



The City of Auburn Hills

City Council Meeting

Minutes

November 12, 2012

- CALL TO ORDER:** by Mayor McDonald at 7:00 p.m.
- LOCATION:** City Council Chamber, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326
- Present: Mayor McDonald, Mayor Pro Tem Hammond, Council Members Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke
- Also Present: City Manager Auger, Assistant City Manager Tanghe, Director Olko, City Clerk Kowal, Fieldstone Manager Marmion, Water Resource Coordinator Keenan, City Attorney Beckerleg, City Engineers Juidici and Stevens.
- 9 Guests

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4a. City Council Meeting – October 15, 2012

Moved by Hammond; Seconded by Kittle.

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of October 15, 2012 as submitted.

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

No: None

Motion carried (6-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 12.11.183

4b.- 4h. Executive Session – October 1, 2012; September 17, 2012; September 10, 2012; July 23, 2012; July 9, 2012; June 18, 2012; and June 4, 2012

Moved by McDaniel; Seconded by Knight.

RESOLVED: To approve the Executive Session minutes of October 1, 2012; September 17, 2012; September 10, 2012; July 23, 2012; July 9, 2012; June 18, 2012; and June 4, 2012 as submitted.

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

No: None

Motion carried (6-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 12.11.184

5. APPOINTMENTS and PRESENTATIONS

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marti Hayward, 2420 Oaknoll Street, a 40 year resident, read a letter (Attachment A) she composed and presented it to Council regarding leaf burning and her health.

Mayor McDonald explained Council will be reviewing the Ordinance at their January meeting. Mayor McDonald requested Mr. Auger to advertise the workshop on the City's web page so residents may attend and offer their views.

Ms. Hammond requested the Police to patrol the area, making sure the Ordinance is obeyed.

Director Olko stated she would make sure the area is patrolled.

Mr. McDaniel believed the Ordinance allowed the City to have the authority to prohibit burning if a resident had health issues.

Director Olko stated that is true.

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.

8. OLD BUSINESS - none

9. NEW BUSINESS

9a. Motion – Awarding Bid for Fieldstone Golf Club Stormwater Management and Native Vegetation Restoration Repair Project

Mr. Keenan explained the City undertook and completed many issues related to stormwater runoff in the Gallow Drain drainage area. This phase of the project is to repair and restore the bank stabilization at #10 cart bridge; slope stabilization at the driving range detention area; and native plant restoration along Hole #10 near Taylor Road. Four bids were received, with one being a partial bid; the lowest qualified bidder is Cardno JFNew.

Responding to Mr. Kittle, Mr. Keenan confirmed the water pump has been fixed along Hole #10 and is operational. This phase of the project is required as part of the grant project received from State Revolving Fund;

the City must respond to the State for the next six years on how the project has succeeded at two-year intervals. This project is funded by the City as drain maintenance and not a Fieldstone capital project.

Moved by McDaniel; Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To award the bid for the Fieldstone Golf Club Stormwater Management and Native Vegetation Restoration Repair Project in the amount not to exceed \$29,920.00.

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

No: None

Motion carried (6-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 12.11.185

10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Mr. McDaniel:

- Thanked Ms. Hayward for attending the Council meeting, noting she is not the only resident to complain about leaf burning.
- As everyone knows, Auburn Hills is an international community with over 500 Oakland University students from other countries. With the holidays approaching many of these students will not be able to spend time with their families and would appreciate being invited to dinner. Anyone interested may contact him either via e-mail or a phone call.
Mayor McDonald suggested the info be given to the Community Center, and with many seniors being on their own, they may be a good fit.

Mr. Kittle:

- Asked Director Olko regarding the ordinance and leaf burning if there were more or less complaints than in the past.
Director Olko stated the number of complaints is about the same as last year, noting burning continues through November 30th; 49 complaints during burning hours and 11 for after-hours burning. One person has been cited and fire personnel have been educating the public of what the ordinance allows. The south end of the City with the most violations at 61%; the mid-section of the City is 30% and north end, with less than 5% of the complaints. The biggest complaint is too much smoke or breathing issues and second is burning Ordinance violations.
Mr. Kittle noted for Ms. Hayward and others, when Council was considering the single trash hauler; which included leaf pickup, there was the intent to revisit the burning ordinance. Currently, Auburn Hills is only one of three communities in Oakland County that allows burning.
- Appreciated being heard at the Council workshop this evening.

Ms. Hammond:

- Reminded everyone the Craft Fair is being held Saturday, November 17th from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Also, the Old Bag Party will also take place at the same time; gently used purses will be sold for \$5.00 with the proceeds benefiting the snow removal program.
- Thanked all the Veterans for their service.

Ms. Verbeke:

- Commended the Clerk's Office for a great election.

Mr. Knight:

- Noted the synchronization of the lights on Squirrel Road as mentioned at the last meeting had been corrected, but tonight they were out of sync again.
- Stated him and Ms. Verbeke each worked in a polling precinct for the election. He explained the City participated in a County pilot program that sent election results directly to the County once the polls were closed and the tallying report from the tabulator had been completed.

11. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT – none.

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Last Friday the City held a table-top exercise for emergency management with Department Heads and Oakland County Emergency Management Team. The suggested emergency was a major snow emergency with power outages necessitating the need to evacuate seniors. Each time one obstacle was cleared there was another suggested; and the rebound by staff was admirable. There was a lot learned through this exercise and there will be more.

13. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Attachment A

I stand before you begging for a change not only to our beautiful city's burning problem, but for my life. I am currently a prisoner in my own home. No one in my neighborhood follows the rules. Someone is burning daily. As I am typing this I know of 3 houses burning leaves and this is Sunday. My neighbor across the street pours gas on his leaves to make sure the wet ones burn. The fumes are toxic.

I called last Monday and spoke with John Burmeister and he suggested I email Council Members. I felt this is maybe a better approach. I have called the fire department once in my life and now have my neighbors blaming me for sending letters call all the time, and they are even stopping me in the road as I try to drive somewhere. I cannot handle this stress. I cannot handle calling the fire department daily. I wish I could. I do not care if they are my friends but I do not like having enemies.

I have severe COPD. I am on oxygen 24/7 and am facing the end of my life. I work very hard to try and live longer and have a decent quality of life. I would like nothing better than to live my life sitting on my deck reading as long as possible. I can't even go out for a walk, get my mail, or drive through my neighborhood. During the summer, I cannot sit in my backyard as my neighbor, two houses away, has bonfires regularly.

Last week, my husband had 84 bags of leaves for pick up. No one in this neighborhood has more leaves than we do. We are the last house on the end of the road and we get leaves blown in our yard from the whole neighborhood. We have this wonderful service available to us through Waste management and there is no reason for anyone to burn. I do not know of any city that allows burning.

As the saying goes, "You can't fight City Hall," but I fight COPD daily and will do whatever is necessary to ensure my quality of life. Life is a precious gift and I intend to live mine as long as I can, and with your help it will be easier.

I thank you for allowing me to address this problem.

Sincerely,

Marti Hayward
2420 Oaknoll St
Auburn Hills, MI 48326