



# The City of Auburn Hills

## City Council Meeting

### Minutes

March 9, 2015

**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 Kittle, Council Members Burmeister, Hammond, Knight, Mitchell, Verbeke

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** City Manager Tanghe, Assistant City Manager Grice, Police Chief Olko, Fire Chief Manning, City Clerk Kowal, City Attorney Hill, City Engineer Judici

6 Guests

#### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting – February 23, 2015

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

**RESOLVED: To approve the February 23, 2015 City Council regular meeting minutes.**

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

**No: None**

**Motion Carried (7– 0)**

**Resolution No. 15.03.040**

#### 5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5a. Reappointment – Trina Burrell to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Mayor McDaniel noted Ms. Burrell isn't in attendance this evening, however, he believed she was contacted by the Community Development Department. He suggested approving her reappointment.

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

**RESOLVED: To confirm the Reappointment of Trina Burrell to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending May 31, 2018.**

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

**No: None**

**Motion Carried (7– 0)**

**Resolution No. 15.03.041**

5b. Introduction of Bianca Karjo, Human Resource Generalist

Mr. Grice explained the hiring of Bianca Karjo is in response to the City's independent audit of the Human Resources Department done by Your Source Management Group in 2010. Ms. Karjo's responsibilities include employee on-boarding, training, coaching, career development, succession planning, tuition assistance, and heading the new Insperty performance management program, an on-line evaluation program. Ms. Karjo will also be cross trained in all aspects of the Human Resources department.

Ms. Karjo graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy with a Master's degree in Health Service Administration and has worked the last three years at Meridian Health Plan.

Bianca Karjo introduced herself, stating she is very happy to be working at the City and looks forward to many years of success at the City.

Mayor McDaniel and City Council welcomed Ms. Karjo to the City.

#### 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor McDaniel noted the City lost a very civic minded member of the community, Vicki Poynter. Ms. Poynter served on the American Legion Women's Auxiliary and she coordinated the last four City Memorial Day Parades, coordinated community blood drives and organized events for the alumni of Avondale High School; she was a great advocate for the City. Many Council Members have enjoyed working with her, as has he. Ms. Poynter's father was a Commander of the American Legion and her mother, also a member of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary.

Mayor McDaniel extended his deepest sympathy to the family, on his behalf as well as the City's.

Ms. Hammond noted Ms. Poynter had a dance studio downtown for many years. The services for Ms. Poynter are tomorrow, Tuesday, at the Pixley Funeral Home downtown.

Mr. Knight said he was involved with Ms. Poynter at the American Legion; she was the picnic organizer each year for the Memorial parade, an organizer for the Boys and Girls State appointments, and was very involved in the community.

Mayor McDaniel requested a moment of silence in honor and memory of Vicki Poynter.

**Robert Wendt**, 2052 Oaknoll, complained sidewalks are not being cleared by the City, business owners or residents. He lives near Opdyke Road and has cleared Opdyke Road sidewalks to the General Motors campus. He was recently stopped by a police officer and told to get off of the sidewalk or he would be ticketed. He also noted Oakland University isn't clearing the sidewalk along Squirrel Road, though many people continue to use it. He would like to know why the sidewalks aren't being cleared.

Mayor McDaniel stated he understands Mr. Wendt's concern, **and asked Mr. Grice to clarify that there can be liability issues for the City with our staff clearing the sidewalks. Mr. Grice confirmed that if we clear the sidewalks, it appears the City is making it safe to travel on the sidewalk, when in fact, there may be hazards such as ice and/or snow.**

Mr. Wendt stated the ordinance requires sidewalks be cleared.

Mr. Grice explained the ordinance requires that sidewalks be cleared of snow by property owners. Pathways are not specifically addressed in an ordinance, and therefore, the majority of pathways remain uncleared. The distinction between a sidewalk and a pathway is a pathway is asphalt and sidewalks are a specific width and constructed of concrete.

Mayor McDaniel asked Mr. Wendt to complete a Public Comment Form, and stated he will have the walkways investigated.

Mr. Knight noted Rochester Hills has a specific milage for the building and maintenance of their walkways and pathways. He has been nagging for years about keeping the pathways clear of snow between downtown and Oakland University, though not required. This should be considered, if Auburn Hills wants to be community friendly and a college town

Mr. Wendt confirmed he clears the pathway with his pickup truck, but at 2:00 a.m. when there isn't anybody on the pathway.

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA

### 7a. Board and Commission Minutes

- 7a.1. Pension Board – February 11, 2015
- 7a.2. Retiree Health Care Board – February 11, 2015
- 7a.3. Beautification Advisory Commission – February 18, 2015

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

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

Mr. Knight commended the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem for the time invested in the Pension Board and Retiree Health Care meetings and thanked the minute provider for making the minutes very detailed and understandable.

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

**No: None**

**Motion Carried (7-0)**

### **Resolution No. 15.03.042**

## 8. OLD BUSINESS - none

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

### 9a. Motion – Approve and Set Public Hearing for Liquor License Renewals

Police Chief Olko noted several departments take part in this annual renewal process. Seven licenses are in escrow, two of the licenses in escrow are operating under a temporary license, issued by the State, which is something new and are used for a year while in the transfer process. The City Treasurer has provided a list of businesses that are in arrears with water/sewer payments and/or past due City taxes; the other establishments are recommended for approval.

Ms. Mitchell asked if **there** is a fee for establishments to take advantage of the TIPS (Training for Intervention Procedures) training offered by the Police Department.

Police Chief Olko stated the training is free, but there is a \$12 charge for each employee's workbook. The Department has two officers who can perform the training. The training are scheduled by the establishment to best meet their needs.

Ms. Hammond noted the State requires the manager and bartender of an establishment that serves alcohol, to be TIPS certified.

Mr. Burmeister noted the same names appear each year for not meeting the City's renewal requirements and asked what can be done.

Police Chief Olko stated not all of the offenders are repeat offenders. Those who are not recommended for renewal will be notified of the recommendation for non-renewal unless their obligations to the City are met. Those businesses will be notified via certified mail as well as hand-delivered letters by the Police Department. The Council should set a public hearing for the next Council meeting to have those businesses tell Council why their licenses should be renewed. Those businesses can opt to pay their outstanding debts prior to the next Council. Council could then grant the liquor license renewal at that meeting.

Mayor McDaniel asked if the debt transfers to the new owner when an establishment is no longer in business.

Police Chief Olko stated the outstanding debt issue would likely be included in the sale agreement or lease agreement.

Mayor McDaniel stated he would like clarification of who is responsible for any debt issues with the City.

Mr. Knight stated many of the businesses are repeat offenders, and will wait until the last minute to meet their obligation to the City.

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

**RESOLVED: To recommend approval of the annual liquor licenses of those establishments that have met the licensing requirements of the City; and that a public hearing be scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2015 to consider evidence regarding the recommendation of non-renewal of a liquor license to those establishments who have not met the City's requirements.**

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

**No: None**

**Motion Carried (7-0)**

**Resolution No. 15.03.043**

## **10. MOTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL**

Ms. Hammond:

- Thanked those who fixed the downtown clock.

Mr. Knight:

- Invited everyone to attend the Youth Assistance program, Thursday, March 12, recognizing approximately 90 students who have overcome great obstacles in their life or have contributed to the community. The program will take place at the alternate education high school on Auburn Road.
- Complimented those involved with compiling the vacant Industrial Property Analysis report received earlier this evening.

Mayor McDaniel noted the report will be available on line as well as a paper copy for those interested. The report documents how Auburn Hills has grown and become the success it is.

Mr. Kittle:

- Stated he received a letter from Oakland County Animal Control regarding the new fees for dog licenses; the current fee is \$7.50 and will increase to \$30.00 after June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Has noticed the tree clearing on Squirrel Road in preparation for the road construction and asked why many trees have been removed, yet there are lone trees still standing.

Mr. Grice isn't sure, but it may be because the standing trees are larger which would require closing the road to drop the tree and there wasn't enough staff on site to proceed.

- Noted the Pontiac Schools has a ballot initiative on the May 5<sup>th</sup> ballot, which will result in a one mil reduction in property taxes from what is currently being collected, or a 3.87 mil reduction in the tax base, because of the milage expiration of a long term capital improvement bond. The proposal is for 2.87 sinking fund milage, which will be used to maintain and fix school buildings that may be uninhabitable by next winter.

Ms. Mitchell:

- April 2, 2015, Oakland University will be hosting a diversity, equity and inclusion conference and is open to the community. More information can be found at [www.oakland.edu/diversity/conference](http://www.oakland.edu/diversity/conference).
- Thanked staff for the throw-ins that are included in the packet; she took particular interest in the article about the Governor identifying funding for educational institutions, focusing on skilled trades. Oakland Community College will be receiving over \$6.1million to focus on that area.
- She has been receiving many questions about **the Increased Sales Tax/Road ballot proposal** and stated there is an extensive summary on the SEMCOG website, [www.semco.org/ballotproposal](http://www.semco.org/ballotproposal), Proposal15-1. She encouraged all voters to take the time and vote on May 5, 2015.
- Complimented City Manager Tanghe and Mayor McDaniel for participating in the Detroit Chinese Business Association; the City has a lot of international companies as business residents.

Mr. Knight:

- Spent time with U.S. Representative Dave Trott at BorgWarner on Friday, who is very interested in supporting paying for a two-year junior college or skilled training, recognizing the need to help kids get the training they need.

Mayor McDaniel:

- Confirmed he and City Manager Tanghe attended the Detroit Chinese Business Association, noting there are three Chinese companies located within Auburn Hills. There is an interest of other Chinese companies possibly locating and/or expanding in the City and this was an opportunity to make more contacts.
- Monday, June 1, 2015, will be Council's annual Goals and Objectives Workshop. The workshop will begin promptly at 5:00 p.m. and is an off-night from Council meetings.

**11. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT – none**

**12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Confirmed the Goals and Objectives Workshop will be held at the Public Safety Building Community Room.
- Signs have been erected at each entry point of the three major road construction projects that will begin shortly and the communication plans have been posted. There is a link on the City's website that provides information about each of the construction projects and will be continually updated. The Squirrel Road and Featherstone Road projects are local projects and information can be easily updated; the University Drive project is an MDOT project, so the information will be forwarded to the public as it is received by the City. The website is [www.auburnhills.org/community/2015roadprojects](http://www.auburnhills.org/community/2015roadprojects).
- The DDA with the Tax Increment Financing Plan is moving forward and a Council Workshop will be held prior to the March 23, 2015 City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m. The information from Oakland County regarding the TIF financing was just received this week and a reply to the County is needed soon.
- As a follow up to his appointment as City Manager in September, as promised, he will be transitioning out and resigning from the Tax Increment Finance Authority as of April 14, 2015. Assistant City Manager Grice will be appointed at that same meeting as the Executive Director to the Tax Increment Finance Authority.
- He too visited BorgWarner last week and saw the how well the new expansion is going. He spoke with U.S. Representative Trott as well as BorgWarner's CEO James Verrier.

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Detective Labor Negotiations**

**Moved by Burmeister; Seconded by Mitchell.**

**RESOLVED: To adjourn to Executive Session.**

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

**No: None**

**Motion Carried (7-0)**

**Resolution No. 15.03.044**

*The regular City Council meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m. and reconvened at 8:20 p.m.*

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

**RESOLVED: To approve the collective bargaining agreement by and between the City of Auburn Hills and the Detective Unit of the Police Officers Labor Council, for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2018; and authorize the Mayor, City Clerk, and City Manager to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City.**

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

**No: Kittle**

**Motion Carried (6-1)**

**Resolution No. 15.03.045**

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

---

Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor

---

Terri Kowal, City Clerk