



The City of Auburn Hills
City Council Meeting
Minutes

October 23, 2017

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, Council Members Burmeister, Knight, Mitchell, and Verbeke (arrived at 7:04 pm).
Absent: Hammond, Kittle
Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Assistant City Manager Grice, City Attorney Beckerleg, City Clerk Kowal, Police Lt. Gagnon, Fire Chief Manning, Director of Community Development Cohen, Senior Director Adcock, IT Staff Caleb Purdy, Management Assistant Thomas.

23 Guests

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4a. City Council Workshop Minutes – October 9, 2017

Moved by Mitchell, Seconded by Burmeister.

RESOLVED: To approve the October 9, 2017 City Council workshop minutes.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell

No: None

Resolution No. 17.10.187

Motion Carried (4 - 0)

4b. Regular City Council Minutes – October 9, 2017

Moved by Knight, Seconded by Mitchell.

RESOLVED: To approve the October 9, 2017 City Council minutes.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell

No: None

Resolution No. 17.10.188

Motion Carried (4 - 0)

Mayor McDaniel noted the addition to the agenda of Item 5c. Presentation of the New Election Equipment.

5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5a. Morning Optimist Club Fire Employee of the Year

Dr. Steve Sheldon, President of the Morning Optimist Club, stated that it was a privilege to give the award to Firefighter Larry Basaj for his outstanding performance. Chief Manning explained that Firefighter Basaj has been a full-time firefighter with the City of Auburn Hills for thirteen years, prior to that he worked in the EMS field for thirteen years. He was nominated based on his dedicated work to the Helping Hands organization where he coordinates the gift-giving program. He has served on the Helping Hands Board for many years as the President and is currently serving as a Trustee. Mr. Knight presented the plaque to Firefighter Basaj. Mayor McDaniel thanked Firefighter Basaj for his commitment to the community.

Fire Chief Manning provided an update on the progress of the Fire Department and the changes over the last eighteen months. He explained the significant changes to the staffing model as all firefighters were moved to twenty-four hour shifts which allowed all three fire stations to be staffed. The full-time staff is supplemented by paid-on-call and part-time personnel. He reported that response times have been reduced and calls for mutual aid are down now that three rescues are in service.

In response to a question from Mr. Burmeister if the ambulances are running 24/7, Chief Manning explained that there are times, due to the staffing level, that the number of ambulances running is reduced. On average that coverage is reduced about two to three times a week - sometimes it is just for a couple hours or a twelve hour shift. Mr. Burmeister requested an email be provided with more detail on how often it is not staffed. Chief Manning confirmed for Mr. Burmeister that as long as all the personnel are back, the ambulances will be staffed 24/7.

5b. Presentation of the 2017 Award for Best Practice from the Michigan Association of Planning / City of Auburn Hills Age-Friendly Action Plan

Ms. Adcock explained that they have been working on the Age Friendly Action Plan for the past several years. She explained that this continues to be a plan that is always in action.

Mayor McDaniel thanked Ms. Adcock and Mr. Cohen for all the hard work and leadership that they provide to the community.

5c. Presentation of the New Election Equipment

Ms. Kowal announced that the election will be held on November 7th. The polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. If you are unable to attend the polls, you have the option to vote by absentee ballot. Ms. Kowal presented the new election equipment. She explained that a Public Accuracy Test is held by the Election Commission prior to the election to ensure the machines are 100% accurate. She stated that she has every confidence that these machines are accurate.

In response to a question by Mr. Burmeister, Ms. Kowal explained that the machine takes a picture of each write-in ballot. She noted that the inspectors will also be required to go through the ballots to record the write-ins as well. She noted that if you are voting for a write-in, you have to fill in the square on the left side of the name.

Ms. Mitchell questioned if the vote will count if a voter misspells a write-in candidate's name. Ms. Kowal explained that the vote will count as long as it can be determined who the voter wanted to vote for. She gave an example of the various spellings of names. She also clarified that in a vote for four contest, the voter can vote for one, two, three, or four candidates.

Ron Moniz questioned what would happen if the name of the write-in is written, but the square is not filled in. Ms. Kowal responded that the square has to be filled in and the name written in order for the vote to count. Mr. Knight pointed out that the workers will have to look at every write-in vote, count, and record it, therefore the write-in results will not be available at 8:05 PM.

Mayor McDaniel reiterated that voters should remember to fill in the box and write in the name if they choose to vote for a write-in candidate.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Trina Burrell, 656 Sheffield Rd, stated her intent to publically respond to a letter written by Bob Kittle. She stated that the letter was offensive and insensitive. She had a conversation with Mr. Kittle in which he apologized. She views this as a teachable moment and accepted his apology, but noted that teachable moments have consequences. She has received many calls from residents who are outraged by the content of his letter and have requested his resignation from City Council. They feel the thoughts are not representative of the small town that operates as a world class city and are asking the mayor and council to take appropriate action and send a message that behavior that divides our community will not be tolerated.

Dr. Pastor Corey James, 3462 Auburn Rd, stated that he is in receipt of the letter written by Mr. Kittle. He stated that he could not believe that he would write something like that. He stated that the letter outlined the identity of all the African-American candidates who are write-ins. He questioned why it was necessary that he identify the ethnic identity of the African-American candidates.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

7a. Board and Commission Minutes

7a1. Tax Increment Finance Authority – September 12, 2017

7a2. Beautification Advisory Commission – September 20, 2017

7a3. Beautification Advisory Commission – October 11, 2017

7a4. Planning Commission – October 18, 2017

7b. Motion - Adopt 80/20 Cost Sharing Resolution for Employee Contribution to Healthcare

RESOLVED: To adopt the attached resolution titled: Resolution to adopt an 80/20 Cost Sharing Model-2018 for Employee Contributions to Healthcare Premiums. (Attachment A)

Moved by Verbeke, Seconded by Mitchell.

RESOLVED: To approve the Consent Agenda.

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

No: None

Resolution No. 17.10.189

Motion Carried (5 - 0)

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

9a. Motion – Approve Site Plan and Tree Removal Permit / 3000 University Drive – Parking Lot Expansion

Mr. Cohen explained the request for site plan and tree removal permit approval to construct 544 additional parking spaces at the multi-tenant building. The additional parking spaces are being requested to accommodate two new tenants that will require a total of 1,100 parking spaces. Construction of the parking lot is expected to begin next year. The total investment in the parking lot and interior renovations to the building will exceed \$6 million. The Planning Commission and staff recommend approval of the project.

Tarik Dinha, member of GCC 3000 LP, noted that one of the leases was signed last week and will create about 700 new jobs into the City. Both tenants are publically traded companies that presently do not have any space in Auburn Hills. He noted that sidewalks will also be added to the property to connect the property to the rest of the park.

In response to a question from Mr. Burmeister regarding bike paths, Mr. Cohen explained that with Mr. Brickman's projects and Mr. Dinha's projects, the pathway system in that park is starting to be complete.

Moved by Verbeke, Seconded by Knight.

RESOLVED: To accept the Planning Commission's recommendation and approve the Site Plan and Tree Removal Permit for the parking lot expansion at 3000 University Drive subject to the conditions of the administrative review team.

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

No: None

Resolution No. 17.10.190

Motion Carried (5 - 0)

9b. Motion – Approve purchase and installation of HP 7200 3PAR Storage Area Network Expansion

Mr. Grice explained that expanding the three par storage area will allow the City increased agility and efficiency in capacity while operating the virtualized data center. It will also provide additional scalability and fast just-in-time provisioning to successfully meet the changing needs of the City network.

Mr. Purdy confirmed for Mr. Knight that this will be on premise storage.

Moved by Mitchell, Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To award the purchase and installation of the HP 7200 Storage Area Network Expansion to Alliance Technology Solutions of 35 W. Huron Street, #405 Pontiac, MI 48342 in the amount of \$22,904.95, to be paid from account # 101-883-985-000.

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

No: None

Resolution No. 17.10.191

Motion Carried (5 - 0)

9c. Motion - Approve purchase of a replacement Tandem Axle Dump Truck

Mr. Brisson explained that there are currently ten dump trucks in the DPW inventory. For a full-scale response to a snow and ice event, two dump trucks are assigned to each of the four sections of the City, one to municipal parking lots, and one as a backup. The proposal is for an additional tandem axle truck, with attachments, that will replace an outgoing unit. He explained due to the demand for municipal dump trucks and all the components involved in building this unit, it will take approximately ten to eleven months to build. He noted that there will be no expense until 2018 when the vehicle is delivered. Funding will come from the 2018 budget.

Mr. Knight questioned if there was any special treatment that could be done to the vehicles to prevent any rust problems. Mr. Brisson explained that many of the body components of this truck are stainless steel, rather than cold steel, which is a huge improvement.

Moved by Burmeister, Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of a tandem axle chassis & cab from Wolverine Freightliner Eastside, Mt. Clemens, Michigan in the amount of \$102,498.00, and the truck build with attachments from Truck & Trailer Specialties, Howell, Michigan in the amount of \$ 158,898.00 for total cost of \$261,396.00. Funding is provided in the 2018 Fleet Operating Budget, account 661-442-977.000.

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

No: None

Resolution No. 17.10.192

Motion Carried (5 - 0)

10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Knight

- Stated that the Saturday event at Hawk Woods was well done. He spoke to a lot of people who commented that it is a hidden gem that is not well known.

Mr. Burmeister

- Commented that it was a smart move to postpone the event at Hawk Woods
- Announced that Spooktacular will be held downtown on Saturday from noon to 1:30 PM.

Ms. Mitchell

- Thanked Ms. Burrell and Dr. Pastor Corey James for speaking today. She noted that when there is talk about issues such as race, sometimes the conversation is very challenging and gets very uncomfortable. She stated that she would like to emphasize the importance of language and stress the fact that words matter and should be selected with care.

She stated that she was contacted by many residents expressing concern, disappointment and anger regarding a correspondence they received from a member of this Council. She clarified that although as Council Members, we are ambassadors of this City, we are not speaking on behalf of the City each time we speak. The Mayor is the only individual that is authorized to speak on behalf of the City or the Mayor Pro Tem in the Mayor's absence.

She noted that every candidate that is seeking a council seat this election brings a unique perspective, a diverse viewpoint that is shaped through experience and social economic background and educational background, religious, gender, and numerous other factors. Ethic identity and race are not the sole element of diversity. She commented that we short change ourselves when we attempt to limit diversity to such a narrow and dated perspective.

Mayor McDaniel

- Thanked everyone who attended the meeting to share their concerns and stated that we appreciate it when the community openly shares concerns and provides feedback. He too received some complaints from residents and spoke to each of them individually, expressing that in no way was it a representation of the Council or the City. He also had conversations with Mr. Kittle and that he expressed sincere regret. Having working with him for ten years, he knows this is not his character based on the years of experience working together.

11. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

13a. City Manager Annual Performance Evaluation

Moved by Knight, Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To meet in Executive Session to discuss the City Manager's annual performance evaluation.

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

No: None

Resolution No. 17.10.193

Motion Carried (5 - 0)

City Council recessed to closed session at 8:24 PM.

City Council reconvened in open session at 10:06 PM.

Moved by Knight, Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To grant Tom Tanghe, City Manager, a 2% salary increase, which will result in a \$2,700.00 annual increase, and a \$5,000.00 bonus, both effective January 1, 2018.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: Mitchell

Resolution No. 17.10.194

Motion Carried (4 - 1)

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM.

Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor

Terri Kowal, City Clerk

ATTACHMENT A

**CITY OF AUBURN HILLS
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AN 80/20 COST SHARING MODEL - 2018
FOR EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS TO HEALTHCARE PREMIUMS**

WHEREAS, Public Act 152 of 2011 requires employee contributions to health care premiums and prescription drug plans, and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2018, all full-time employees shall pay for cost sharing in health care and prescription drug plans, and

WHEREAS, for 2018, all collective bargaining agreements and the Non-union Benefits Resolution require such contributions from their members in compliance with the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, Public Act 152 of 2011, and

WHEREAS, the City shall collect such premiums by way of twenty-six equal payroll deductions throughout the year, and

WHEREAS, there are four options for employee premium contributions to healthcare and they are:

- 1) Apply the hard cap (capped dollar amount a local government employer may pay toward an employee's healthcare costs);
- 2) Adopt by majority vote the 80/20% cost-sharing model,
- 3) Elect not to follow the statute/non-compliance,
- 4) Adopt by a two-thirds vote to opt out of the cost-sharing model as set forth in Public Act 152 of 2011 and revisit it prior to the next plan year, and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn Hills has elected the 80/20% cost-sharing model whereby the employer shall provide 80% of the premium cost for medical and prescription drug coverage and the employee shall contribute 20% of the premium cost for medical and prescription drug coverage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Auburn Hills City Council elects to comply with the requirements of the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act and the requirements of the terms of the collectively bargained agreements by adopting the 80/20% cost-sharing model set forth in Section 4 of the Act with a continuation of premium share collection on January 1, 2018.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

Resolution No. _____

Enacted _____

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

)SS

COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I, the undersigned and duly appointed City Clerk for the City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Auburn Hills City Council held on the ____ day of October, 2017.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature on this ____ day of October, 2017.

Terri Kowal
City Clerk