



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS

Regular City Council Meeting

January 18, 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 (Auburn Hills, MI), Kittle (Auburn Hills, MI), Knight (Auburn Hills, MI), Marzolf (Auburn Hills, MI), Moniz (Auburn Hills, MI), and Verbeke (Auburn Hills, MI)

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Assistant City Manager Grice, City Attorney Beckerleg, City Clerk Pierce, Assistant to the City Manager Skopek, Deputy Chief of Police Gagnon, Deputy DPW Director Stahly, Fieldstone Golf Club Manager Hierlihy, Finance Director/Treasurer Schulz, City Engineer Juidici

2 Guests

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4a. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, January 4, 2021

Moved by Moniz, Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To approve the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2021.

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

No: None

Resolution No. 21.01.007

Motion Carried (7 - 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 Regular Meeting, January 12, 2021

Moved by Kittle, Seconded by Burmeister.

RESOLVED: To approve the Consent Agenda.

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

No: None

Resolution No. 21.01.008

Motion Carried (7 - 0)

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

9a. Motion – To approve the Fourth Golf Course Maintenance Contract Extension Agreement

Mr. Grice characterized the need for this extension based on three criteria; price stability, a new superintendent and the impact Covid protocols would have on the bid process. He shared that the staff is impressed with the new manager and it would be good to continue to evaluate him and establish a benchmark for this position. He also shared that with the Covid safety protocols, the uncertainty it has created will have an impact on going out to bid for this contract for another year.

Jerry McBetty of Davey Golf was present virtually.

Mr. Knight questioned if there were any new projects or improvements that were scheduled to take place. Mr. Hierlihy and Mr. Kittle shared that there are some improvements that will be made in the upcoming year, paid for through the capital budget, which are over and above the requirements in the maintenance contract.

Moved by Knight, Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To approve the Fourth Golf Course Maintenance Contract & Specifications Extension Agreement” with Davey Golf, a Division of Davey Tree, for a contract amount of \$503,700, for the 2021 golf season and to authorize the City Manager to convey acceptance by purchase order.

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

No: None

Resolution No. 21.01.009

Motion Carried (7 - 0)

10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Moniz – He commended staff for the Martin Luther King Day presentation. He shared that he is on the committee for the waste hauler contract that is soon to expire. If there are any suggestions or comments to be brought to that committee, please contact him so he can follow up appropriately. He commented that at the diverging diamond interchange, the Auburn Hills City Sign should be brighter and asked Staff to look at it.

Mr. Knight – He indicated that his concerns regarding the Christmas tree, at the last meeting, were really about the downtown area. He shared that TIFA spends time keeping the downtown area nice and he would like to see it become a place that is memorable. Mr. Stahly interjected that there is a lighting system in the planter boxes downtown but currently they are having technical difficulties which has slowed down the process of nighttime lighting. He shared that once the trees have grown up, it will help to accent the downtown area as well. Mr. Knight also commented that maybe the language in the charter could be looked at regarding the City Council meeting times to state that City Council is to meet two times a month if there is business. Attorney Beckerleg stated that the charter states that there are to be two meetings per month but clarified that during the pandemic or an emergency nature, Council can cancel a meeting but after the State of Emergency is lifted, the meetings go back to what the charter states. Mr. Knight shared that there is correspondence being sent out requesting support for the Veterans Memorial.

Mr. Kittle – He apologized for missing the meeting last month but had to do so due to a family matter. He appreciated the comments from Mr. Knight regarding Munetrix.

Ms. Verbeke – She provided follow up that the concerns she shared regarding her experience with Cranks, were addressed. She appreciated the follow up that was provided. She commented that with the Covid safety protocols that are in place, she is open to suggestions regarding the Beautification Awards this year. She shared the sign on Northbound I-75 states that the Palace is the next stop and should be updated. Mr. Tanghe will follow up with this item. She concluded that the State of the City is coming up and questioned if anything was needed from Council for this. Mayor McDaniel stated that the event will be virtual.

Mr. Marzolf – He thanked Mr. Moniz for sharing his thoughts for the concept plan in the downtown area. He recognized the Teen Council for their role in the MLK activities.

Mr. Burmeister – He announced that the City lost the former Fire Marshall, Michael Smith. He shared that Mr. Smith was very involved with Helping Hands and the community and made sure that every child had a Christmas gift. He commented that Mr. Smith was a mentor to him and is a primary reason he worked in Auburn Hills. Mayor McDaniel shared that our thoughts and prayers go out to the Smith family for the loss of this loved one.

Mayor McDaniel – He shared his appreciation to Council for their support in taking on the extra responsibilities that are needed to keep the City moving. He shared that there is an old City logo sign on westbound 59 near Squirrel Road that needs to be updated. He commented on the great celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King and thanked Staff and the community who orchestrated the program online. He shared that the theme was *One Small Thing* and the challenge is to think of one small thing to bring help and healing to the community and to people everywhere.

11. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

12. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Tanghe – He shared that he had an opportunity to get inside the MiL apartment building, located at the southeast corner of Auburn Road and South Squirrel. He shared that at one point they had 300 applicants for the six apartments. The first floor will be a restaurant and the buildout for the restaurant will be March or April. It is anticipated that this building will be mostly full by Fall.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:36 PM.

Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor

Laura M. Pierce, City Clerk