



# CITY OF AUBURN HILLS

## CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

### MINUTES

APRIL 1, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Marzolf at 5:30 PM

**LOCATION:** Admin Conference Room, City Hall, 1827 N. Squirrel Rd, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Present: Mayor Marzolf, Council Members Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight

Absent: Council Members McDaniel, Verbeke

Also Present: Assistant City Manager Skopek, City Attorney Beckerleg, City Clerk Pierce, Chief of Police Gagnon, Fire Chief Massingill, Asst. Fire Chief Robinson, Community Development Director Cohen, Construction Coordinator Lang, Commercial/Industrial Appraiser Griffin, Asst to the City Manager Hagge

0 Guests

Workshop Topic: Fire Department Strategic Update

Chief Massingill explained that the purpose of the workshop is to provide an overview of the suppression operations and capabilities and to solicit feedback from City leadership to help develop the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan.

Chief Massingill reviewed the fire station locations, staffing levels, number of calls per station and response times. He explained the rules, regulations and standards set by each regulating authority as it relates to the Fire Department functions. He noted that staffing levels are budgeted for eight staff per shift, however the average is seven staff per shift, with a minimum of six. He explained that response times increase with less staffing per shift.

The Chief showed a chart comparing the call volume over a twenty-year span. He explained that the City is seeing a steep increase in medical calls, where fire calls have stayed relatively even. He discussed the national standard response times compared to the City's response times. He explained the challenges with the Oakland County mutual aid agreements.

Chief Massingill discussed employee recruitment and development. He noted that the department weakness is attrition and the retirement-retention gap. He stated that they are working hard to get firefighters trained for promotion within the department. He also discussed the apparatus and equipment replacement plan.

Chief Massingill noted that the call volume will continue to increase. The City must decide whether they want service regression, service maintenance, or service improvement. He explained that if nothing is done and the department retains a staffing level of seven staff per shift, the department will have to cut services and budget. He stated that they want to give the best service possible. To maintain the service delivery, staffing levels should be increased to nine staff per shift. There is an opportunity to apply for a three-year grant which would stabilize the department. Chief Massingill noted that a stop-gap is the best option now.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.

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Brian W. Marzolf, Mayor

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Laura M. Pierce, City Clerk