed all the necessary testing and are ready to become Detectives, to replace the two that retired last year. Detectives are the core of the Departments investigations; they must be experts in the many forms of evidence, experts in interviews and interrogation, be detailed orientated, have an in depth understanding of criminal laws, as well as the ability to be sensitive.

Police Chief Olko described Jeramey Peter’s progression of police work prior to coming to Auburn Hills, via California and Ohio. He began with Auburn Hills in 2004 and has held several roles and assignments, including a field training officer and in 2005 became the first Certified Drug Recognition Expert in the State of Michigan. Officer Peters was the driving force behind Michigan’s adoption of the Drug Recognition program. He became an instructor, a regional coordinator and a member of the steering committee and course manager for the State’s entire program. In 2008 he was assigned to the Direct Patrol Unit and created the Department’s website and the Department’s first Facebook page. In 2010, he was selected to join Troy’s Special Investigations Unit, where he worked as an undercover investigator. Since September 2014, Officer Peters was assigned as a temporary investigator in the City’s Investigative Bureau. He has achieved numerous accommodations from Auburn Hills as well as other communities including Troy; has 21 unit and individual accommodations; has been named Officer of the Year, three times, by the American Legion and Morning Optimist Club; received the Auburn Hills Chief’s Award; and Auburn Hills’ Employee of the Year. He returned to school and received his Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice Administration.

City Clerk Kowal administered the Oath of Office.

Police Chief Olko continued, introducing Officer Ivette Brown, who is a 17 year veteran with the City, hired as a dispatcher in 1997. She was promoted to a Patrol Officer in 2000 after completing the Police Academy at Delta College; she has completed her Associates Degree and will be graduating from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Community Development this spring. She has also completed a Social Media Certificate program from Central Michigan University. She has served as a Gang Resistance Education and Training Officer in the schools; a D.A.R.E. Officer and a School Resource Officer for the Avondale School District for the last three years. Officer Brown has worked the Retail District for several years and is currently assigned to the Troy’s Special Investigations Unit. She has served a term as the President of D.A.R.E. Officers Association of Michigan and is currently the President of Auburn Hills Law Enforcement Benevolent Fund. Officer Brown’s honors and awards include MCALS Award for outstanding performance for rating first in her graduating class at the Police Academy; the Michigan D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year in 2008; American Legion Officer of the Year in 2012 and received the Chief’s Award for service to the community and Department in 2013. Officer Brown has received 13 accommodations and two individual accommodations; one Certificate of Merit; one Department Citation; two Safe Driving Awards; and six National Night Out Awards.

Officer Brown coordinated the award winning Nation Night Out event twice; and has been a speaker and presenter at numerous groups and companies throughout the City and southeastern Michigan on topics such as workplace violence, financial institution crimes and personal safety. She was instrumental in the startup and maintenance of the Department’s Twitter social media.

City Clerk Kowal administered the Oath of Office.

Mayor McDaniel congratulated Detectives Peters and Brown on behalf of City Council and himself.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Annett McAvoy, 3841 Briarvalle, provided an update of What’s Cool with School, noting a study has been done regarding the effects physical activity has on the brain and learning. In talking with physical education teachers and coaches she learned the schools are aware of the impact and have been making sure physical activity is a regular part of the school curriculum as well as after school activities. Avondale has a Special Olympic Track and Field team that has 25 members. The physical education opportunities in the schools have led to eight students signing letters of intent with colleges.
7. CONSENT AGENDA

Item 7b. Approval of Site Plan / Stanley Photographic Studio was removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of Mr. Knight.

7a. Board and Commission Minutes

7a.3. Tax Increment Finance Authority – February 10, 2015
7a.4. Zoning Board of Appeals – February 12, 2015

Moved by Kittle; Seconded by Verbeke.  
RESOLVED: To approve the Consent Agenda, 7a.1., 7a.2., 7a.3. and 7a.4.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke  
No: None  
Motion Carried (7-0)

Resolution No. 15.02.035

7b. Motion – Approval of Site Plan / Stanley Photographic Studio

Mr. Knight stated he pulled this item from the Consent Agenda, because he doesn’t believe a site plan should be approved on a Consent Agenda. He likes how well thought out the use of the land is, but would like to review it and learn more about the use.

Mr. Cohen explained this proposal is to construct a one-story, 4,100 sq. ft. studio, in I-1, Light Industrial zoning district. The building has a small office space, with a larger studio area in front. The building sits low approaching the Clinton River, and will be hid by many trees in front. No regulated trees will be removed from the site.

The business and property owner, Bradford Stanley, takes pictures of vehicles and people.

Mr. Knight found it odd to have a photography studio in a light industrial use district, and wanted to point that out.

Ms. Verbeke asked for clarification regarding the drive for this facility and the neighbor as mentioned in the paper work.

Mr. Cohen explained the neighbor supplies stationary to funeral homes and he and Mr. Stanley have agreed to share a driveway to create a ring drive, making access to Auburn Road much easier and safer. Mr. Cohen further explained the easements between the two will be completed if this site plan is approved by City Council. If the easements are not executed, the site plan must be revised and be brought back for City Council approval.

Responding to Ms. Verbeke, Mr. Cohen noted historically straight forward site plans with no tree removal, have been placed on the Consent Agenda; however, if Council wishes, all site plans can be placed under New Business on the agenda.

Ms. Verbeke stated she prefers to have the ability to review and discuss any site plans.

Mr. Knight agreed with Ms. Verbeke. He also asked if Mr. Stanley will be responsible for keeping the River clean at his property or if he might grant access for others to keep the River clean.

Mr. Cohen stated Mr. Stanley is out of town, but Tom Strat is the architect and may be able to answer questions.

Thomas Strat of Thomas Strat Architect, explained there is access to a retention area that is located beside the River; however, there is a 10 or 12 foot ledge that would make direct access to the River very difficult.

Mr. Kittle noted the building is very European looking and asked what building materials are used.

Mr. Strat explained the exterior archway is a galvanized material that will change to a gray color over time. The building is designed to complement the photography of vehicles.

Moved by Knight; Seconded by Hammond.  
RESOLVED: To accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation and approve the Site Plan for Stanley Photographic Studio, subject to staff and consultants' conditions.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke  
No: None  
Motion Carried (7-0)

Resolution No. 15.02.036

8. OLD BUSINESS - none

9. NEW BUSINESS

9a. Motion – Approval of Combined PUD Step One-Qualification and Step Two-Site Plan Approval / Adams Outdoor Advertising

Mr. Cohen explained this request from Adams Outdoor Advertising is to construct a new state-of-the-art digital LED billboard on a vacant parcel adjacent to I-75, west of Giddings. The site was chosen because the use will have very little impact on adjacent properties, the wetlands or trees.
In 2000, the ordinance was amended to not allow billboard signs to be any closer to each other than 10,000 feet, up from a distance of 1,000 feet. The new ordinance wouldn’t allow any more billboards to be erected in the City unless the ordinance was amended, an approved variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) is received, or through the approval of a Planned Unit Development (PUD).

It was decided by staff the best way to proceed with Adams Outdoor Advertising is through the PUD process, which will also benefit the City. The benefits to the City, as part of the PUD agreement, are a one-time donation of $125,000 for the City’s park system, which will help with the River Walk project and the City will have free message time on the sign, one message every 60 seconds on both sides of the sign.

James Faycurry, representing Adams Outdoor Advertising, explained the sign will be 25 feet from I-75’s road right-of-way, so the sign will actually be approximately 80 feet from I-75 and the sign height, from the grade of the MDOT right-of-way will be about 45 feet tall.

Mr. Cohen confirmed for Ms. Verbeke, the reason for the PUD is because of a number of deviations from the Zoning Ordinance. The deviations include less than 10,000 feet between billboards, a 200 foot setback from the I-75 right-of-way, the sign height, the distance from residential zoning, and allowing a digital billboard. Mr. Cohen explained this billboard is proposed at 1,009 feet from residential, but that is because it doesn’t meet the required 200 foot right of-way setback from I-75; if the road right-of-way setback was met, it wouldn’t meet the 200 foot, residential setback. The height requested is because, driving north on I-75, the sign wouldn’t be seen if built at the required height. Continuing, Mr. Cohen explained because of the topography along I-75, there are a number of signs that exceed the maximum height. The Palace sign is 92 feet tall, the Silverdome sign is 75 feet tall and this one being proposed this evening is 55 feet tall.

Ms. Verbeke has an issue with the less than 10,000 feet minimum being allowed; currently there are six billboard signs allowed in the City. She doesn’t want this sign setting a precedence by reducing the 10,000 feet minimum; there will be more applicants coming to the City for more billboards.

Mr. Cohen noted there are currently 10 billboard signs in the City. It is the choice of the City Council to allow more signs to be constructed in the City.

Mr. Beckerleg explained a PUD does not set a precedent. She agrees in some ways this is a win for the City, but there are drawbacks.

Mr. Faycurry explained it is the policy of his company that the sign height meet the vehicles windshield height, for easy viewing by the driver. Access to the sign messaging is provided to emergency responders, noting just this evening the company’s signs in Novi and Livingston and Washtenaw counties was taken over by the FBI for a wanted suspect.

Mr. Knight noted the PUD allows for flexibility in the zoning requirements. He also noted the 10,000 foot distance was an arbitrary number at the time of the ordinance amendment, the City didn’t want billboards every few thousand feet.

Mr. Kittle hopes the graphics depicting the City used on the billboard are in good taste and reviewed prior to being displayed.

Ms. Verbeke asked if there was a decision made to only allow six billboards in the City at a workshop a year or so ago. No one could recall an exact number, only the discussion.

Mayor McDaniel noted there have been complaints in the past about how bright the white light is on some LED signs and asked if there is a limit of brightness for the signs. He recalled a sign along I-75, a dark portion of the roadway that had an advertisement with minimal color and a very bright white background.

Mr. Faycurry explained MDOT regulates brightness of LED signs, there is a maximum of .3 candle per foot for a 350 foot view; however, local municipalities can have more strict requirements. Many communities require testing of lumens and foot candles each year. Mr. Faycurry stated adjustments can be made for the brightness remotely and manually and is done within the first week or so of installation.

Mr. Beckerleg noted there is a provision in the development agreement addressing complaints of light brightness.

Mr. Knight feels the eight second message on the sign is too short of a time for drivers to read the message. Mr. Beckerleg explained the eight seconds is an industry standard.

Mr. Faycurry noted MDOT stipulates a message cannot be less than eight seconds and the change must be instant, no fade out or scrolling.

Mayor McDaniel stated this area and adjacent areas is zoned non-residential.

Mr. Faycurry noted the new neighbor, Louca Mold, has granted access to the sign site and in return Adams Outdoor Advertising will be sealing and restriping the parking lot.

Moved by Hammond; Seconded by Knight.

RESOLVED: To approve the combined PUD Step One – Qualification / Step Two – Site Plan approval for Adams Outdoor Advertising, subject to the terms and conditions of the staff recommendation and Development Agreement.
Ms. Verbeke stated she will not vote in favor of this sign; if signs are going to be allowed 5,000 feet apart, then the ordinance should be amended.

**VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell**

**No: Verbeke**

**Resolution No. 15.02.037**

Motion Carried (6-1)

9b. Motion - Prepay of Oakland Macomb Interceptor

Ms. Schulz explained since 2010 the City has been assessed its pro-rata share of multiple segments/contracts of the OMID project. As of December 31, 2014, the total OMID outstanding principal debt on the City’s books is $4.2 million. In the fall of 2014, the City prepaid a segment of this project debt, approximately $326,000. A notification was received from Oakland County indicating the final pieces of this initiative; the City has been given the opportunity to prepay the debt with a decision required by February 25, 2015. One part of the project is repairing the sewer on the Oakland County arm of the system and another part is work on the north east sewage pumping station. The City’s pro-rata principal share of the project is estimated to be between $332,000 and $375,000, with a total cost between $662,000 and $750,000.

The City has prepared for projects such as this by intentionally maintaining appropriate cash reserves in the Water and Sewer Fund, to preserve the pay-as-you-go philosophy. The Water and Sewer fund anticipates no additional unbudgeted capital items. Returns on excess reserves are not anticipated to increase at a pace necessary to exceed the interest payments that this debt would require.

Both the City’s investment advisor as well as the cash manager were conferred with, making sure this is a wise decision. Mr. Kittie asked about the fund balances.

Ms. Schulz explained $17 million in cash fund balance for 2014 was projected, with approximately $15 million at the end of 2015.

Mr. Knight noted this is very prudent of the City; the money sitting in an investment account is only making 0.7% and the City is making money by paying off this debt.

Mayor McDaniel explained the City received the deadline information for prepaying this about two weeks ago. The due diligence that Ms. Schulz and her staff were able to do in such a short amount of time, is very much appreciated.

Ms. Schulz clarified for Mr. Kittie this will show up as an expense for the current year, a portion of it will be recognized as capital asset in CIP until the project is completed.

Mr. Knight questioned this being a capital asset, noting it is government accounting.

Mr. Tanghe noted the prepayment saves the City $213,000 in interest payments.

**Moved by Verbeke; Seconded by Burmeister.**

RESOLVED: To approve a resolution to prepay the OMID Bond Series 2015-North East Pump Station-Public Sale in the amount of $330,590 not to exceed $375,000 and the OMID Bond Series 2015-SAW Loan in the amount of $330,590 not to exceed $375,000 and to authorize the City Manager to satisfy the prepay filing requirements set forth by the Water Resource Commission on or before February 25, 2015.

**VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 15.02.038**

Motion Carried (7-0)

10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Ms. Verbeke:

- The LED lighting project was recently completed in her neighborhood and noted the lighting difference in the neighborhood and asked if the project was near completion.
  - Mr. Herczeg stated the project should be completed within the next three weeks, or so. The company is also investigating some opportunities for the library and Public Safety buildings.

Ms. Burmeister:

- Is appreciative for the pictures of the recent broken sprinkler line and asked Mr. Tanghe how this will affect the City’s insurance rates.
  - Mr. Tanghe explained this break was caught quickly and the damage or cleanup costs weren’t anywhere near what the Community Center experienced. Ongoing maintenance processes are being reviewed and stricter enforcement of draining and checking lines on a more regular basis.
  - Mr. Herczeg confirmed most of the water was confined to the kitchen with baseboard damage and limited drywall damage. It was not a fire line that broke, it was a domestic line. This damage will not be reported to insurance, the cleanup was done by staff as will the repairs needed.
  - Mr. Burmeister asked if a contractor is still be used to inspect the lines annually.
Mr. Herczeg stated yes, a contractor inspects the fire lines, but the process of maintenance inspections is being reviewed and changed; there may be a change in contractors.

- Asked about the new ambulance status.
  Fire Chief Manning explained three quotes were needed as required by the insurance company and the third quote should be received within the next few days. The new chassis could be available as early as 90 days and as long as six months, depending on what the insurance company decides. As of now, things are looking positive for a quick turn-around.

Ms. Hammond:
- The downtown clock is not functioning correctly.
- South Squirrel Road has numerous potholes and some patching is needed.
- The Dollar General on Opdyke is now open and she was pleasantly surprised with all the items available. The store is open seven days a week until 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Knight:
- Noted the new Dollar General has a lot of items, but they are not just one-dollar items.
- Agrees with Ms. Hammond regarding Squirrel Road and hopes the road is on the list to be repaired.
- Would like the City to consider an e-cigarette ordinance, such as Rochester Hills, as opposed to waiting for State regulations. He would like an ordinance regulating age, similar to regular cigarette sales.
- Regarding the student numbers he supplied at the last meeting regarding Avondale Schools, there are just under 100 students that are Pontiac residents. Some of those attend the lower grades as open enrollment, but the majority take advantage of the alternate high school education.
- Has signed up to attend the Michigan Municipal League conference and asked if any other Council Members would like to join him.
- Asked about the Silverdome sign located at I-75 and Adams Road.
  Mr. Cohen explained his department has been in communication with the sign owners, the same owners as the Silverdome, who are planning to work on the sign this spring.
- The Noon Optimists are meeting tomorrow for lunch, Tuesday, February 24th, at the Community Center to honor the Student of the Month; third grade students from Will Rogers School. Pizza will be served.
- Thanked Rochester Hills for lending the City an ambulance and asked if the City’s ambulance was a total loss.
  Fire Chief Manning explained the chassis portion is a total loss, but the ambulance box portion is in good condition and will be remounted to a new chassis. Different options have been received of what type of chassis to remount the box to.

Mr. Kittle:
- Thought there was competition or a contest in the works for new ideas for repurposing the Silverdome.
- Has noticed the Forestry Division of the City has been cutting trees along Squirrel Road and asked if the wood from the trees is offered to the residents.
  Mr. Herczeg stated the wood is typically left on the side of the road for 24 hours and is there for the taking. If after 24 hours there is still wood, the DPW picks it up; however, most of the wood is picked up by others.
- Was pleased to see the annual Traffic Crash report. He would like to see a Public Safety annual report; types of calls, types of crimes; prior year comparison and similar statistics.
  Mayor McDaniel stated that information is supplied in the monthly reports.
  Fire Chief Manning explained the numbers are available and a report can be compiled, including the breakdown of 911 calls. He will pass the request on to Police Chief Olko.
- He would also like to see a similar report from Fieldstone Golf Club; number of rounds budgeted/number of rounds played; a bell curve of the revenue stream and what successes were had with marketing and the plans for this year. He feels these reports would give the Council a better view if goals were being met.
  Mr. Burmeister suggested including DPW in compiling reports, possibly all departments noting what goals have been achieved.
  Mr. Tanghe explained the Goals and Objectives report that Council received is a big part of what is being suggested. The report on Fieldstone is currently underway.

Ms. Verbeke:
- Asked if or how the residents are advised of trees that are cut down.
  Mr. Herczeg stated that information has not been communicated to residents, but can be posted on the website.
Mayor McDaniel:

- Save the date – Wednesday, April 22, 2015, the Boys and Girls Steak and Burger dinner. The dinner will be held at the Oakland Center at Oakland University.

11. CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT – none

12. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- The Tech 248 event was held last Friday, with approximately 100 participants. The northeast Tech 248 district consists of Auburn Hills, Rochester Hills and Orion Township. There are over 2,000 tech companies within Oakland County; this event lets companies as well as individuals connect.

- SEMCOG released a population estimate and as of December 2014, Auburn Hills has 23,086 residents, up from the 2010 census of 21,412 residents. A 7.8% growth, one of the larger growths for the County. The estimated population is based on housing plans being added in communities, whether apartments, condos or single family homes.

  Mr. Cohen explained with the shrinking family size, the estimation is based on the number of people per household multiplied by the number of added units.

  Mr. Knight noted that would be an additional 700 residential units.

  Mr. Tanghe explained the downtown apartment building has 97 units and if there is only two people to a unit that would be almost 200 people. All of Auburn Hills’ apartments are considered full occupancy; not only the Oakland University students, but Fiat Chrysler Automobiles has approximately 16,000 employees.

- Sent a report on the anticipated revenue increase for the 1% sales increase and how it will be distributed. The estimate by 2018, if approved, would give the City about an additional $1 million annually for road repairs. Currently the City receives about $1.4 million and by 2018 it could be upwards of $2.3 million.

- Thanked Mr. Knight for Saturday night’s Cadillac LaSalle Club’ dinner and the birthday celebration of an almost 105 year old club member.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Evaluation of City Manager

Mayor McDaniel noted Mr. Tanghe now has six months under his belt as City Manager and extends his appreciation for a job well done.

Moved by Burmeister; Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To adjourn to Executive Session.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke

No: None

Motion Carried (7-0)

Resolution No. 15.02.039

The regular City Council meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m. and reconvened at 9:43 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.
To: City Council  
From: Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor  
Submitted: March 5, 2015  
Subject: Motion – Confirming Reappointment of Trina Burrell to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending May 31, 2018.

**INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY**

Please consider confirming the following appointment/reappointment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Board</th>
<th>Term Ending Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trina Burrell</td>
<td>Zoning Board of Appeals</td>
<td>May 31, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MOTION**

Move to confirm the Reappointment of Trina Burrell to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending May 31, 2018.
RESUME FOR APPOINTMENT TO
CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

I AM INTERESTED IN: Civic Affairs

NAME: Burrell Trina Rena
(Please Print) (Last) (First) (Middle) (Maiden)

HOME ADDRESS: 6560 Sheffield Road Auburn 48326
(Number/Street) (City/Zip) (Telephone)

BUSINESS ADDRESS:
(Number/Street) (City/Zip) (Telephone)

PLACE OF BIRTH: Marvel, Arkansas DATE OF BIRTH:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

ARE YOU A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES? I HAVE LIVED IN AUBURN HILLS 20 YEARS

MILITARY HISTORY (include honors received):

CIVIC ACTIVITIES (offices held, honors, etc.): Family Readiness U.S. Army-Chairperson
BBDO March of Dimes Co-Chairperson, March of Dimes Top Volunteer Award 2002

LIST NAME, ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS OF THREE REFERENCES NOT RELATED TO YOU:
Mary Horne - 736 Southampton Auburn Hills 48326
Valerie Jefferson Clarkson MI
Sabrina Allison Detroit MI

EDUCATION:
High School Avondale
Business or Vocational
College or Technical Oakland Community College - Auburn Hills Campus
Graduate or Professional
EMPLOYMENT:

Current Position of Employment: Keller Williams - Troy Market Center

Name of employing firm/owner

1700 W Big Beaver Suite 100 Troy MI 48009

Number/Street City/State Zip Code

Title of Position Real Estate

Type of Business/Organization

Your Duties and Responsibilities: Assisting consumers with selling and purchasing homes

Dates of Employment: 8/08 - Present

Previous Positions of Employment:

Company/Organization City/State Dates of Employment

CT Corporation Bingham Farms MI 3/06 - 4/08

BBDO Detroit Troy MI 2/06 - 2/08

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU WISH TO INCLUDE (use separate sheet if necessary):


IF APPOINTED, DO YOU PREFER YOUR MAIL SENT TO: Business _______ Residence

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS FORM IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

(Signature) (Date)
5b. Presentation – Introduction of Bianca Karjo, Human Resources Generalist

NO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE
NOT YET APPROVED
The City of Auburn Hills
Pension Board Meeting
Minutes

February 11, 2015

Administrative Conference Room, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills MI 48326

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL
   Present: Mayor Pro Tem Kittle, City Manager Tanghe, Finance Director Schulz (arrived at 3:07), Public Safety Representative Martin, Department of Public Works Representative Landry, City Clerk Kowal, Clerical Representative Klobnock, Fire Chief Manning.
   Absent: Mayor McDaniel
   Also Present: Thomas Michaud, Attorney; Katherine Ghannam, Asset Strategies; Deputy Finance Director Wickenheiser.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
   Moved by Klobnock; Seconded by Manning.
   RESOLVED: To approve the Agenda.
   VOTE: Yes: All
   No: None
   Motion carried (8-0)

4. CONSENT AGENDA
   4a. Approve Pension Board Minutes – August 13, 2014
   4c. Approve payment in the amount of $5,547.95 to Asset Strategies for services rendered for invoice 3978 for the months of July & August 2014.
   4d. Approve payment in the amount of $4,107.31 to asset Strategies for services rendered on invoice 3980 for the month of September 2014.
   Moved by Klobnock; Seconded by Manning
   RESOLVED: To approve the Consent Agenda.
   VOTE: Yes: All
   No: None
   Motion carried (8-0)

5. OLD BUSINESS
   5a. Service Retirement: Thomas Hardesty
   Chair Martin asked if anyone had questions concerning the resolution. Mr. Manning asked if the calculation was consistent with the one that is on the agenda today. Mr. Martin explained that Ms. Schulz should be asked, as this is a “receive and file” item and not one we will take action on. Ms. Schulz replied that she cannot reply at this time as she did not prepare the document; her predecessor did. She will look into it and let the Board know.
   Moved by Kowal; Seconded by Klobnock.
   RESOLVED: To receive and file the service retirement resolution for Thomas Hardesty.
   VOTE: Yes: All
   No: None
   Motion carried (8-0)
6. NEW BUSINESS

6a. Fourth Quarter Performance Report and Liquidity Schedule

Ms. Ghannam informed the Board that we had very good performance numbers in the fourth quarter in spite of a lot of volatility. GDP is showing strong growth. The US economy is coming back strong, with a strengthening US dollar. Against the Euro and Yen, the dollar continued to negatively impact US investors in the Euro-Pacific region equities.

Unemployment is better, inflation is in tow, and interest rates are low. Even car sales have improved. Consumer spending is still not very high, though. Some other headwinds we may see this year is the government deficit, which is huge. They are trying to raise money through taxes, with tax increases on those with income over $200,000.00. In addition, a heightened fear of what is happening in Europe and Eastern Europe with terrorist attacks has hurt the market.

The best economy right now is the U.S. The U.S. Treasury yield curve ended the year considerably flatter with 5-year and beyond securities’ yields falling sharply. Longer dated bonds outperformed shorter-term bonds by a wide margin. Investment grade bonds outperformed lower credit quality High Yield bonds as high yield spreads widened. We have been in a bull market for over 70 months; this is the longest bull market since the Great Depression. There is a lot of volatility since the first of the year. Regardless, the S & P for the year finished strong, despite flat December gains. The S & P 500 finished strong, followed by Real Estate. The dollar is strengthening, and this could be the year the Fed raises rates, but we have to wait and see. The returns were not overseas, they were all U.S. The three year S & P is up over 20%. We rank 6th out of 100% for total returns.

PIMCO All Asset All Authority was 6.17% actual versus the target of 7%. However, Rothschild SMID Cap ended at 36.97% with a target of 35%; Vontobel was slightly under at 14.71% with a target of 15%; PIMCO Total Return at 23.65% with a target of 25%; Total Short Term Cash is at 0.09%; Total Real Estate ended at 1042% with a target of 10% and Total Hedge Fund at 7.96% with a target of 8%.

The total fund results were very strong, up +3.50% for the quarter. Total fund results slightly trailed the Policy Index due to underperformance from the PIMCO All Asset All Authority Fund and the PIMCO Total Return Fund, offset by outperformance from Rothschild and Vontobel.

One year total fund results exceed return, risk and peer group expectations, ranking very favorable in the first quartile. Over longer periods of time, total funds are similarly ahead of return, risk and peer group expectations.

In the fourth quarter of extended probation, Vontobel outperformed their benchmark by 3.54%, exceeding their benchmark for the trailing one year period by 7.6%. Asset Strategies is recommending that we withdraw probation.

Infinity Partners (hedge fund of funds manager) was selected to replace the PIMCO All Asset All Authority Fund in December. The percent of funding to the new manager is to be determined based on the opinion of counsel and review of the recent amendments to MI Public Act 347 of 2012.

Asset did not detect any violations of investment guidelines.

As of 2/3/15, all investment allocations were close to targets.

Asset recommends approval of the liquidity funding schedule for April through June 2015.

An opinion letter from Mr. Michaud was distributed to the Members. Mr. Michaud explained that the opinion was drafted pursuant to a request from the Board to review the legal documents related to the proposed investment in Infinity Premier Fund (QP) Cayman, L.P. The Infinity Fund is commonly referred to as a fund of funds (multi-manager fund) in which the Investment Manager selects and invests in several “hedge funds” with the Plan receiving the returns from assets contained and managed in the underlying funds less applicable fees. While the term “hedge fund” refers to the investment structure rather than the investment strategy, the Board must review both the structure and strategy to ensure the investment meets the requirements of the Plan and applicable law.

The Infinity Fund operates as an exempted limited partnership in the Cayman Islands and is not registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, nor registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and is not subject to the registration requirements or other regulatory provisions of either Act. Infinity Capital Management, LLC (the “General Partner”), a Georgia limited liability company, serves as the general partner of the Infinity Fund. The General Partner has retained Infinity Capital Managers, LLC as the Investment Manager (the “Manager”) of the Infinity Fund. The Manager is an SEC-registered investment Advisory firm based in Atlanta, Georgia. The General Partner and Manager are both wholly owned subsidiaries of Infinity Capital Partners, LLC.

The Offering Documents reveal that the investment objective of the Infinity Fund is to achieve long-term capital growth by investment of substantially all of its assets primarily in general or limited partnerships, funds, corporations, trusts or other investment vehicles (collectively, “Investment Funds”) based primarily in the United States that invest or trade in
a wide range of securities, and, to a lesser extent, other property and currency interests. The Infinity Fund may also
directly invest in securities.

The Plan is a governmental pension plan, as defined in Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 414(d), and is a qualified
plan and trust pursuant to IRC Sections 401(a) and 501(a). The Plan is administered in accordance with state and
federal laws and regulations, and the Board of Trustees is vested with the authority and fiduciary responsibility for the
administration, management and operation of the Plan, including the authority to invest the assets of the Plan subject
to all terms, conditions, limitations and restrictions imposed by the State of Michigan on the investments of public
employee retirement systems under the Public Employee Retirement System Investment Act.

Based upon the information contained in the Offering Documents, Infinity Capital Partners, LLC, was founded in 2002
and currently has approximately $300 million in assets under management. Accordingly, while the parent company of
the Infinity Fund’s General Partner and Manager has been in operation for more than five years, it does not have more
than $500 million in assets under management and, therefore, an investment in the Infinity Fund would not qualify
under Section 20c of Act 314.

In light of the foregoing, it is the considered opinion of this writer that an investment by the Plan in the Infinity Fund
would fall under Section 20d of Act 314 (MCL 38.1140d), more commonly referred to as the “Basket Clause”. Section
20d of Act 314 provides in relevant part as follows:

1. An investment fiduciary of a system having assets of less than $250,000,000.00 may invest not more
   than 15% of the system’s assets in investments [not otherwise qualified under this act, whether the
   investments are similar or dissimilar to those specified in this act].

2. If an investment described in subsection (1) is subsequently determined to be permitted under another
   section of this act, then the investment shall no longer be included under this section.

3. This section shall not be used to exceed a percentage of total assets limitation for an investment
   provided in any other section of this act.

A plain reading of Section 20d indicates that the legislature intended that the “Basket Clause” be available for a wide
range of investments. Other than the requirement that these investments be those that are not “otherwise qualified”
under Act 314, the legislature imposed only two other qualifications in Act 314. The first limits the amount of Basket
Clause investments to a percentage of the Plan’s total assets [Section 20d(1)]; and, the second precludes the Plan
from using the Basket Clause to exceed a percentage of the total assets limitation for an investment authorized in any
other section of the Act [Section 20d(6)]. For example, Section 14 of Act 314 limits investments in stock or global
securities to 70% of a system’s assets. Once that threshold is met, the Basket Clause cannot be used for investments
in stock or global securities that would cause the percentage of assets invested therein to exceed 70%.

The Board, with the assistance of the Plan’s Investment Consultant, should periodically review and monitor the
underlying assets of the Infinity Fund for purposes of compliance with the asset limitations of Act 314. The asset
limitations established under Act 314 are applicable to the Plan as a whole and not to the separate portfolios of each
Plan. It is understood that investment managers are to be fully invested in their respective asset class and that various
managers may have “basket clause” investments.

Based on the Plan’s current asset allocation as reported to this writer by the Board’s Investment Consultant, it is the
understanding of this writer that the Plan has currently allocated approximately 12.8% of its portfolio to Basket Clause
investments (i.e. BlueCrest All Blue hedge fund of funds and Bloomfield Capital Income Fund II). Accordingly, as
investments under the Basket Clause are limited to 15% of Plan assets, it is the considered opinion of this writer that
the Board cannot allocate more than 2.2% of the Plan’s assets to an investment in the Infinity Fund. Therefore, it is
strongly suggested that the Board assign to the Investment Consultant the responsibility to monitor and report the
asset allocation of the Plan for purposes of compliance with the asset limitations of Act 314.

As always, it should be noted that while an investment is authorized by Act 314, the principle of prudence shall
be the predominant consideration. The prudence requirements for investment fiduciaries of public Plan are set forth in
Section 13(3) of Act 314.

Mr. Michaud understands that the Plan has been advised of the nature of this investment, its structure and costs, and
has considered the various risk factors specified in the Offering Documents. As always, this office recommends that
the Board seek a written opinion and recommendation from the Plan’s Investment Consultant regarding any investments which the Board may then rely upon in furtherance of its due diligence.

Subject to the foregoing, it is the considered opinion of this office that:

1. The Plan is: (1) duly organized and validly existing under the laws of the State of Michigan; (2) a qualified governmental employee benefit plan within the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code; (3) an accredited investor under SEC Regulation D; (4) a qualified eligible person under CFTC Regulation 4.7; and, (5) a qualified purchaser under Section 2(a)(51) of the Investment Company Act.

2. Execution of the subscription documents would constitute legal, valid and binding obligations of the Plan, enforceable in accordance with their terms, except to the extent that enforceability may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency or other laws affecting creditors’ rights generally (now existing or hereafter enacted), and by general principles of equity (regardless of whether enforcement is sought at law or in equity).

3. The Plan’s interest in the Infinity Fund is an investment which is qualified under Section 20d of Act 314 [MCL § 38.1140c(1)]; such investments being collectively limited to 15% of Plan assets.

4. Provided the Infinity Fund does not exceed 25% of Benefit Plan Investor assets, the Plan assets invested in the Fund would not be deemed to constitute “Plan Assets” of the Plan under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, the Department of Labor Regulations (29 CFR 2510.3-101), and the Investment Manager would not be considered a fiduciary to the Plan subject to the prohibited transaction and other investment fiduciary provisions of Act 314.

5. The Infinity Fund’s investment approach is subject to various risks as set forth in the operating documents (copies of which were provided to the Plan).

6. The Infinity Fund is not registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act. Therefore, certain protections of the Act (which among other things, requires investment companies to have disinterested directors, requires securities held in custody to be segregated, regulates relationships between the company and its Managers, and requires investor approval before fundamental policies can be changed) are not afforded.

7. The Infinity Fund may be required to indemnify and hold harmless the General Partner, and any agent, affiliate or employee of the Fund or General Partner, against all actions, proceedings, costs, charges, expenses, losses, damages or liabilities incurred or sustained by such individual(s), other than by reason of such individual(s) willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of such person’s duties. In the event of such indemnification by the Infinity Fund, the Plan, as an investor in the Fund, will be required to bear its pro rata share of any such costs, expenses, or payments required as a result of such indemnification by the Infinity Fund.

8. The management fee payable by the Infinity Fund to its Manager of 1.00% of the net asset value of the Class A limited partnership interests held in each limited partner’s capital account, together with the Performance Allocation payable to the Fund’s General Partner results in two levels of fees.

9. All investments of the Plan are subject to the prudence standards which are set forth in Section 13(3) of Act 314.

Mr. Michaud then instructed the Board to contact him with any questions. Mr. Kittle asked if the length of time to transfer the funds could cause a problem with the 15% level being over. Mr. Michaud explained that as long as we had the paperwork in action to move the funds it would be fine.

Discussion took place regarding a search for added value real estate managers. Ms. Ghannam stated a search could be done. Chair Martin asked that this issue be added to the May agenda for follow up. Ms. Ghannam stated she will attend and bring the commercial added value real estate search results. Mr. Martin asked for a motion.

Moved by Klobnock: Seconded by Tanghe.

RESOLVED: To approve a search being done for an added value real estate manager.

VOTE: Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried (8-0)
Discussion took place on removing Vontobel from probation.

Moved by Klobnock; Seconded by Kittle.  
RESOLVED: To remove Vontobel from probation.  
VOTE: Yes: All  
No: None  
Motion carried (8-0)

Mr. Martin asked for a motion to approve the liquidity schedule.  

Moved by Klobnock; Seconded by Manning.  
RESOLVED: To approve the Fourth Quarter Performance Report and Liquidity Funding Schedule  
VOTE: Yes: All  
No: None  
Motion carried (8-0)

6b. Appeal of Pension Determination of retiree Steven Groehn

A letter from Mr. Groehn was distributed to the Board. Mr. Martin explained that this was the second letter and was given to him the morning of the meeting. Mr. Michaud informed Mr. Groehn that this was the first time this issue was presented to the Board, and if the board has any questions please ask them. Mr. Groehn explained his situation. He believes his pension was calculated incorrectly, according to the union contract under which he retired. He feels the percentage of months worked were incorrectly calculated. He had met with Mr. Barnes and was not in agreement with the decision. He feels it is an oversight. Mr. Groehn pointed out different sections of the contract and Plan Document that he feels apply to this issue. Payroll summaries were submitted to the board, dating back to 2009 and up until he left in 2014. He would like the Board to refigure his pension based on these numbers.

Mr. Kittle asked what the difference would be. Mr. Groehn wasn’t sure. Ms. Klobnock asked about the Final Average Compensation (FAC) being averaged over the year. Ms. Schulz replied that Mr. Groehn’s FAC was determined by the total time Mr. Groehn was paid for in 2014. Mr. Michaud explained that there is not a single definition of a “year” or “averaged” for pension plans. Consistency is the most important issue. Mr. Groehn stated that two retirees had been calculated differently. Ms. Schulz stated there are two cases, as Mr. Groehn stated, but all the rest of the retirees had been calculated in the same manner as Mr. Groehn’s. Mr. Michaud stated he would consider the way the pension is most often calculated as the customary method.

Mr. Michaud asked that an example be put together with an example of how the pension is routinely calculated. Mr. Manning concurred. Discussion took place on creating a FAC policy so that all are done exactly the same and an illustration can be given to potential retirees. Mr. Groehn stated he is looking for consistency, not necessarily a higher pension. Discussion ensued regarding who did the calculations prior to 2005. The Clerk will check the minutes and report back.

Mr. Kittle suggested we review the calculations for Mr. Groehn. Mr. Tanghe concurred. Clarification of what is being requested is needed. In her review of past records, the methodology seems to be consistent. Mr. Martin asked how 41 of the past 42 were figured. Ms. Schulz replied that the calculations were made the same as for Mr. Groehn.

Mr. Martin asked for a model for the Board to review. Ms. Schulz will provide it for the next meeting.

Mr. Groehn thanked the Board for their patience and time. Mr. Martin asked for a motion to receive and file the letters from Mr. Groehn, and for this issue to be placed on the next agenda.  

Moved by Kittle; Seconded by Manning.  
RESOLVED: To receive and file the letters of Appeal from Mr. Groehn.  
VOTE: Yes: All  
No: None  
Motion carried (8-0)

6c. Legal Opinion re: Hedge Fund of Funds Investment Allocations

Mr. Michaud stated he had nothing to offer further than what was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Moved by Kittle; Seconded by Manning.  
RESOLVED: To receive and file the opinion from Mr. Michaud regarding the Hedge Fund of Funds.  
VOTE: Yes: All  
No: None  
Motion carried (8-0)

6d. Legal Opinion re: Status of Contract with Infinity Partners

Mr. Michaud stated now that we have made the allocations, he will draft the contract. Mr. Martin thanked him.
8. LEGISLATIVE

8a. IRS Rollover Notice

Mr. Michaud informed the Board that the document provided to the Board explains the effects on pension payouts for those who choose to take their pension as a rollover, or take money directly. The IRS changed its rules, and this new form must be used. It allows more flexibility for the pensioner. It allows money to be rolled over, or split. All we need to do as a Board is update the form.

Moved by Klobnock: Seconded by Tanghe.

RESOLVED: To adopt the new IRS Rollover form as submitted by Attorney Michaud.

VOTE: Yes: All
No: None

Motion carried (8-0)

8b. Policy Updates

Mr. Michaud stated that some new Freedom of Information Act changes have been approved by the Legislature and we will talk more about it at a later meeting. Ms. Kowal added that the changes do not take effect until July 1, 2015, and she will have a presentation on it completed by then. Mr. Martin asked for it to be on the agenda for May. He would also like a policy for EDRO’s in May. We should pass on the costs of the EDRO’s rather than absorbing it ourselves. Ms. Klobnock thought we had one already, and she will look.

Mr. Martin advised that the Pension audit revealed that there are instances where numbers are rounded, perhaps gone out more decimal points or rounded. The Board needs to take a look at this and decide what to do as a policy. In addition, we need to decide what to do with the ones already done. Mr. Michaud stated he could provide an “under or over payment” document. He can also provide what other pension plans do in this case. Ms. Kowal asked if we should have a policy on how many decimals we should expand the calculations. Mr. Michaud will put this in the draft resolution. Mr. Martin would like Ms. Schulz’s sample retirement form memorialized in the resolution, and Ms. Schulz would like the pay codes that should be used in the calculations included. Ms. Kowal will add this to the May agenda also.

Ms. Klobnock asked if we should wait until we see the sample calculation from Ms. Schulz. Mr. Martin would like to get the first draft done. Mr. Michaud concurred.

To review, Mr. Michaud stated he will work on 3 policies. One is for EDRO, one for FAC and determining compensation used in the calculations, and an “Under or Over Payment” policy. Mr. Kittle would like a determination of what a “year” is also included.

Mr. Martin asked for a motion to adjourn the Pension Board meeting.

Moved by Tanghe: Seconded by Kowal.

RESOLVED: To adjourn the Pension Board meeting at 4:25 p.m.

VOTE: Yes: All
No: None

Motion carried (8-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Kowal, City Clerk
NOT YET APPROVED
The City of Auburn Hills
Retiree Health Care Board Meeting
Minutes
February 11, 2015

Administrative Conference Room, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills MI 48326

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 4:28 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL
   Present: Mayor Pro Tem Kittle, City Manager Tanghe, Finance Director Schulz, Public Safety Representative Martin, City Clerk Kowal, Clerical Representative Klobnock, Fire Chief Manning.
   Absent: Mayor McDaniel
   Also Present: Thomas Michaud, Attorney (left at 4:29 pm); Katherine Ghannam, Asset Strategies; Deputy Finance Director Wickenheiser.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
   Moved by Tanghe; Seconded by Kittle.
   RESOLVED: To approve the Agenda.
   VOTE: Yes: All
   No: None
   Motion carried (7-0)

4. CONSENT AGENDA
   4a. Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2014
   4b. Approval of Minutes of Joint Meeting with Pension Board of December 17, 2014
   4c. Approval of Minutes of Joint Meeting with Pension Board of January 26, 2015.
   4d. Approval of Finance Director Reports October and November, 2014.
   4e. Approval of Invoice 3999 from Asset Strategies 4th quarter services in the amount of $6250.00
   4f. Approval of Invoice 4062 from Asset Strategies for 1st quarter 2015 services in the amount of $6250.00.

   Moved by Tanghe; Seconded by Kittle.
   RESOLVED: To approve the Consent Agenda.
   VOTE: Yes: All
   No: None
   Motion carried (7-0)

6. NEW BUSINESS
   6a. Fourth Quarter Performance Report and Liquidity Schedule

Ms. Ghannam informed the Board that the numbers looked really good for the RHC. The performance for last quarter was 4.23%, and for the last year 9.76%, which is very good. The following conclusions were reached:

1. Strong Total Fund results of 4.23% exceeded the policy index due to outperformance from small cap and international equities.
2. One year Total fund results exceed return, risk, and peer group expectations, ranking very favorably in the 1st quartile.
3. Over longer time periods, Total Fund results are similarly ahead of return, risk and peer group expectations.
4. In the fourth quarter of (extended) probation, Vontobel outperformed their benchmark by 3.54%. Vontobel exceeds their benchmark for 7.06% for the trailing one-year period. Asset recommends withdrawing probation.

5. Asset did not detect any violations of investment guidelines.

6. As of 2/3/15, all investment allocations were close to targets.

Mr. Manning questioned Ms. Ghannam about the bear market, and how we protect ourselves from another fall. The response was that we decrease our volatility. She went on to explain how the Board moved as much money as possible to alternatives following 2008.

Discussion followed regarding the new investment plan.

Moved by Klobnock; Seconded by Kowal.
RESOLVED: To accept the 4th Quarter Report from Asset Strategies.
VOTE: Yes: All
     No: None
Motion carried (7-0)

Discussion continued on removing Vontobel from probation. The consensus was that they are doing well and should come off probation.

Moved by Klobnock; Seconded by Kowal
RESOLVED: To remove the probation status from Vontobel.
VOTE: Yes: All
     No: None
Motion carried (7-0)

All other business was discussed at the Pension Board meeting.

Without any further business before the Board, Mr. Martin asked for a motion to adjourn.

Moved by Tanghe; Seconded by Kowal.
RESOLVED: To adjourn the meeting at 4:48 p.m.
VOTE: Yes: All
     No: None
Motion carried (7-0)

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Kowal, City Clerk
CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Foster called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

ROLL CALL
Present: Rich Foster, Celeste Yoskovich, Cheryl Verbeke, Karen Lewis, Linda Hogan
Also Present: Elizabeth Brennan, Exec. Assistant Community Development
Absent: Ilene Ingram
Guests: None

LOCATION
Council Conference Room
1827 N. Squirrel Rd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326

PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD – None

CORRESPONDENCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Ms. Yoskovich moved to approve the minutes of November 5, 2014
Supported by Ms. Hogan

VOTE:
Yes: Foster, Yoskovich, Verbeke, Hogan, Lewis
No: None

Motion Carried (5-0)
OLD BUSINESS –

Keep It Clean Program
Ms. Brennan reported that there are two areas available for a “Keep It Clean” clean-up event. The first location is Squirrel Road, south of M-59 to Auburn Rd. The alternative location is High Meadow Circle. The group selected High Meadow Circle and targeted early June for our first event. Ms. Brennan will confirm a date with the Department of Public Works. Ms. Brennan encouraged the Commission to recruit friends and family for a well-attended and productive event.

Perennial Exchange Pre-Planning
Ms. Brennan presented the Commissioners with an outline of assignments for the May 16th Perennial Exchange. The Commission members committed to specific tasks in preparation for the event and work assignments the day of the Exchange.

Budget Update
Ms. Brennan informed the Commission that the expenditure for the November 2014 lamppost banner purchase has been be moved to the 2015 Budget Year because the banners were not received in City offices before December 31st.

NEW BUSINESS –

Tree Lighting Event
Ms. Ingram had planned to discuss her ideas about BAC involvement in the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Due to her absence, this item was tabled until the March meeting.

Calendar Adjustments
Ms. Brennan requested the May meeting date move from the 20th to the 13th. The Commission agreed to the change as it allows them to meet again before the Perennial Exchange on the 16th.

Open Discussion
Mr. Foster suggested that the BAC take a more active role in city events – to have more of a presence in the community during the year. Commission members were very receptive to the idea and will discuss specifics in March.

Ms. Brennan showed the Commissioners a sample of each of the new lamppost banners. They were well received. The first set will be installed on the first day of spring.

Confirm Next Meeting –
Next meeting confirmed for March 18, 2015 at 6:00pm

Adjournment –
The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Brennan
BAC - City Staff Liaison
City of Auburn Hills
Community Development
To: Mayor and City Council

From: Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager and Doreen E. Olko, Chief of Police

Submitted: March 4, 2015

Subject: Motion: 2015 Liquor License Renewals.

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

This is the time when City Council reviews all On-Premises Liquor Licenses within the City for renewal. If the City wishes to object to the renewal of a license, the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) must receive the written objection at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of April 30th, 2015. Upon receipt of an objection from the City, the MLCC will hold an Administrative Revocation Hearing to determine if the license should be renewed or not. By State law and local ordinance the only liquor licenses that need to be renewed by City Council and the MLCC are those businesses that serve alcohol for consumption on premises.

To insure the close monitoring of LCC licenses, City Council has enacted Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances, “…to regulate and establish procedures and standards for liquor licensing in the City of Auburn Hills.” Pursuant to this ordinance, license holders pay a renewal fee to the City and are inspected by the Police, Fire, and Building Departments. The Fire Department found some minor violations at licensed liquor establishments within the City and is working with the businesses to correct the issues. The Building Department also found some minor violations and they too are working with the businesses to correct these violations. Both departments recommend approval for all establishments.

Beyond the physical inspection performed by the Police Department, we also check our computer records for the number of calls for service at each establishment and the nature of the requests. We have determined that no establishments had substantial problems with the frequency or nature of calls for service. In 2014, the Police Department conducted two (2) under age controlled buy enforcement operations. During the two sting operations conducted three (3) of our Class C establishments furnished alcohol to a minor. As part of our follow-up these establishments were referred to our TIPS program (Training for Intervention Procedures), which educates bartenders and wait staff on how to recognize intoxicated individuals and what actions they are to take if they are confronted with intoxicated persons on their premises. Applebee’s declined our offer of TIPS training, electing to train their staff in-house, Courtyard Marriott had TIPS training on January 26, 2015, and Toby Keith’s had TIPS training on June 16th, 2014. Our officers continue to work with area hotels and motels during prom month to prevent underage drinking at those establishments.

LICENSES OF SPECIAL NOTE

There are seven (7) Class C On-Premise licenses in escrow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licensee</th>
<th>DBA</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TIFA</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>3350 Auburn Rd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TEMPORARY LICENSES ISSUED
MLCC has a new process which allows for the issuance of temporary licenses under certain circumstances. Two licensed hotels are currently in escrow because they are in the process of being sold. Although the licenses are in escrow they are both operating including the sales of alcohol. One of the businesses has an unpaid water bill of $528.20:

Hyatt Place Hotel - (purchased by the Lonestar Company LLC and their temporary license expires on 12/22/2015.)

LIQUOR LICENSE VIOLATIONS – 3 YEAR HISTORY
According to the MLCC and a database maintained by City departments, the following establishments have received violations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Establishment</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Fined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applebee’s #8076 (Squirrel Rd)</td>
<td>5/9/2012</td>
<td>Sale to Minor</td>
<td>Fined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bar Louie</td>
<td>12/18/14</td>
<td>Sale to Minor</td>
<td>Fined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtyard Marriot</td>
<td>12/18/14</td>
<td>Sale to Minor-Pending</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duffy’s</td>
<td>12/6/2012</td>
<td>Sale to Minor</td>
<td>Fined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoop’s</td>
<td>5/7/2012</td>
<td>Sale to Minor</td>
<td>Fined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joes Crab Shack</td>
<td>1/23/2012</td>
<td>NSF Check to LCC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On The Border</td>
<td>5/23/13</td>
<td>Sale to Minor</td>
<td>Fined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Ox</td>
<td>5/7/2012</td>
<td>Sale to Minor</td>
<td>Fined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Fe Café’</td>
<td>12/7/2012</td>
<td>Sale to Minor</td>
<td>Fined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toby Keith’s</td>
<td>8/4/2012</td>
<td>furnished alcohol intoxicated person</td>
<td>Fined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12/6/2012</td>
<td>Sale to Minor</td>
<td>Fined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4/16/2014</td>
<td>Sale to Minor</td>
<td>Fined</td>
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</table>

LICENSES ELIGIBLE FOR RENEWAL
The following licensed establishments have met all requirements for license renewal in accordance with Police, Fire and Building department inspections and have all paid the annual license renewal fee:

Alfoccino                        Joe’s Crab Shack
AMC Theatres                     Lelli’s
Applebee’s #8088                  Logan’s Roadhouse
Applebee’s #8076                  Longhorn Steakhouse
BD Mongolian Barbeque             Romano Macaroni Grill
Bar Louie                        Makimoto Sushi Bar & Asian Kitchen
Buddy’s Pizzeria                 Max & Erma’s Restaurant
Callahan Brother’s Inc.          Miyako Japanese Steak & Seafood
Chili’s Grill & Bar              Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
Crown Plaza O’Malley’s
Courtyard Marriott (Hospitality Properties)  
Fieldstone Golf Course  
Fran O’Brien’s Maryland Crab House  
German American Marksman Club  
Hill Gazette Post #141-American Legion  
Hoops Sports and Entertainment  
Hilton Suites - (Purchased by Motor City Hotel LCC and their temporary license expires on 12/22/2015).

Attached is the City Treasurer’s report on the status of all outstanding taxes, utilities or license renewal fees. The information contained in this memo is as of 3/3/2015.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends renewal of all liquor licenses for those establishments listed above that have met the City’s requirements. The below listed licenses are not recommended for approval as they have unpaid fees from one or more of the following; taxes, water bill, or renewal fees:

- Ciccarelli’s
- Duffy’s Pub
- Elwell’s
- Great Lakes Golf Dome
- Hyatt Place Hotel
- Toby Keith’s I Love This Bar

**MOTION**

Move to recommend approval of the annual liquor licenses of those establishments that have met the licensing requirements of the City; and that a public hearing be scheduled for Monday, March 23rd, 2015 to consider evidence regarding the recommendation of non-renewal of a liquor license to those establishments who have not met the City’s requirements.

I CONCUR:

Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager
LICENCES NOT MEETING ELIGIBILITY FOR RENEWAL

The following establishments have not met the requirements for license renewal due to non-payment of renewal fees, water/sewer fees, and/or taxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>2014 Summer</th>
<th>2014 Winter</th>
<th>2014 Summer</th>
<th>2014 Winter</th>
<th>Total Taxes Due</th>
<th>License Renewal Fees</th>
<th>Water &amp; Sewer</th>
<th>Total Amount Due</th>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<td>Ciccarelli’s</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>9,200.61</td>
<td>9,200.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elwell’s (in escrow)</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>858.90</td>
<td>858.90</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>125.21</td>
<td>984.11</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>11,631.25</td>
<td>5,333.59</td>
<td>16,964.84</td>
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<td>16,964.84</td>
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<td>Duffy’s Irish Pub</td>
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<td>245.35</td>
<td>543.42</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>7,308.32</td>
<td>7,851.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Status as of 03/03/15

Grand Total Delinquencies 68,216.12
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lynne Seymour, CRPAC Chair (586) 307-8229
March 5, 2015
Jennifer Tewkesbury, Office of the Great Lakes (517) 897-3257

EPA Announces 20 Million Dollars in Funding for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration

The Clinton River Public Advisory Council in coordination with the Clinton River Watershed Council and the Office of the Great Lakes will be accepting $20 million in funding over the next three years for 11 projects through the Clinton River watershed along the Clinton River, its tributaries and the mouth of Lake St. Clair for fish and wildlife habitat restoration as part of the Environmental Protection Agency's Area of Concern Program throughout the Great Lakes.

The Clinton River Watershed has been listed as an Area of Concern for 28 years and has a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) that lists eight Beneficial Use Impairments (BUI's) that must be removed in order for the Clinton River to become delisted. The target for delisting is 2018. The three BUI’s that are targeted to be removed as part of the $20 million funding are Loss of fish and Wildlife Habitat, Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations and Degradation of Benthos. Removing these particular BUI's over a three year period requires planning, design and implementation of projects that include, wetland restoration, fish passage restoration, streambank restoration, woody debris management, native plant installation and fish habitat improvement.

Projects include:
- 235 acres of aquatic and terrestrial habitat restoration
- 92,000 feet of lineal channel restoration
- 130 acres of floodplain or wetland restoration
- 92,000 feet of in-stream habitat
- 365 tons of sediment loading reduction

Partners on the Habitat Project Restoration include the Environmental Protection Agency - Great Lakes National Program Office (EPA-GLNPO), Michigan Office of the Great Lakes, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Army Corps of Engineers, Clinton River Public Advisory Council, Clinton River Watershed Council, Macomb County Public Works Office, Oakland County Water Resource Commission's Office, Huron Clinton Metroparks Authority, Oakland County Water Resource Office, City of Sterling Heights, City of Utica, City of Auburn Hills, City of Warren, City of Troy, City of Rochester, Clinton Township, Macomb Township, Ray Township, Shelby Township, Harrison Township, Oakland University, St. Clair County Drain Commissioner, Lapeer County Drain Commissioner, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

The Clinton River watershed covers 760 square miles through four counties (Macomb, Oakland, Lapeer, and St. Clair). From its headwaters in Springfield Township, the Clinton River travels 80 miles and eventually empties into Lake St. Clair in Harrison Township. Over 1.5 million people live in the watershed’s 63 communities. The CRWC is a non-profit environmental organization that protects, enhances, and celebrates the Clinton River, its watershed, and Lake St. Clair.
Historic photos show changes to Oakland University campus

By Stephen Frye
steve.frye@oakpress.com;
@stevefrye on Twitter

The Oakland Press recently posted a collection of historic photos from Oakland University, which we found in our archives.

The photos, which date from the 1960s to the 1990s, show the changes to the campus over the decades.

Founded in 1957 off of Walton Boulevard at the border of Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills (then Avon Township), the recent additions to the campus in just the last few years, including new buildings and a new parking structure, have made the changes from the last half century even more pronounced.

What do you remember about the campus in its first decades?

Much has changed, especially the jammed traffic on campus and on Squirrel Road.

With more than 20,500 students working on degrees or certificates in 260 programs, Oakland University continues its growth. The university, which is led by first-year president George Hynd, just passed 100,000 graduates.

Here is some of the reaction to the gallery shared with us on our Facebook page:

- Christine Owoc Murray: "I think the campus has grown beautifully and will continue to do so. You cannot stay stuck in the past. I think it's a great campus providing a great education locally for those that choose to attend OU. Cheapest tuition in the state."

- Randy Stepp: "(Founder) Mrs. (Matilda Dodge) Wilson would roll in her grave if she could see what takes place there now."

- Dawn Kernott: "And (it was) a lot cheaper to go there back then."

Share your thoughts about the changes for Oakland University or share photos you have of campus on
Stephanie Willis, coordinator of Oakland University's Wellness and Education Outreach program, and David Charlton, keynote speaker.

OU hosts hands-only CPR lesson

By Diana Dillaber Murray
diana.dillaber@oakpress.com
@dilober on Twitter

David Charlton told an audience of more than 50 administrative professionals at Oakland University how he saved a man's life by using hands-only CPR until emergency medical technicians arrived to take over.

Charlton was the keynote speaker at American Heart Association Heart Month event hosted by Oakland University on Feb. 17.

Besides the American Heart Association, the event at the Administrative Professionals Assembly was also sponsored by OU Campus Recreation and OU's Employee Wellness program, said Brian Bierley, OU spokesman.

Rochester Hills Fire Department led the hands-only CPR training, with Annie Hill, American Heart Association community coordinator and lead representative; and Stephanie Willis, OU coordinator of Wellness and Education Outreach in leadership roles.
Community colleges get funds for skilled trades

By Diana Dillaber Murray
diana.dillaber@oakpress.com, 
Twitter @ddilbar

With the increasing demand for people needed to work in the skilled trades, Gov. Rick Snyder has established funding for community colleges to help ensure Michigan provides the training and the workforce to meet the need and create more jobs in the state.

Oakland and Macomb community colleges are among 18 schools statewide that were approved for the funds by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The schools were selected through the Community College Skilled Trades Equipment Program as part of the effort to help close a talent gap and meet a demand for good-paying jobs.

Each of the schools has to provide a match of its own money to obtain the grant, collaborate with school districts, and provide a detailed plan on how the funding will help meet employers' job needs.

Oakland Community College is to receive $4.54 million with a match of $1.5 million for a total of about $6.1 million for state-of-the art equipment and training for skills needed in jobs in automotive servicing, collision auto repair, medium and heavy truck and equipment, and commercial driving.

"Oakland Community College will use these funds to provide advanced automotive, transportation and mechatronics training on cutting-edge equipment."

-- OCC Chancellor
Timothy B. Meyer

**Equipment Program Awards and Programs:**

- Macomb CC — $2.83 million, Welding Fabrication, CNC Machining, Mechatronics, Production Operators, Automotive Mfg
- Matt CC — $3.05 million, Building & Construction, HVAC/R, Electronics/Robotics, Mechatronics, CADD, Welding, Automotive, Dental Respiratory Therapy, Medical Assistant, CNC Machining, Production Operations
- Oakland CC — $4.54 million, Automotive Servicing, Collision Auto Repair, Medium/Heavy Truck and Equipment, Commercial Driving

**State totals:** $50 million in grants, $21.6 million in school matches for a total of $71.7 million in equipment and training.

-- Source: Governor Rick Snyder's office
Macomb Community College was approved for $2.8 million, with a match of $998,000 for a total of around $3 million for jobs in welding fabrication, CNC (computer numerical control) machining, mechatronics, production operators and automotive manufacturing.

In reaction to the announcement, OCC Chancellor Timothy R. Meyer said, “Oakland Community College will use these funds to provide advanced automotive, transportation and mechatronics training on cutting-edge equipment.

“OCC is focused on meeting community need,” Meyer added. He said the transportation sector shows significant growth in demand for skilled workers. Auto servicing, diesel mechanics and mechatronics are occupations with high demand into the future.

“Gov. Snyder and the Michigan Strategic Fund are promoting high-demand skilled trades and putting the resources in place to make it happen,” Meyer noted.

OCC received support from Oakland Schools, the Michigan Trucking Association, Central Transport and the Suburban Collection in their grant application. Oakland Schools will provide articulation support and the other partners will provide jobs and stay connected with OCC as it implements programs.

Skilled-trade jobs typically require education beyond high school and on-the-job training, but not a four-year degree. The career range includes jobs in health care (lab technicians, dental hygienists), maintenance and repair, public safety, manufacturing (machine operators, welders), along with work as carpenters, plumbers and electricians. Collectively, these jobs represent about one-third of the state’s employment base, according to the press release from the governor’s office.

Snyder said: “We are positioning Michigan to become the national leader in developing talent. This serious investment — one of the largest of its kind in the country — will tap our top-notch community colleges and help new students and adults looking for new opportunities gain the skills sought by companies looking to grow and expand, creating more and better jobs in Michigan.”

Chuck Hadden, president and CEO of the Michigan Manufacturers Association, said: “Manufacturing has created more than 145,000 jobs since 2009 and employers are still searching to fill thousands of available positions. The Community College Skilled Trades Equipment Program provides Michigan’s next generation the equipment necessary to learn the skills manufacturers need.”

Michael Hansen, president of the Michigan Community College Association, said: “Meeting the skills gap in today’s economy is right in the sweet spot of the training activity of many community colleges.”

However, that can be a challenge, because of the rapid pace of change in several new industries and keeping training programs current with the latest equipment and technology, Hansen said.

“The funding announced today ... will go a long way in meeting that challenge, and we applaud the governor and the (state’s Strategic Fund) for providing these greatly needed funds in partnership with local employers and community colleges,” Hansen said.
OU graduates create Buhz app

By Paul Kampe

paul.kampe@oakpress.com
@PaulKampe on Twitter

A pair of recent Oakland University graduates are tapping into their collegiate roots in their venture into mobile apps. Brett McIsaac, of Rochester Hills, and Chuck Kelly, of Sterling Heights, have launched a new social media app aimed at further localizing the reach of other networks such as Facebook.

Buhz, formerly BuhzHyve, is a free, invitation-only app available for iOS, centered around the Rochester-area campus of more than 20,000 students.

"We both felt there was a void in existing social networking where you couldn't meet people and develop relationships with others based on a shared factor like your campus," McIsaac said.

The app is intended for students to share typical social media fare, but also includes means for sharing user-generated photos from various social events around campus.

The difference between Buhz and Facebook, which is integrated to the app, is the target audience, Kelly said, calling his app a more "localized Twitter." The networks do share similar functions, though, with Buhz's primary actions referred to as "bumps" and "familiar requests."

"Facebook is your existing social circle," he said. "It has limits. It’s a never-ending high school reunion. ... There needs to be something about the people you’re around in your daily life.

"When you share on Facebook, you’re sharing with people you already have a relationship with."

Both founders graduated in 2013. McIsaac majoring in biology and Kelly in graphic design, and are throwing themselves into the project full time.

"You don’t make it in anything before you go all in," said Kelly, noting the app was in development for a year and a half.

Although a fall semester launch didn’t go as planned, subsequent feedback allowed McIsaac and Kelly to make the appropriate changes prior to the current semester.

"We made a lot of mistakes early on," Kelly said.

There are now roughly 2,000 Buhz users and Kelly said he and McIsaac continue to take suggestions from their audience as the app evolves.

Oakland’s reputation as a “commuter campus” is a blessing because the school has a group of students eager to share in what’s going on at the school, which the app offers through hashtags dedicated to various events.

"They want to meet new people, but they don’t know how," Kelly said. "They’ve been our power users."

The developers are considering expanding the app to the University of Michigan and Michigan State University in the future. They also plan to make the app available for Android devices. Kelly is cautious of expanding too quickly, though, as other local social apps have done only to meet their demise as a result.

"They spread (themselves) too thin," he said. "We’ve developed a blueprint at Oakland University and we’re nurturing it."

While potential users are required to have a passcode to access the app, McIsaac and Kelly attend many events on campus, including men's basketball games, sharing passwords with students. Current users can also extend invitations to their friends.
GKN Driveline Americas Names Sandra Bouckley Vice President -- Manufacturing Engineering

AUBURN HILLS, Mich., March 3, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- GKN Driveline Americas today announced it has named Sandra Bouckley Vice President -- Manufacturing Engineering. Most recently, Bouckley was Vice President Operations, Electrical Systems and Services Group for Eaton Corp.

At GKN Driveline Americas, Bouckley will lead all manufacturing engineering activities in North and South America. She will be based at GKN Driveline headquarters in Auburn Hills, Mich.

"Sandra brings valuable manufacturing expertise from her experience with some of the industry's leading manufacturers and suppliers," said Robert Willig, president, GKN Driveline Americas. "Under her leadership, we will continue to make our manufacturing excellence a significant competitive advantage that will benefit our customers around the globe."

Prior to joining Eaton Corp., Bouckley held a variety of positions including Global Director of Operations for Tyco Electrical and Metal Products, Director of Advanced Manufacturing Engineering at Chrysler Corp., and plant manager at various Chrysler facilities. She has a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering Degree and a Master's of Science in Manufacturing from Kettering University and a Master's of Business Administration from Michigan State University Executive Program.

Bouckley is a member of the International Board of Directors for the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) and this year is serving as Vice President.

GKN Driveline is the world's leading producer of automotive driveline components and systems including constant velocity joint, all-wheel drive, trans-axle and electric drive systems. Bouckley will oversee manufacturing activities at the company's 11 facilities in the United States, Mexico, Colombia and Brazil.

ABOUT GKN
GKN plc is a global engineering group. It has four divisions; GKN Aerospace, GKN Driveline, GKN Powder Metallurgy and GKN Land Systems, which operate in the aerospace, automotive and land systems markets. Nearly 50,000 people work in GKN companies and joint ventures in more than 30 countries. GKN is listed on the London Stock Exchange (LSE: GKN) and recorded sales of GBP7.5 billion in the year to 31 December 2013.

ABOUT GKN DRIVELINE
GKN Driveline is the world's leading supplier of automotive driveline components and systems. As a global company serving the world's leading vehicle manufacturers, GKN Driveline develops, builds and supplies an extensive range of automotive driveline components – for use in the smallest ultra low-cost car to the most sophisticated premium vehicle demanding the most complex driving dynamics.
GKN Driveline is a leading global producer of CVJ Systems, AWD Systems, Trans Axle Solutions and eDrive Systems and operates in 22 countries at 46 manufacturing locations, employing approximately 26,500 people.

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Federal investigators seek clarity on millions of Takata documents

DOT Secretary Says Supplier Is 'Bad Actor' On Safety Landscape

Federal investigators said Friday that global automotive supplier Takata (http://www.autoblog.com/tag/takata/) has not cooperated with a problem into the company’s exploding airbags (http://www.autoblog.com/tag/airbag/), which are responsible for killing at least five motorists and injuring dozens more.

Calling the company a "bad actor" in a push for safer American roads, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said the government would levy a $14,000 per-day fine against Takata (http://www.autoblog.com/2015/02/20/takata-fined-14-000-a-day-for-failing-to-cooperate-with-feds/) until it fulfills its responsibilities outlined in two special
orders issued late last year.

"Safety is a shared responsibility, and Takata's failure to fully cooperate with our investigation is unacceptable and will not be tolerated," he said. "For each day that Takata fails to fully cooperate with our demands, we will hit them with another fine."

Takata has turned over roughly 2.4 million documents since investigators from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (http://www.autoblog.com/tag/nhtsa/) issued two special orders in late December which compel the company to cooperate. But Takata hasn't helped the federal agency discern what's in those documents.

"What we have asked for is help understanding what's in those documents," NHTSA (http://www.autoblog.com/tag/nhtsa/) spokesperson Gordon Trowbridge said. "That's what we're after."

Investigators visited Takata's testing facility in Auburn Hills, MI, last week, and held face-to-face discussions with the company's technicians as they continued to search for the root cause of the airbag defects, which have resulted in dozens of recalls (http://www.autoblog.com/category/recalls-tsbs/) that have affected at least 17 million cars since 2008.

Only about two million of those cars have been repaired (http://www.autoblog.com/auto-repair/) thus far. Reaching out to affected drivers to ensure they get their cars fixed remains a high priority for NHTSA, which recently unveiled a website on which motorists can enter their vehicle identification numbers (https://vinrcl.safercar.gov/vin/) and see whether their cars have open recalls.

Friday's announcement seems to have caught Takata off guard.

"We are surprised and disappointed by the DOT (http://www.dot.gov)/NHTSA letter and press release today, and we strongly disagree with their characterization that we have not been fully cooperating with them," a company spokesperson said in a written statement.
Should Takata continue to fall short of the agency’s compliance threshold, NHTSA officials said they could hold administrative depositions on the defective airbags, which would require that company executives answer questions in person and under oath. The officials also warned they could refer the matter to the Department of Justice for potential criminal investigation.

Though the dispute centered over Takata’s apparent failure to make sense of the documents it has presented thus far, worsening relations between the company and regulator also appeared to be affected by another factor.

In a letter to the company, NHTSA chief counsel O. Kevin Vincent wrote that the documents, “coupled with Takata’s conduct earlier this week on a separate matter related to the agency’s ongoing investigation, we have concluded that Takata is neither being forthcoming … nor cooperative.”

Trowbridge did not elaborate on the conduct in question, citing the ongoing investigation.

He said NHTSA will continue to monitor Takata’s internal testing procedures in Auburn Hills, and also said the agency wants access to the results of airbag tests conducted by a consortium of car companies affected by the Takata problems.

Congress held hearings on the defective airbags, which are installed in the cars of at least 10 automakers. The problems with the airbags have been ongoing since Isuzu (http://www.autoblog.com/isuzu/) issued the first recall in 2001, and Takata’s decades-long mishandling of the problem (http://www.autoblog.com/2014/06/27/takata-airbag-recall-history-feature/) has become a symbol of the industry’s dismissive attitude toward safety standards.

In November, The New York Times reported Takata carried out secret tests on defective airbags (http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/07/business/airbag-maker-takata-is-said-to-have-conducted-secret-tests.html) in 2004, but never reported the results to federal investigators.
Instead of deploying normally in car accidents (http://www.autoblog.com/tag/crash/), Takata’s faulty airbags explode. In some cases, drivers have been showered with lethal amounts of metal shrapnel, and bled to death.

Foxx is citing Takata’s defiance in his stump for the Obama administration’s Grow America Act, which would nearly triple funding for the enforcement division within the NHTSA and hike the agency’s overall budget to an annual $908 million.

Passage of the act would also boost the financial punishments NHTSA can levy against automotive companies. The Act would increase the daily punishment from $7,000 to $25,000 and raise the maximum fine from $35 million to $300 million.

Related Video:

Image Credit: Associated Press
Takata Responds to U.S. DOT and NHTSA Statements

February 20, 2015

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. & TOKYO — Takata Corporation, a leading global supplier of automotive safety systems, today issued the following statement in response to a press release issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

“We are surprised and disappointed by the DOT/NHTSA letter and press release today, and we strongly disagree with their characterization that we have not been fully cooperating with them.

In response to NHTSA’s Special Orders, we have provided the agency with almost 2.5 million pages of documents to date. Since the Special Orders were issued, we have been in regular communication with NHTSA staff regarding our ongoing production of documents in response to the Special Orders.

We have also been meeting regularly with NHTSA engineers on efforts to identify the root cause of the inflator issue. We continue to keep NHTSA closely informed on the extensive testing efforts we have undertaken. That work has, so far, supported our initial view that age and sustained exposure to heat and humidity is a common factor in the small number of inflators that have malfunctioned. In fact, as recently as last week, we met with NHTSA to review the results of these efforts.

We have been working closely with automakers and have significantly increased production and are working with other inflator suppliers to support OEM national safety actions. We are also in the process of implementing an effort to accelerate replacement recalls in those geographic areas identified as being most at risk.

We remain fully committed to cooperating with NHTSA in the interests of advancing auto safety for the driving public.”
LGBT advocate speaks at Oakland University

The Oakland University community will welcome LGBT advocate Ash Beckham to campus for a lecture set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 11 in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms.

Beckham’s passionate commitment to spurring dialogue on sensitive issues has led her to share her message of empathy, respect and conversation with audiences throughout the U.S. and Canada. Her upcoming talk “Give Voice to Your Truth,” will chronicle her own journey toward acceptance, and emergence as a self-described “accidental advocate” for LGBT issues.

Beckham gained a national following through her TEDx talk “Coming Out of Your Closet” and other speeches that have generated more than 8 million combined YouTube views. She speaks candidly about her experiences as a lesbian, encouraging others to share their stories and embrace their differences.

She said, “Our role is not to be the purveyor of truth. Our role is to share our stories and to embolden others to do the same.”

Presented by Oakland University’s Student Life Lecture Board and Gender and Sexuality Center, the talk is free and open to the public. No tickets are required. For more information, contact the Center for Student Activities and Leadership Development at 248-370-2400 or csa@oakland.edu. Oakland University is located at 2200 N Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills.

Submitted by Eric Reikowski
An Auburn Hills-based company may have revolutionized the wheelchair

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Clinton River Medical Products, an Auburn Hills-based company, may have revolutionized the wheelchair.

The company's new model, Tailwind, combines both the freedom of manual operation and power to make using a wheelchair easier. It also includes a sleek, lightweight design with an intuitive software that helps provide a little extra push when users want it deployed. Check out a video of how the product works here.

"It's a hybrid between a manual and a powered wheelchair," says Craig Doescher, general manager of Clinton River Medical Products. "It provides you with a boost when you place your hands on the grips."

Clinton River Medical Products finished development of this wheelchair in 2013 and has spent the last year introducing it to the marketplace. Doescher expects significant sales in 2015 because his company is launching a full-on marketing campaign to support the Tailwind.

"We're hitting the point where we have been in the market long enough for broad recognition to develop," Doescher says.

Clinton River Medical Products has a staff of 11 employees and one intern after hiring five (mainly sales and engineering professionals) over the last year.

Source: Craig Doescher, general manager of Clinton River Medical Products
Writer: Jon Zemke

Read more about Metro Detroit's growing entrepreneurial ecosystem at SEMichiganStartup.com.