



The City of Auburn Hills

City Council Meeting

Minutes

April 1, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: by Mayor Pro Tem Hammond at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Absent: Mayor McDonald

Also Present: City Manager Auger, Director of Public Safety Chief of Police Olko, City Clerk Kowal, Department of Public Services Director Melchert, Director of Water Resources Keenan, Manager of Roads and Facilities Brisson, Fleet Manager Skinner, Senior Director Adcock, Manager of Public Utilities Herczeg, City Attorney Beckerleg, City Engineer Juidici.

Guests 10

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4. Regular City Council Meeting – March 18, 2013

Council Member Knight requested amendments to the minutes of March 18, 2013, including changing the statement on the top of page four to indicate that the Bistro Bourdeau was located in a building owned by Mr. Elwell, not that Mr. Elwell owned the business, and that the owners of the Bistro Bourdeau paid the outstanding taxes, not Mr. Elwell. In addition, he is requesting that when a City Council Member asks a question and an answer is received, he would like the answer put into the minutes as well as the question.

Moved by Knight; Seconded by Kittle.

RESOLVED: To approve the March 18, 2013 City Council minutes as amended.

VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Motion Carried (6-0)

Resolution No. 13.04.055

5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5a. Presentation on the SHARP Program by Senior Director Adcock.

Ms. Adcock informed City Council that she was speaking on behalf of the North Woodward Foundation, and that this is the third annual report. The purpose of the SHARP program is to assist the elderly, those with disabilities, and the families of deployed military with keeping their home in good repair. With assistance, seniors and others can stay independent in their homes for a longer period of time. In 2012, 89 requests from 70 residents were made for assistance. Twelve persons asked for assistance more than once. Most of the requests this year are from the north part of the City. The categories requested are mainly electric, plumbing and carpentry. The electric requests from this year appear higher also because of the installation of fire and smoke alarms distributed from the Fire Department on a grant for the hearing impaired. When a call for assistance comes in, an assessor is sent out to evaluate the situation. Time used for the repairs breaks down into the following components: Assessments/Initial Repairs: 250 hours; Follow Up Work: 100 hours (there are 26 Volunteers Involved); Support (Meetings, Database, Training, Reports): 100 hours plus City Staff Time.

A survey was sent out to residents who used the SHARP program which showed 100% favorable responses. Residents are very grateful for the assistance. About eight requests have come in this year so far. The biggest challenge for the staff is getting the word out to the residents.

Council Member Doyle remarked that it seems the numbers stay about the same, perhaps the same persons are using SHARP. How do we do to increase usage?

Ms. Adcock responded by trying to get the word out. Notices are sent out with meals on wheels as well as a notice on the website. If anyone has any suggestions on way to get the word out, they are open to suggestions.

Council Member Knight questioned if the program needs additional funds or if there is enough money from CDBG or the general fund.

Ms. Adcock replied the SHARP program is totally separate from CDBG, and is based strictly on donations. They do carry a balance over, but they are okay for now. She explained that the residents who use the SHARP program must pay for the materials themselves, and the labor is donated. If they are unable to afford the parts, they most likely qualify for the income based home repair program, which is funded by CDBG funds. Ms. Adcock thanked the Council for their ongoing support and encouragement.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

State Representative Tim Greimel addressed City Council and the public. He thanked the City for participating in the SHARP program, which he feels is an excellent service to the residents. Representative Greimel apologized for not

appearing at a City Council meeting sooner, and explained he now has a new leadership role as the Democratic Leader of the House. While he is honored to hold that position, it does require him to travel throughout the State often as he is now looking after the other 49 members of the Democratic Caucus in the State House. He is glad to have the opportunity today to address two issues which figure very prominently on the minds of City Council and the residents of Auburn Hills, which both are concern the Pontiac School District. It is a very problematic situation. The Pontiac Schools District decided not to pay for their health insurance, and instead entered into a consent judgment to place the costs on the tax rolls. State Representative Greimel wants to be clear that he feels it is categorically wrong to expect tax payers to pay this bill, and he is deeply opposed to it. He is working with State Treasurer Andy Dillon to avoid it happening. Representative Greimel has several meetings this week, including some with the City of Auburn Hills, and will be discussing several initiatives, including possibly changing the boundaries of the school district. He could support an effort that would benefit all the students of the Pontiac School District; however, he cannot support an initiative that would benefit some of the students and possibly hurt other students. He will keep City Council updated on what he learns about the situation.

Council Member Doyle asked Mr. Greimel what he is telling residents they can do to help with this situation.

State Representative Greimel replied residents need to get involved by calling the school district, school board members, Dr. Daugherty, and State Treasurer Andy Dillon and tell them they are opposed to the levying of this tax. Those officials need to know there is strong opposition to this action.

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. TIFA Minutes of March 26, 2013.

Moved by McDaniel; Seconded by Kittle.

RESOLVED: To approve Consent Agenda item 7a.

VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Motion Carried (6-0)

Resolution No. 13.04.056

AGENDA ITEM 7b. REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA BY DOYLE.

7b. Approval of Bid for Renovations to the University Center Building

Council Member Doyle stated she removed this item from the consent agenda because this is such a fantastic project. It is the acceptance of the bids for the University Center in downtown.

Mr. Auger pointed out that this is a joint project of TIFA and Avondale schools. The location is the old Stan's Dugout. When the TIFA was renewed for 20 years, \$700,000.00 was committed to Avondale Schools, who then applied that total amount, plus \$50,000.00 from previous year to the project. It will be a two story structure, with two classrooms on the lower level. One will hold about 50 students, the other about 30. Upstairs will have another classroom with computers for distance education classes. The classrooms will be used by Oakland University, Oakland County Community College, Baker College and Cooley Law School, giving us two public and two private higher education institutions using it. They are all working together on this, which has opened up new communication avenues among them all. The estimate is that between 1,000 and 1,200 kids will be downtown each week using this center, which will create some foot traffic.

Council Member Doyle inquired as to the opening of the center.

Mr. Auger responded that it is expected to be open in January, 2014.

Mr. Knight asked if the universities are paying any of the costs, since the bulk is coming from Avondale Schools.

Mr. Auger responded that the higher education partners are already talking about sharing some of the ongoing costs of the building, like utilities, etc. although there is not an agreement in place yet.

Moved by Doyle, Seconded by Kittle.

RESOLVED: To accept the TIFA Board's award of the bids for renovations to the University Center building located at 3350 Auburn Road in the amount of \$826,027, the cost of which is made up of subcontractors, general conditions, construction management fees, generally liability insurance, and contingency in accordance with the spreadsheet attached hereto. Funds are available from GL No. 251.735.970.000.

VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Motion Carried (6-0)

Resolution No. 13.04.057

8. OLD BUSINESS - none

9. NEW BUSINESS

9a. Approval of Site Plan and Tree Removal Permit / Faurecia – North American Headquarters

Mr. Keenan, Water Resources Director, introduced the agenda item. Faurecia is the 6th largest auto supplier in the world, and they have submitted plans to locate their World Headquarters in Auburn Hills, in the Oakland Tech Park. The total investment of the project is estimated at \$24 million. Faurecia intends to consolidate their facilities located in Auburn Hills (Faurecia USA Holdings, Inc located at 900 N. Squirrel Road and Faurecia Automotive Exteriors located at 985 West Entrance Drive) and Troy (Faurecia Automotive Seating, LLC) to this new facility, which will employ up to 760 people; 200 technical professionals in the field of engineering, science, and design and approximately 560 general management (executive level and mid-level) and professional level services such as controlling, accounting, legal, IT, HR, and payroll. The building will host the company's corporate offices for North American operations in addition to their product development and research center for automotive seating and exteriors. Faurecia occupies another building in Auburn Hills located at 2500 Executive Hills, which houses the Interiors Division.

General Development is the developer and general contractor for the project; ground breaking is anticipated for April 2013 with construction completed in March 2014. Faurecia intends to lease the facility from General Development for a minimum of 15 years.

Ethan Wiseman, Project Manager for General Development responded to Mr. Kittle, stating they are ready to get started. It has been one year since Henniges was completed and they are excited to be working in Auburn Hills again.

Council Member Doyle questioned Mr. Wiseman about LEED certification of the building.

Mr. Wiseman explained Mr. Brickman would be better suited to answer questions about the certification.

Mr. Auger explained tonight's action is only to approve the site plan, and will come before Council again. He believes Mr. Brickman may be overseas, but he indicated they will be looking at all the conservation issues.

Mr. Keenan explained the company is installing a high efficiency heating and cooling system, and preserving much of the inhabited forest land. There are about 20% wetlands on the site, equaling about 20 acres, all of which will be preserved. There will be a stream wildlife corridor established and the water quality will be protected with their detention pond having volume and sedimentation control. He went on to explain the size of the building makes it very costly to become LEED certified, but are taking many steps to save on energy costs. The infrastructure is in place for electric vehicles stations if they choose to install them at a later date. Green building applications are being done on several points, such as the indoor lighting which is designed to work with the numerous windows. They are being conservative, but don't want to exceed their capabilities.

Council Member Doyle appreciates the efforts made; this is a world class company and she hopes to see more from them. Mr. Auger explained the LEED process is costly and some companies do not want to go through a \$25,000.00 process to get a plaque for the wall. General Development has a history of including green assets to their projects; though a company may not have certification, it does not mean they are not building a "green" building, which may include recycled carpet, open light windows, etc. which contributes to a green building plan.

Council Member Doyle stated because many companies note it is too costly to be LEED certified, should the City continue requesting it? Mr. Auger replied that the LEED Certification is the standard bearer, and holds the examples of how to build green and get a return on the investment. The City asks builders and developers to incorporate as much green technology as they possibly can.

Council Member Verbeke stated at the Planning Commission meeting, Mr. Brickman was questioned about going for LEED Certification and he didn't seem inclined to do so. Mr. Keenan concurred.

Council Member Knight appreciates Council Member Doyle's comments and he will support this project, but feels Mr. Brickman or someone who can speak to the policies should be present in front of Council to answer the questions. In the future their needs to be someone who can handle important questions like these.

Council Member Kittle hears frequently about LEED, and wonders if we need to have developers get constructive criticism and have them rethink their strategy. Mr. Auger agreed.

Moved by Knight; Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To accept the Planning Commission's recommendation and approve the Site Plan and Tree Removal Permit for Faurecia – North American Headquarters subject to staff and consultants' conditions.

VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Motion Carried (6-0)

Resolution No. 13.04.058

9b. Award of Contract – Concrete Pavement Management Program

Department of Public Works Director Melchert introduced the concrete pavement management program. Earlier this year Council and TIFA approved the engineering for this project. This maintenance extends the life of existing roads and is the most cost effective way to get the life cycle out of them.

Mr. Brisson, Manager of Roads and Facilities, indicated The 2013 Concrete Maintenance Program consists of concrete patching and joint repairs; Ashburnham at Old Salem, Squirrel Road from M-59 to Squirrel Court, Auburn Road from Churchill to S. Squirrel including bridge deck maintenance, crosswalk upgrades to ADA standards at University and Five Points, and continue with ongoing sidewalk repairs in the Bloomfield Orchards subdivision.

Galui Construction of Clinton Township is low bidder. They are a contractor that OHM and the City have not worked with in the past, however, they have been operating under their present name for twenty-two years and the officers have thirty-eight years of experience. In 2012, Galui Construction completed similar concrete projects in Rochester Hills, Rochester, Sterling Heights and Royal Oak with very favorable feedback from these communities.

Councilman Knight informed Council he read about a new concrete material developed by the University of Michigan that can repair itself. It is much more expensive, but it should be kept in mind for future applications in areas that are difficult to repair.

Moved by Verbeke; Seconded by Knight.

RESOLVED: To approve the costs associated for the 2013 Concrete Maintenance Program and award the bid to Galui Construction Inc., 33805 Harper Ave., Clinton Twp., Michigan 48305 in the amount of \$ 661,603.00. Further, to approve the Scope of Construction Services provided by OHM Engineering Services where the City will be charged on a time-and-materials basis for the not-to-exceed amount of \$ 78,850.00 with a cost estimate of \$ 15,000.00 for materials testing.

**VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke
No: None**

Motion Carried (6-0)

Resolution No. 13.04.059

9c. Approve the Purchase of One 2013 Dodge Ram 1500 4 x 4 Quad Cab Pickup Truck

DPS Director Melchert indicated the pickup truck will be replacing an existing truck purchased in 2004, which has been budgeted for.

Councilman Knight asked this half-ton truck will be replacing a half-ton truck; and if so, in the future maybe a three-quarter ton truck should be purchased, since they are built with a heavier frame and can take more abuse.

Ms. Skinner replied yes, this will replace a half-ton truck.

Moved by Knight; Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of one (1) 2013 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab 4 x 4 pickup truck be awarded to Bill Snethkamp Dodge, 6131 S; Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing, MI 48911 at a total cost of \$26,667.60.

**VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke
No: None**

Motion Carried (6-0)

Resolution No. 13.04.060

9d. Approve the Purchase of Mosaic Meter Reading Devices

DPS Director Melchert explained in 2010 the Department of Public Service began a conversion program in the meter reading system for the City. The program involves changing out the old Legacy (radio read drive by system) units to a new Mosaic (internet based system) unit, including the replacement of the existing firefly units at each meter site.

Currently 3670 of 5678 firefly reading units have been replaced and until recently the department was able to keep pace; however, as the Legacy units reach their life expectancy (10 years), there has been an extraordinary amount of Legacy failures so the conversion program has been sped up.

The original purchase of the new Mosaic units was budgeted out through 2015 (approximately 1000 units per year) and would have seen program completion that same year. Based on the failure rate of the Legacy units the Department of Public Service requests the purchase of the balance of the Mosaic units (2000 units) to complete the conversions within 2014. This purchase would provide the City two benefits, (1) the conversion program will be completed a year ahead of schedule and (2) based on the current yearly price increase per unit of 3-5%, a cost savings of approximately \$15,000.00 could be achieved.

Council Member Doyle noted she had failure of the reading system at her own home, resulting in a six month water and sewer bill. She asked if the City is incurring any overtime as a result of the replacement of these meters, and when should the replacement be completed.

Mr. Melchert stated here is no overtime, but there are three staff members working on this, as opposed to one as previously done. The replacements may possibly be complete by the end of 2013, but more likely into the beginning of 2014.

Council Member Doyle asked how it is determined that the meters are failing.

Mr. Auger replied residents are receiving a zero bill just as she did. The staffing is available, but not the materials to continue working on replacements. The residents must know that they will be receiving a bill; the new meters will read the usage from the last accurate read.

Mr. Melchert explained there are so many residences with zero bills, the department is finding it more efficient to schedule appointments to replace the meters when a resident calls about their bill; however, the resident must be home since the meters are inside the house.

Council Member Hammond has received a note stating she needed to call and make an appointment.

Council Member Knight asked how long the new meters will last, if the ones in the past quit working so quickly.

Jeff Herczeg, Manager of Public Utilities, explained the life expectancy of the Mosaic is about 20 years. One big advantage for longevity is the batteries can be changed easily, unlike the current readers which are sealed and do not have replaceable batteries.

Council Member Knight asked if the outside unit looks different than the old ones and if there is any correlation between the meter reading devices and the utilities like electric and gas as far as proximity to the lines.

The answer was no, Mr. Herczeg went on to explain the old system was read by a person driving by and using a scanner. The new Mosaic system reads from house to house electronically until it comes back to the City computer which records it.

Moved by Kittle; Seconded by Knight.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of Mosaic reading devices in the amount of \$160,000.00 to be paid equally from accounts (592-536-986.000) \$80,000.00 and (592-535-986.000).

VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Motion Carried (6-0)

Resolution No. 13.04.061

9e. Approve the Purchase of 2013 Sprinter Cargo Utility Van and Interior Outfitting

Mr. Herczeg introduced the purchase of a 2013 Sprinter Cargo Utility Van and interior outfitting, which will replace the existing 1998 GMC box van currently used by the Utility Division to perform routine and specific maintenance functions. This vehicle will serve as a multi-purpose technical unit and supports several maintenance operations including, inspections, GIS mapping, water system repair and emergency response.

Based upon bids received, it is recommended to award the purchase of the Sprinter Cargo Van to Mercedes Benz of Novi, 39500 Grand River, Novi MI 48375 in the amount of \$44,499.00, and the purchase of the interior outfitting to ABS, W. McNichols, Detroit MI 48221 in the amount of \$18,315.03. These are budgeted items to be paid from the Fleet Division account.

This van is a technical vehicle which supports sewer repairs, water services, operations, inspections, GIS mapping, and emergency repairs. It took several years to find this specific vehicle, since it is no longer offered by Chrysler. Chrysler owned the technology before splitting with Daimler. This van has some distinct advantages for service uses over the box van; the interior height allows staff to stand up to work on plans or computers, the 3500 chassis provides more work room on the inside, and since the vehicle needs to be temperature controlled, there is less cubic feet than old van, making it more efficient to heat. It does require extensive up fitting.

Responding to Council Member Knight, Mr. Herczeg replied that the drive train is Mercedes, and the truck itself is a Sprinter.

Council Member Knight stated he is hesitant to give money to Mercedes Benz.

Mr. Herczeg concurs but explains there is not an alternative. Chrysler, Ford and General Motors will have a similar vehicle in several years.

Council Member Knight went on to ask if it had a heavy duty diesel engine and automatic transmission, to which the answer was yes.

Council Member Doyle also wishes there was an alternative with Ford, Chrysler, or General Motors. Mr. Herczeg assured Council that he contacted all three and there is nothing in the works right now, and there is quite a bit of money being spent on repairs.

Mr. Herczeg confirmed for Council Member McDaniel this is the type of van Fed Ex and some other corporations are using now.

Council Member McDaniel noted he understands how useful this type of vehicle would be to the DPS, with enough headroom to allow the staff to stand up in it.

Council Member Kittle asked if the requested truck is just higher than the old truck.

Mr. Herczeg responded yes, and the current truck is beginning to rust because of the water used to frequently rinse out the mud.

Council Member Knight asked if the vehicle needs to be left running to heat it, to which Mr. Herczeg replied the van will be kept in the garage when not in use, which will be warm enough for the equipment.

Council Member Hammond confirmed with Attorney Beckerleg that the motion, with both vendors combined, is sufficient

Moved by Doyle; Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of a 2013 Sprinter Cargo Van and vehicle interior outfitting for the total price of \$62,814.03 to be paid from Fleet Division.

VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, McDonald

No: None

Resolution No. 13.04.062

Motion Carried (6-0)

9f. Approve the Purchase of Trailer Mounted Message Board

Mr. Brisson, Manager of Roads and Facilities, explained that budgeted from the 2013 Fleet machinery and equipment account is \$ 17,000.00 to purchase a second trailer mounted programmable message board sign. These signs are primarily used to provide traffic control messages for construction work zones. Various City departments, including the police department, have also found value in the use of these types of signs to serve as a message board for various community events. A second sign is needed as there are often two travel directions for a construction work zone. The DPS Roads Division researched current message board sign technology and learned the manufacturer of the sign we currently own has recently gone out of business. Research revealed that Wanco, a Colorado based company, and Ver-Mac, a Quebec based company are considered the industry leaders in technology, durability, reliability and service support. DPS staff discussed the City's needs with both Ver-Mac and Wanco representatives and talked with customers who have used both products. Bid specifications were posted on MITN and thirty vendors received invitation to bid. On March 12, 2013, the City Clerk's office received bid submissions from four vendors. Low bidder, Walker-Miller Sales, Inc. is proposing a K&K Systems, Inc. sign that would cost \$ 15,176.00 including delivery that meets the DPS's requirements. K&K is a Mississippi based vendor that has no dealer or service support network in Michigan. In fact, the closest dealer is located in Illinois and the closest service center is located in Mississippi.

As the manufacturer of the message sign the DPS currently uses is no longer in business, the DPS contacted Poco Inc., and State Barricade, two of Michigan's largest users of these types of signs seeking product recommendation. Both vendors unanimously recommended Wanco for product durability, reliability and service support. Poco owns over 120 Wanco signs and reports an excellent track record. Based on a \$ 193.00 price difference for the Wanco unit from second lowest bidder, the DPS is recommending Council award the bid to Poco Sales, Inc. for the Wanco Model MVTM(B)-10 with Manual Lift.

Council Member Doyle inquired as to the difference in this sign and the one authorized for the police department to purchase a short time ago. Director of Public Safety Police Chief Olko responded that the one the police department purchased is for measuring speed, and has radar on it. Council Member Doyle asked if perhaps the same company makes both signs, or they can be interchangeable. Chief Olko went on to explain that the Police will use the sign in the neighborhoods, to measure speed on vehicles. Mr. Auger commented that they are two different products. Council Member Doyle clarified that she was questioning if perhaps we could get a better price if it is the same vendor.

Council Member Verbeke asked if this item could be delayed to see if there is a possibility of saving money if the company from which we are purchasing the sign is the same as the one as the Police Department used.

Council Member McDaniel thought the time to ask for a lower price would have been prior to the bids being opened. Mr. Auger suggested Mr. Brisson meet with the Police Department to compare notes and take steps to combine the bids if possible.

Moved by Knight; Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of a Wanco trailer mounted mini-full matrix message sign from Poco Sales, Inc., 4850 S. Sheldon Rd., Canton, Michigan 48188, in the amount not to exceed \$15,369.00. This vendor was selected over the lowest qualified bidder because they have the availability to provide service and repair of equipment. Funding is provided from the 2013 Fleet Machinery and Equipment Budget (661-442-977.000).

VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 13.04.063

Motion Carried (6-0)

10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Mayor Pro Tem Hammond asked for comments or motions from Council.

Council Member McDaniel – none

Council Member Kittle:

Spoke about the Town Hall Meeting on Open Burning. There were about 100 people there with many good suggestions brought forth. The discussion on this subject will continue with more Town Hall meeting, but no date has been set.

He also wanted to mention the soccer field on Dutton Road, which is getting ready to be “Dust Bowl 2”. He wants to make sure that it is being watched.

Council Member Kittle asked if there is a date set yet for the Goals and Objectives workshop for City Council, and is there any advance materials. Mr. Auger replied that the date is May 18, time to be determined, and Dr. Piskulich will have materials ready for them to see prior to the meeting.

Council Member Doyle:

Asked for support from City Council to put a baby change station in the restroom on the Council Chamber level of the building.

Walked Hawkwoods on Easter, and noted the north side is in great shape, and has obviously had some work done; however, the south end needs a lot of work including removal of some trees that have fallen across the walk.

Asked City Clerk Kowal for clarification regarding the deadline to make a decision regarding changing the dates of City Council elections to the November even years. Clerk Kowal responded the legislation has not yet passed the State House, although the Lobbyist for the Clerks Association feels it may pass next week. If so, the deadline for changing the date to have the election in 2014 rather than 2013 would be April 15, so the resolution could be presented at the next City Council meeting. Public Act 523 is already in effect, and allows the change to take place for the election of 2015, with a resolution passed by December 31, 2013. Clerk Kowal went on to explain that the Attorney General has been asked to decide if Library elections would be moved also as it wouldn't be any cost savings to move City Council elections if Library elections are still in November 2013.

Council Member McDaniel is concerned because candidates have already pulled petitions for this upcoming election and have had fundraisers. He feels the very short time frame will cause a hardship for not only the candidates but also confusion for the residents. There are many questions left unanswered at this point.

Mr. Auger inquired of the Clerk if City Council could still change the dates of the elections by passing a resolution for the 2015 election cycle, to avoid rushing into something, to which the answer was yes. He went on to suggest we should review why we went to the odd years, and have time to invite public input. Council Member McDaniel concurred that is a much more reasonable timeframe.

Council Member Knight asked for and received clarification that the law that passed states the cities “may” change the date, and does not say “must” change, and that if we passed a resolution for 2014 it would move the election from 2015 to 2016.

Council Member McDaniel asked if the resolution to change the date required a super majority vote, to which the Clerk responded not as the bill is passed right now.

Council Member McDaniel thanked the Clerk for the information.

Council Member Verbeke:

Inquired of Mr. Auger if the directional road signs indicating the lanes on Joslyn for the freeway are in progress. Mr. Auger replied that Joslyn is a county road, and that Mr. Melchert has been discussing the possibility of road painting as done in other states. Mr. Melchert informed Council that he had a meeting this week with the county and the Joslyn issue is one of the topics. He will let Council know the results.

Council Member Knight:

Supports Council Member Doyle on the baby changing station.

Appreciated the nice write up in the paper regarding Hawkwoods.

Inquired about the trees on Squirrel where the trees were cut down for utility work. He would like to have the trees replaced. Mr. Melchert responded that the work was done by Consumers Energy.

Would like signs in the lobby indicating which direction is the Chamber, or the elevator. They could be put out when there is no one working at the reception area, like on meeting days.

Would hope that the “Welcome to Auburn Hills” signs would have ‘Home of Oakland University” on it. Mr. Auger replied that the sign on Walton from Rochester Hills does have that wording, and we are currently working on a streetscape project with Oakland University which he feels will please City Council.

11. CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT – none

12. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Auger reported on the Pontiac School District issue that State Representative Greimel spoke on. It seems the school district is postponing taking any action, and is using some delay tactics regarding petitions, etc. He was appreciative to hear of Mr. Greimel’s support. This issue is important not only to the Pontiac School District taxpayer’s and residents, but actually state wide. It is precedent setting. He will keep Council updated on any progress.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

James D. McDonald, Mayor

Terri Kowal, City Clerk