



*The City of Auburn Hills*  
City Council Meeting  
Minutes

July 11, 2016

**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, Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell, Council Members Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, Verbeke  
Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Assistant City Manager Grice, Police Chief Olko, Fire Chief Manning, City Clerk Kowal, Community Development Director Cohen, DPW Director Melchert, DPW Deputy Director Herczeg, Management Assistant Harris, City Engineers Juidici and Stevens, and City Attorney Selhaney.  
11 Guests

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

4a. Regular City Council – June 20, 2016

**Moved by Mitchell; Seconded by Knight.**

**RESOLVED: To approve the June 20, 2016 City Council meeting minutes.**

**VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 16.07.115**

**Motion Carried (7-0)**

b. City Council Workshop – June 27, 2016

**Moved by Knight; Seconded by Burmeister.**

**RESOLVED: To approve the June 7, 2016 City Council Goals and Objectives Workshop meeting minutes.**

**VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 16.07.116**

**Motion Carried (7-0)**

**5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

5a. Update from Kathleen Lomasko, Executive Director, SEMCOG

**Kathleen Lomasko** provided an overview of the organization, SEMCOG, planning activities and the implementation of those activities in Auburn Hills. SEMCOG covers seven counties; Oakland, Wayne, Macomb, St. Clair, Washtenaw, Livingston and Monroe. Communities that are members of SEMCOG pay a fee to join and have a voting voice in the projects. For Auburn Hills, the voting member is City Council Member Knight, with the alternate being Manager of Business Development Carroll. SEMCOG issues include transportation, economic development and the environment. The new SEMCOG website has new, interactive tools to maximize the information available; the information is available through other means as well.

**Amy Mangus** explained planning activities range from transportation, environment and economic development. Transportation projects for one year cost just under \$1 billion. Regional plans range from traffic safety, access to important core services, bicycle and pedestrian travel plan, community economic development strategy plan and green infrastructure in the region. A crash data base is available on line with an interactive map. Currently the 2015 crash data is being reviewed and uploaded.

A report was recently completed, Access to Core Services, understanding the accessibility to the regions important services, such as supermarkets, health care facilities, schools and parks. There is a program administered by SEMCOG called the Transportation Alternatives and at least three Auburn Hills' projects have been partially assisted by this program including the Downtown River Walk Enhancements and Streetscape at Squirrel Court (\$195,000); the Clinton River Trail Look and Feel Improvements; and along University Drive, the pedestrian bridge (\$550,000).

Currently in the works is Green Infrastructure for southeastern Michigan, which will include parks, open spaces, as well as constructing rain gardens and bio-swales.

Ms. Lamosko explained the development strategy plans are being implemented through a few initiatives. SEMCOG works with their members to advocate for legislative priorities. The current focus is on increasing revenues for local government, funding for important infrastructure and support for the Great Lakes and control of invasive species. They are also advocating for air quality regulations by working with the business community, the State and private industries to address the air quality issues.

Responding to Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Lamosko stated she will make this information available to City Council.

Mr. Knight asked if Pontiac can now be recruited to be a member of SEMCOG, since getting their finances in order.

Ms. Lamosko stated she has been in contact with Pontiac; the mayor is interested and the council needs some coaxing.

Mr. Kittle asked about two particular road projects; I-75, the additional lane from M-59 to Eight Mile Road, when that will begin and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

Ms. Lamosko explained there is a three year plan that SEMCOG will be approving at their July meeting, which includes a number of projects that are part of the I-75 project. The public transit will likely require a ballot question for the residents to vote on, and she believes that will be on the November ballot. There is a draft plan on the RTA's website that can be reviewed.

Mr. Knight stated there is a two mile stretch of Adams Road, from Auburn Road to Square Lake Road that is a bottleneck and asked for consideration of widening that portion to two lanes.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Carol Beck** asked if there is anything that can be done to discourage truck traffic on Grey Road.

Mayor McDaniel understood there was additional signage installed.

Mr. Grice explained DPW is in the process of changing the signage on south Squirrel Road and Auburn Road and should be completed either later this week or early next week. Restricted through truck traffic signage as well as local delivery signage will be installed. The City has also talked with Church's Lumber asking them to change their address from Grey Road to South Squirrel Road. Church's Lumber has notified their service vendors of the address change and drivers should be entering off of South Squirrel Road, as well as contacting Google Maps to make the address correction.

Mayor McDaniel stated it will take a little time for all of the changes to take place and hopefully resolve the traffic problems. City staff has been working diligently to remedy the situation.

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA

### 7a. Board and Commission Minutes

7a.1. Planning Commission – June 8, 2016

7a.2. Planning Commission – June 15, 2016

7a.3. Planning Commission – June 29, 2016

**Moved by Knight; Seconded by Verbeke.**

**RESOLVED: To approve the Consent Agenda.**

**VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 16.07.117**

**Motion Carried (7–0)**

## 8. OLD BUSINESS - none

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

### 9a. Motion – Accept the Planning Commission's Findings and Grant Permission to Distribute the Draft Amendment to the Northeast Corner Neighborhood Master Plan.

Mr. Cohen explained as required by State law, City Council must review any changes to the City's Master Plan, before sending to adjacent communities for comment. The Planning Commission proposes four changes; three proposed changes are density and allowing duplex units in open space developments. The fourth is to change zoning from Single Family Residential to Non-Residential Transitional, similar zoning to the Dutton Center to the west. The zoning changes are being requested by Kensington Church and the Rochester Soccer Club.

A visioning meeting was held in January, with over 100 residents participating, a follow-up meeting in February, and two public hearings. Continuing, Mr. Cohen explained Kensington Church would like to see high-tech buildings on their property and the Rochester Soccer Club would like to create four new fields with two of those having field lighting. The buildings envisioned for the Kensington site are two, 85,000 square foot buildings; because of the land grade one large building cannot be built on the site. The buildings would be technology/research buildings, similar to the VAST building (formerly Atlas Copco) to the west.

*Mr. Cohen presented a short video that was created by the property owners of the Kensington Church and Rochester Soccer Club, showing what they have envisioned for their properties.*

The Planning Commission is recommending City Council allow the distribution of the draft amendments of the Master Plan.

Mr. Knight believes the Planning Commission has done an outstanding job in working and surveying the northeast corner of the City and is pleased with the proposed changes.

Mr. Kittle stated for all projects he would like to see a 3-D video describing the project, such as this.

Ms. Verbeke agrees the Planning Commission has done a great job, but she cannot support the density changes. She doesn't believe increasing the density in this area is the right thing to do; there are still traffic issues in the area, even with the Squirrel Road improvements; there is the Shimmons Road curve issue and it isn't what the neighbors want. She does support the Rochester Soccer Club and Kensington Church proposed zoning changes.

**Steve Guidos**, Cunningham-Limp Associate, explained in contrast to the size of the Kensington property, the buildings are not that large. The property is approximately 19 acres, but only 11 acres are developable.

Responding to Ms. Verbeke, Mr. Guidos explained the first step was trying to determine what type of building(s) were possible for the site. At this time he isn't sure if Kensington Church will own the buildings or if they will be sold or leased.

Mr. Knight noted Ajax Paving is across the street from these sites and nothing else would be suitable for the sites. The residents on Bald Mountain Road have been very vocal over the years about increasing the area density and what type of buildings and/or zoning should be allowed. He doesn't feel any of this will directly impact those residents on Bald Mountain Road.

Mayor McDaniel understands both Ms. Verbeke's and Mr. Knight's points; he trusts the process of the Planning Commission's phenomenal job, who always listens to the residents and takes those opinions into consideration.

Mr. Kittle appreciates Ms. Verbeke's concern with density, but noted there isn't much space remaining to construct a great number of residential units. He would like to see the Adams Road corridor improved to help relieve some of the traffic congestion. Also, some of the Squirrel Road traffic is due to Lapeer Road being under construction, but will have some relief once the Lapeer Road construction is completed.

Mayor McDaniel asked what the timeline is for the soccer fields and building construction.

Mr. Guidos couldn't give a specific date of construction, but noted Auburn Hills is still a highly sought place for all types of businesses and industries.

Mr. Kittle asked Mr. Guidos why he thinks Auburn Hills is in such high demand.

Mr. Guidos explained there is an epi-center of businesses in Auburn Hills that all work together. Industry in the State is still mainly auto related, mechanical and industrious. Auburn Hills has a great proximity to I-75 and M-59, professional organizations, is contiguous to other communities, the Silverdome property, the heavy traffic volume, the beginnings of an urban center, and really good planning.

**Moved by Burmeister; Seconded by Hammond.**

**RESOLVED: To accept the Planning Commission's findings and grant staff permission to distribute the draft amendment to the Northeast Corner Neighborhood Master Plan per state requirements.**

**VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell**

**No: Verbeke**

**Resolution No. 16.07.118**

**Motion Carried (6-1)**

9b. Motion – Award the Contract for Engineering Services for Special Assessment Districts.

Mr. Melchert explained an RFP was sent, seeking engineering services; seven engineering firms attended the mandatory meeting and submitted proposals. The RFP was a qualifying proposal and not based on price; a cost based RFP is too risky for the City as well as the business.

Ms. Verbeke noted she has not read all of the additional information submitted earlier in the afternoon by Mr. Melchert, asking what type of information is received when requesting an RFP.

Mr. Melchert stated a lot of printed information.

Ms. Verbeke asked if there are any dollar amounts to help decide in choosing an engineering service.

Mr. Melchert confirmed amounts are not being asked for, but some items would include an understanding of a design approach and the type of deterioration a road is experiencing. The firms were given a map and asked to visit those deteriorating roads with an understanding of how to proceed, emphasizing how they will provide value to the City. Experience of the firm is also a consideration - of comparable projects and the assigned project team. Resumes are required for those team members, including their experiences with similar projects. The cost proposal is related to a fee schedule of hourly rates and any other associated fees such as, meeting costs, reimbursements, etc.

Ms. Hammond asked for more clarification regarding OHM's proposal that states in part, the hourly rate, with no mark up, and that 70% of the work will be performed by the lowest paid team members.

Mr. Melchert explained a team is typically made up of a project manager, a manager of assurance and quality control, and the field worker (surveyors, engineers, and inspectors). The field workers are the 70%, the lower end of the cost structure.

Responding to Mr. Kittle, Mr. Melchert stated the RFP was published on the MITN web site.

Mr. Kittle is curious who the other six firms were who responded to the request, even though they did not submit a proposal.

Mr. Melchert noted 10 points were possible in each of the five categories, with the total being the aggregate score among the review team.

Mr. Kittle asked what is unique about having SAD road experience, as noted in the scoring system.

Mr. Melchert explained the engineering firm will have to provide information to proceed with the SAD process, which was a minor consideration in the overall score.

Mayor McDaniel is very appreciative of the additional information supplied to City Council. He noted how well the process works with all City staff, by having the knowledgeable people in the position to move forward with a plan and see it through.

Mr. Kittle asked if this contract is specific to the three SAD projects that have been discussed or will this set the policy for all future SAD's as well.

Mr. Melchert understood this RFP is for the current three SAD's; RFP's will be advertised for future SAD's.

Mayor McDaniel believed the process for future SAD's may remain the same or could be changed; it remains to be seen.

Mr. Kittle sees these projects as he would any typical road project, no mystery involved.

**Moved by Kittle; Seconded by Verbeke.**

**RESOLVED: Move to approve the Engineering Services Contract for 2017 Special Assessment District Road Projects with OHM Advisors.**

**VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 16.07.119**

**Motion Carried (7 - 0)**

9c. Motion – Agreement with Oakland County for Medical Marijuana Operation and Oversight

Police Chief Olko explained this request is from Oakland County, asking the City to participate in a State of Michigan grant that has been recently secured. The grant would allow Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) participating agencies to be reimbursed up to \$5,500 in overtime costs for the NET officers.

Mayor McDaniel believes the Narcotics Enforcement Team is a valuable asset, and is glad the City is able to allow an officer to work with the team.

Mr. Kittle asked how the City benefits from having an officer on the Narcotics Enforcement Team.

Police Chief Olko explained the Department has been involved with the Team for a few years. Being part of the Team, the City has access to all of the resources of the entire Team to investigate crimes reported to the Department that is related to use of narcotics. The Team is also used when there is a need for a large team of investigators. Auburn Hills has drug related activity, as does every community. Auburn Hills is part of the Team that concentrates on the northeast quadrant of the County.

Mr. Kittle asked of the 61 communities within Oakland County, how many have an officer as part of the Team.

Police Chief Olko stated she isn't sure of the exact number, but most of the larger communities participate, as well as communities the size of Auburn Hills and a little smaller. Belonging to the Team is a worthwhile investment.

**Moved by Verbeke; Seconded by Mitchell.**

**RESOLVED: To approve the 2016 Medical Marijuana Operation and Oversight Grant Sub recipient Agreement between the City of Auburn Hills and Oakland County and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.**

**VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 16.07.120**

**Motion Carried (7 - 0)**

**10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Mr. Kittle:

- Has a request for pathway consideration. There is a section of pathway along the north side of Walton Boulevard between Squirrel Road and the apartments (across from Joswick), that is currently no more than a deer path that carries quite a bit of pedestrian traffic. He asked where this may fall on a priority list.

Mr. Cohen believes that segment of walkway will be added by the new senior development, First in Main. Construction is expected to begin this year.

- Would like to acknowledge the police officers around the country who are under siege. He hopes Auburn Hills' police officers are aware and diligent of what is going on. Hearts and prayers go out to all of those affected; all lives matter.

Ms. Hammond:

- The City does a lot of Facebook posts and would like to see a posting on Friday's, announcing what band is playing and the times for Concerts in the Park. This should be done for all City events; posting information on the actual day of the event.
- She noticed a number of semi-trucks on Auburn Road, many going too fast. She asked that be investigated.
- Asked if there was any more information regarding the resident complaining about the turkeys.

Mr. Grice stated he has been in touch with the resident letting her know staff is looking at ordinances and that it will take some time to get an ordinance approved. The neighbors feeding the turkeys has not been addressed, but will once an ordinance is drafted.

- Asked Police Chief Olko if there is any truth to the accident on Auburn Road being caused by the new Pokemon app.

Police Chief Olko stated the investigation is not yet completed, but she doesn't believe that to be the cause. There hasn't been any issues with the new app here in Auburn Hills, but she and her staff are aware of the phenomenon and will put provide public information.

Mr. Burmeister:

- He too has some concern with the Pokemon app, watching young and old alike walk into traffic while looking at their phones. He isn't sure if anything can be done.
- Eastbound on the south side of University Drive, the mulched beds are filling up with weeds.
- Thanked Mayor McDaniel and Planning Commission Chair Ouellette; he is enjoying being the liaison to the Planning Commission, though three meetings in a month is challenging.

Mr. Knight:

- Complimented all those involved in today's transferring of dispatch to Oakland County.
- The stop sign when exiting the parking structure is completely hidden behind the column and would like to see the sign moved in front of the column.
- Would like a milkweed field planted at Hawk Woods, about one acre. Monarch butterflies survive on the Milkweed plants.
- Has been thinking about the tax abatement policy and doesn't believe the eight and 12 year abatements need changing. He suggested changing the claw-back; having one claw-back year for every two years of the abatement.

Ms. Verbeke:

- Expressed the need for improving the City's cable channel; she watched the last meeting, though with no sound. She would like something done so residents are able to hear and see the recorded Council meetings.

Mayor McDaniel asked Mr. Tanghe to have someone do an inventory of the cable equipment of what works and what doesn't and try to get a general idea of the cost involved with updating the system.

Mr. Tanghe stated the biggest obstacle is there are no staff members that have any experience to know what is good and what isn't. For an analysis to be done correctly, the City would have to hire someone who understands what equipment is necessary to have the cable channel run well.

Mayor McDaniel suggested have Kyle Scislowicz take a look at the equipment, he is quite tech savvy.

- Asked Police Chief Olko if there was any policing of Grey Road traffic or if the drivers of the trucks had been asked to use another route.

Police Chief Olko explained a traffic study was conducted and stated users of the road cannot be told they can't use a road. Also, there was no issue with speeding on Grey Road.

- A citizen complained to her that the firework time limit was not being enforced, but she isn't sure if any calls were made to the Police Department. She would like to get a copy of the call sheet.

Police Chief Olko stated she could get a report of calls, however, during the three day July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, the Department was inundated with phone calls. There is a time limit which fireworks should end each evening, but she doesn't recall the exact time.

Mayor McDaniel also received complaints. Recalling the times he worked as a police officer on July 4<sup>th</sup>, he noted tracking down the individuals who set off the fireworks was a difficult task at best.

He received a copy of the call log to the police and fire departments, noting there were 321 calls reported, over the three day weekend. During the evening hours there are seven officers on the road of a 17 square mile city, with 23,000 residents answering all types of calls, with 21 of those being from firework complaints. Other calls were burning complaints, accessory structure fire, traffic crashes, traffic stops, public relation interactions, larcenies from automobiles, and 18 arrests. The police and fire personnel are always busy and the fireworks just add to their workload.

Ms. Verbeke suggested sending a resolution to the State lawmakers letting them know how burdensome the fireworks law is.

Ms. Mitchell:

- Regarding the northeast corner neighborhood amendment to the zoning ordinance, she understands the Planning Commission will be holding a final public hearing in September. She asked the public hearing notice be posted on social media, the City's website, and other locations, not only a publication in the Oakland Press, to reach all residents that may wish to speak on the amendment.
- She saw the educational campaign for code enforcement that was drafted, noting it looks very good. She asked when it will be rolled out to the residents.

Mr. Cohen stated it will be included with the next water billing as well as posting on social media and the City's website.

- Asked if any Planning Commissioners will be attending the planning conference. Mr. Cohen stated he will find out Wednesday, the next Planning Commission meeting.
- Thanked everyone for their enthusiasm and energy at the Goals & Objectives meeting. She suggested when having workshops throughout the year, seeing which workshop items align with a Goals & Objectives item, and reviewing the Goals & Objectives frequently.
- National Night Out is approaching and she asked Police Chief Olko what the date and times are. Police Chief Olko stated the date is Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at the Community Center, beginning at 6:00 p.m. and running through 8:00 p.m. The community is invited to the event and celebrate a crime free City, with a theme of identity theft prevention.
- Thanked the residents who supported her coffee chat last week.
- Plante Moran at the last meeting talked about the water loss and suggested monitoring the water. She wants to make sure water monitoring is being done and doesn't want to lose sight of it.
- Would like an update on how the hiring process is advancing for the many available openings.

Mayor McDaniel:

- Explained there was a slow-roll downtown Auburn Hills, a bike ride. There is another being planned for next Sunday at 5:30 p.m. There were about 40 participants, including one from Westland and a visitor from the Philippines.
- Congratulated Police Chief Olko who was awarded the Crime Fighter Award, from Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Michigan, a state-wide crime prevention organization.

#### **11. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT - none**

#### **12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Acknowledged and congratulated Deputy Assessor Karen Blinkilde and DPW Crew Leader Randy Malone on their retirements.
- Recognized the first bicycle ride hosted by the DDA; 40 people participated. More events are planned by the DDA throughout the summer.
- The City has just finished a brochure touting Hawk Woods as a great place to host corporate retreats.
- Quarterly updates of Goals and Objectives will be made available by Ms. Stockley, his administrative assistant.
- Michigan by the Bottle is having their ribbon cutting, Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 p.m., downtown Auburn Hills.

City Clerk Kowal noted absentee ballots are available at the Clerk's office during regular business hours. Voters can also visit the State's website to see if they are registered to vote and/or where their polling location is.

#### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

---

Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor

---

Terri Kowal, City Clerk