



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS

Regular City Council Meeting

January 4, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor McDaniel at 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Present: Mayor McDaniel (Auburn Hills, MI), Council Members Burmeister (Rochester, MI), Knight (Auburn Hills, MI), Marzolf (Auburn Hills, MI), Moniz (Auburn Hills, MI), and Verbeke (Auburn Hills, MI)

Absent: Council Member Kittle

Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Assistant City Manager Grice, City Attorney Beckerleg, City Clerk Pierce, Assistant to the City Manager Skopek, Police Chief Baker, Deputy DPW Director Stahly, Mgr of Municipal Properties Torres, Mgr of Roads & Fleet Michling, Fieldstone Golf Club Manager Hierlihy, Senior Services Director Adcock, City Engineer Juidici, IT Systems Administrator Green

3 Guests

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4a. City Council Workshop Minutes, December 7, 2020

Moved by Burmeister, Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To approve the City Council Workshop Minutes of December 7, 2020.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Moniz, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 21.01.001

Motion Carried (6 - 0)

4b. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, December 7, 2020

Moved by Knight, Seconded by Marzolf.

RESOLVED: To approve the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2020 as corrected.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Moniz, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 21.01.002

Motion Carried (6 - 0)

5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

7a. Board and Commission Minutes

7a1. Tax Increment Finance Authority Informational Meeting, December 8, 2020

7a2. Tax Increment Finance Authority Regular Meeting, December 8, 2020

RESOLVED: To receive and file the Board and Commission Minutes.

Moved by Verbeke, Seconded by Moniz.

RESOLVED: To approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Moniz, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 21.01.003

Motion Carried (6 - 0)

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

9a. Motion – To award a Contract to Replace the City’s Uninterruptable Power Supply

Mr. Torres shared that the uninterruptable power supply unit provides critical protection to our IT equipment. In 2018, the City was notified that the current system was reaching the end of its life and Enertron was asked to reassess the condition and then recommended whether the current unit be replaced.

Mr. Lewandowski of Power Techniques was present in the virtual meeting.

Mr. Green from Enertron was also present in the virtual meeting.

Ms. Verbeke questioned why the bid was granted to Power Techniques, they were not the lowest bidder. Mr. Torres shared that the lowest bidder, Power Systems Engineering, did not sign up for the pre-bid meeting, as stated in the bid packet and therefore was contacted. They replied that another party attended on their behalf. Mr. Torres contacted that firm to clarify, and they stated that yes they were there on their behalf. Mr. Torres did the due diligence needed and found that the firm was running out of a home in Tennessee and received concerns upon checking their references. He pointed out that Power Techniques is highly qualified as well as local.

Mr. Knight commended Mr. Torres for his due diligence with the low bidder. Mr. Knight confirmed that this is a backup system when the current system is down. Mr. Torres shared that this unit has many functions and runs by battery. Mr. Knight followed up regarding the additional options available and if Mr. Torres felt those items were needed. He added that if more money was needed in the budget, then would recommend it. Mr. Torres stated that the purchase was made due to the high quality product that was picked out by the experts. Mr. Torres stated that this unit will be better than what we had but he would be interested in adding the warranty extension.

Mayor McDaniel asked Mr. Lewandowski to clarify the warranty details. Mr. Lewandowski shared that the standard factory warranty is one year and that the additional two years covers the parts and labor for anything that would go wrong. He stated that he would recommend in the second and third years, to have an annual preventative maintenance warranty, which updates any software, logs and makes sure everything is operating properly. The life expectancy of this unit is 18-20 years and it has been on the market for 2-3 years. Mayor McDaniel also clarified the time period for consideration of the additional warranty if were to take place at a later date. Mr. Lewandowski stated that generally it is all priced as a package but would allow the price up to 30 days. Mr. Tanghe stated that he is able to make that type of a purchase without bringing the issue back before Council.

Moved by Moniz, Seconded by Knight.

RESOLVED: To award a contract to Power Techniques for \$43,779 to replace the City’s Uninterruptable Power Supply with funding from 101-883-985.000, Computer Equipment and Support.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Moniz, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 21.01.004

Motion Carried (6 - 0)

9b. Motion – To approve the Purchase of a 2021 Dodge RAM 2500

Mr. Michling presented the request for the replacement of the 2012 Dodge RAM 2500 that was involved in a no-fault accident and totaled. The truck was scheduled for replacement in 2021. Mr. Michling stated that he did reach out to vendors that they have done business with in the past, looked for deals that were on lot and did not find anything comparable. The closest dealer was for the price is more than the MI Deal contract. He is recommending the purchase to take place from Lafontaine Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram FIAT in Lansing.

Moved by Knight, Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of a 2021 Dodge RAM 2500 pickup from Lafontaine Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram FIAT in Lansing for the amount of \$27,191.00. Funding for this purchases will be provided from the Fleet Fund, account #661-442-981.000.

**VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Moniz, Verbeke
No: None**

Resolution No. 21.01.005

Motion Carried (6 - 0)

9c. Motion – To amend the Fieldstone Food and Beverage Agreement

Mr. Hierlihy presented the amendment to the Fieldstone Food and Beverage agreement for 2020 to waive \$20,000 as a one-time occurrence. This payment arrangement covers operating costs associated with building maintenance and utility costs for two months.

Ms. Kay Wilkerson of Cranks Catering was present at the virtual meeting.

Mr. Marzolf shared that the food and service at the golf course is excellent and wants this relationship to continue.

Mr. Knight stated that he feels the City is subsidizing and helping Crank's because they are a good source. He questioned how many other suppliers from the City might be in hard times that also should be helped because of cash flow. He stated that we are subsidizing because of the unfortunate circumstances that the City did not cause, however they are a business and they take the risk. He questioned if the City will we be criticized for making a \$20,000 assistance to them and stated that this could be setting a dangerous prescience. He stated that they are good vendors and do need the help, but want to be aware and make sure Council is comfortable.

Ms. Verbeke share that she is fine with approving this amendment, indicating that there are not many vendors that do this type of contract. She stated that this arrangement works for both sides. Ms. Verbeke questioned if they received funding from the CARES Act. She shared that her and Mr. Knight held an event at this location and had some issues, the food was great but the service was lacking.

Ms. Wilkerson stated Cranks did receive a PPP Loan in May. She explained that it was originally designed through Shelby Township and the golf course was not included in the PPP loan. She shared that there was no staff working for the months of January – March due to the Executive Orders that were in place. She further explained that part of the PPP requires you to have a lease to use the money as rent. The contract with the City states "shared expenses" not shared operating expenses so the money could not be applied to the Auburn Hills location because it is not a lease.

Ms. Wilkerson followed up with Ms. Verbeke's concerns about her event by stating that she wants to make sure that type of situation does not happen again. Ms. Verbeke thanked her for the explanation of the situation regarding the PPP disbursement. Ms. Verbeke also shared that she feels it is important for these types of conversations to be verbalized and not just written in the report that is provided.

Mr. Moniz shared that the \$20,000 should not be seen as money given to Cranks but a contract. He shared that he has had nothing but great experiences there. He feels it is a great gesture of the City to release Cranks to not have to pay the \$20,000.

Mr. Tanghe shared that Cranks has a contract that covers a season and that season incorporates utilities and operating costs of the facility. During this past season they were not permitted to be in the building so they were not using the utilities and the facilities. In all fairness to them, for the sake of the relationship, there is a fairness argument to be made. They couldn't operate under the Executive Order in a place they were paying for but not allowed to be in.

Mayor McDaniel stated that this is a healthy discussion to have and based on the explanation given it is the right thing to do, the forgiveness of the \$20,000. He also stated that this is the face of our community.

Mr. Knight wanted to have a good discussion on the record and it clearly presents the case as to of why we should support this. People need to see it and hear it.

Ms. Wilkerson thanked Council for their time.

Mayor McDaniel shared that his experiences and feedback from this facility have been good. He commented that he appreciates that they do listen to feedback for those that provide it.

Moved by Marzolf, Seconded by Moniz.

RESOLVED: To waive two months of the 2020 season required payment from Crank's to the City in the total amount of \$20,000. Said waiver is in response to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and the waiver shall be a one-time occurrence, with Crank's to continue to fully comply with its contract with the City going forward.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Moniz, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 21.01.006

Motion Carried (6 - 0)

10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Moniz – He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Knight – He questioned if the City would want to make a resolution to send to FCA on their potential merger because of the impact it will have on our City. He wondered why the Christmas tree was not lighted anymore. He feels that the tree is not just a Christmas symbol but a winter symbol and is disappointed the lights are not kept on in the downtown area. He also encouraged people to listen to the bumps in the road on the concrete road and then listen to the good stretch of asphalt. He hopes it reminds people in the future that asphalt is the answer. He also shared, from Rochester Hills Mayor Barnett's comments in the newspaper, that Munetrix was an authority in the State. Mr. Knight stated that this speaks highly of Mr. Kittle's operation.

Ms. Verbeke – She stated that people have been asking about the intersection at Brown Road and Joslyn. She shared that 20 years ago when **it was created, people could not turn left from southbound Joslyn to**

get into Home Depot this road change was proposed, she had concerns with traffic flow and safety. It creates an unusual traffic flow pattern for drivers going southbound on Joslyn and entering the Home Depot/Sam's parking lot. She would like to see a discussion with the county about trying to improve that intersection, now that the railroad is not being used. Mr. Stahly shared that currently there are conversations with the County, MDOT, and Orion Twp. regarding that intersection. He shared that there is a study being led by the OHM Advisors. Once the results have been provided the next steps will be discussed. She wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Marzolf – He commented that in the December 8th TIFA minutes, there was a recently approved concept plan for the downtown public square. He commented that he would like to see a copy of the concept plan. He shared that the heart of the downtown and a very important project and he would like to get a good look at it. He shared that he is happy to see the Teen Council is doing a sock drive. They are partnering with Ryan Fox and his Fox gives Socks charity. The sock drive goes through January. He shared he is proud of the Teen Council. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Burmeister – He commented to Mr. Knight that he has seen the tree lit. He also shared that the lights along Auburn also looks nice. He was happy to report that he received a calendar from Rosenbauer America and the Auburn Hills ladder truck was in the calendar.

Mayor McDaniel – He wished everyone a Happy New Year and a welcome back into the swing of things. He is looking forward to an exciting 2021.

11. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Beckerleg – Happy New Year to everyone.

12. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Tanghe – He shared that he would like to get a consensus among Council with leaving the tree lights on through the month of January. Mr. Knight would like to see the lights on through February. He shared that the lights make the downtown area glorious. Mr. Tanghe shared that the longer you keep the lights on there is more wear and tear on the tree because it is out in the elements. Mayor McDaniel feels it is excessive to keep the lights on through February. Mr. Torres stated that the tree trips fuses almost every day. He stated that DPW has been working very hard to keep it lit but due to the fuses it will be disassembled soon. The fuse issue has been communicated to the company it was purchased from. Mr. Grice commented that his notes indicate that January 15th, is historically when the lights are turned off on the tree.

Mr. Tanghe stated that he will make sure Mr. Skopek provides an updated plan for the town square.

He also thanked DPW for keeping the streets and the area clear. He stated that you can always see a positive change in the roads when you enter Auburn Hills.

Mr. Tanghe shared that there are three individuals were promoted within the City Manager's Office Christina Hepner – Community Relations Manager, Brandon Skopek – Assistant City Manager, Stephanie Carroll – Manager of Business Development. He stated that these promotions are all well deserved. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:02 PM.

Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor

Laura M. Pierce, City Clerk