



The City of Auburn Hills

City Council Meeting

Minutes

March 13, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell at 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: City Council Chamber, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Present: Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell, Council Members Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, and Verbeke
Absent: Mayor McDaniel
Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Assistant City Manager Grice, City Attorney Beckerleg, Police Chief Olko, City Clerk Kowal, Deputy Clerk Pierce, DPW Director Melchert

3 Guests

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4a. Regular City Council Minutes – February 27, 2017

Moved by Knight, Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To approve the February 27, 2017 City Council meeting minutes.

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

No: None

Resolution No. 17.03.036

Motion Carried (6 - 0)

5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

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

7a1. Minutes of Tax Increment Finance Authority of January 10, 2017

7a2. Minutes of Downtown Development Authority meeting of February 20, 2017

7a3. Minutes of Beautification Advisory Commission meeting of February 22, 2017

7b. Motion - Approve the 2017 HIDTA sub-recipient agreement with Oakland County

RESOLVED: To approve the 2017 HIDTA Agreement between Oakland County and the City of Auburn Hills and authorize the Chief of Police to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.

7c. Motion – Approve the 2017 Medical Marijuana sub-recipient agreement with Oakland County

RESOLVED: To approve the 2017 Medical Marijuana Operation and Oversight Grant sub recipient agreement between Oakland County and the City of Auburn Hills and authorize the Chief of Police to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.

Moved by Verbeke, Seconded by Hammond.

RESOLVED: To approve the Consent Agenda items 7a, 7b, 7c.

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

No: None

Resolution No. 17.03.037

Motion Carried (6 - 0)

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

9a. Motion – Approve the 2017 Liquor License Renewals

Deputy Clerk Pierce explained that every year the City Council reviews all on-premise liquor licenses within the City. Each establishment is inspected by the Police Department, Fire Department and Building Department. Minor violations were found, however staff is working with the establishments to correct those violations. Staff is recommending, for renewal, the list of licenses within the report, including Logan's Roadhouse as they are now current on their water bill.

Ms. Verbeke questioned the low tax amount due for Romano Macaroni Grill. Ms. Pierce explained that it is a penalty fee as they were late in their initial tax payment. Ms. Verbeke questioned if Council had the authority to override that fee. Mr. Beckerleg explained that Council can renew the license despite the amount owed, but they cannot waive the penalty fee.

Mr. Knight stated that he appreciates the list of violations as he can review the past history.

Ms. Pierce confirmed for Ms. Hammond that the establishments are aware of the late items. Mr. Knight questioned at what amount do you draw the line. He stated that Council has taken the position of "pay your bills if you want your liquor license". Mr. Kittle stated that he considers whether the amount is significant. Mr. Tanghe pointed out that Council will be able to review this again at the Public Hearing. He noted that it might be a moot point then as the establishments may come in to pay these.

Mr. Kittle noted that there was a rash of sales to minors in the violation table. Chief Olko confirmed that the Police Department does sting operations twice a year. If they are not done, the LCC does them. She pointed out that the driver's license of those under 21 are vertical, therefore if an establishment asks to see a driver's license, it is pretty obvious. She explained that the establishments have adequate notice as the establishments receives a letter thirty days in advance stating that the sting operation will be coming in the next thirty days.

Moved by Verbeke, Seconded by Knight.

RESOLVED: To recommend approval of the annual liquor licenses of those establishments that have met the licensing requirements of the City, including Logan's Roadhouse; and that a public hearing be scheduled for Monday, March 27th, 2017 to consider evidence regarding the recommendation of non-renewal of a liquor license to those establishments who have not met the City's requirements.

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

No: None

Resolution No. 17.03.038

Motion Carried (6 - 0)

10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Ms. Hammond

- Welcomed Deputy Clerk Pierce to her first official meeting.

Mr. Kittle

- Stated it is nice to see the apartments at Five Points being built.
- Asked Council for their opinion on the smart meter legislation with the opt out provision.

Ms. Verbeke stated that when it was originally brought before Council, she thought we were behind since much of Auburn Hills already had the meters installed. She stated that she would be willing to consider it and get more details to see if it does make sense to do some kind of motion.

Mr. Knight stated that he does not want to get into this controversy. There may be merit to it, but with legislation, they will have to do some due diligence on it. If it is proved to truly be as detrimental as is implied, let the state take care of it. Residents that do not want the smart meters, do not want to pay for someone to come out and read their meter.

Mr. Kittle explained that there is legislation on the table for the energy commission that would allow residents to opt out. The way the legislation is written, the energy company would not be able to charge extra fees. It would have to be cost neutral to the individuals, but give the resident the opportunity to say no.

Mr. Tanghe stated that he will have staff gather information on this subject, summarize it, and send it to Council so they may better be able to formulate an opinion on the direction they may want to take.

Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell

- Participated in the Oakland County Read Event for March Reading Month by reading to the kindergarteners. She thanked Oakland County Schools for putting on the event as it is a nice thing to do for our youth.
- Complimented staff for how well they managed the after effects of the high winds that took place on March 8th. She received some feedback regarding opportunities where the City could have done better, but for the most part, did very well.
- Would like to receive a status on the Employee Identification Number for the Auburn Hills Public Library and questioned what is happening in that space based upon the recommendation received from our auditors.

Mr. Knight

- Stated that he read the Fire & Police report regarding dispatch services. He stated that it seems as if things are going in the right direction from the fire department. There seems to be some short comings as indicated by the police department. He commented that it sounds like we have overloaded the County. He stated that it might be a workshop discussion to determine what we need to do to encourage getting them to think about some changes that might be beneficial in certain areas where they say no.

Mr. Tanghe commented that there were some startup struggles. We have gone from what was a local center to a regional operation so there will be varying levels of service. It has not been without challenges, but as both chiefs have indicated a number of those things are progressing in terms of improvement. He is confident that the two chiefs and the work group that has been established as part of our relationship with the County are working through those issues.

Mr. Knight questioned when the GPS on the 9-1-1 calls was going to happen. Chief Olko commented that Southfield has been working on a version of it. It is called Next Generation 9-1-1. Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell questioned if it was a specific question that could be taken back to see if we can get some definition around it. Mr. Tanghe stated it is.

Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell stated that in reading through the report, it was obvious that there were some learning curves and some opportunities for improvement. She did not see anything that would warrant an immediate response from Council at the time. She saw things that were not what we are accustomed to, but we did have a high level of service and when you start a new relationship, there will always be some challenges. She stated that she is comfortable allowing the process to continue to work and we continue to monitor it. If we see long term issues, then we can respond at that time.

11. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Tanghe

- Has begun a podcast. The intent is to provide further explanation about various topics related to the City. If you are interested in listening to the podcasts, you can find them at soundcloud.com, then search "Speaking of Auburn Hills", which is the name of the podcast. Each podcast is ten to twelve minutes in duration and the plan is to talk about various topics of interest. This is a good opportunity to provide clarification on a number of issues.
- Held the second budget task force meeting. The task force includes key staff and three Council members. They have made good progress fine tuning the budget looking for cost savings opportunities that will have multi-year compounding positive effects. The task force is scheduled to report its findings and make recommendations at the workshop in June. Some of the measures are already being put into effect so we may enjoy more immediate savings in the current fiscal year.
- Participating with the Michigan Municipal League on the formulation of recommendations to the legislature for pension and retiree health care solutions for local government. The legislature has made it clear that it plans to act on measures that will control the cost of these benefits at the local level. Auburn Hills has already put into place key cost containment measures for its benefits. We closed our defined benefit pension plan during the period of 1998-2000. All employees hired after that receive a 401K plan. We also began offering Retirement Health Savings Plans for new hires starting in July, 2006. In addition, our employees contribute 20% to the premium for their health care. It is anticipated that the legislative changes that are coming forward will not have much impact on us because we are ahead of the curve.

Mr. Knight questioned if the legislation will impact the school districts because they are still on the defined benefit plan. Mr. Tanghe stated his understanding that it will impact all public employees. He stated that he is more involved in defining what the legislation might be to implement cost control measures.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor

Terri Kowal, City Clerk