



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 8, 2024

CALL TO ORDER &: Mayor Marzolf at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

LOCATION: Council Chamber, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills MI

ROLL CALL: Present: Council Members Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, and Verbeke

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Assistant City Manager Skopek, City Attorney Beckerleg, City Clerk Pierce, Chief of Police Gagnon, Fire Chief Massingill, Community Development Director Cohen, Construction Coordinator Lang, DPW Director Baldante, Economic Development Director Carroll, Deputy Treasurer Vittone, Management Assistant Hagge, Engineers Juidici & Driesenga

7 Guests

A workshop session was held prior to the regular City Council meeting at 5:30 PM. Workshop Topic: Headlee Amendment, Proposal A, and Review of Tax Abatement Policy

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4a. City Council Workshop Minutes, December 4, 2023.

Moved by Knight, Seconded by Hawkins.

RESOLVED: To approve the City Council Workshop Minutes of December 4, 2023.

VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 24.01.01

Motion Carried (7 - 0)

4b. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, December 4, 2023.

Moved by Knight, Seconded by Hawkins.

RESOLVED: To approve the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2023.

VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 24.01.02

Motion Carried (7 - 0)

5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5a. Motion – To confirm the reappointment of Rolanda Peet to the Election Commission.

Moved by Verbeke, Seconded by Fletcher.

RESOLVED: To confirm the reappointment of Rolanda Peet to the Election Commission to serve a four-year term ending December 31, 2027.

VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 24.01.03

Motion Carried (7 - 0)

5b. Motion – To confirm the appointment of Timothy Carrier to the Election Commission.

Moved by Ferguson, Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To confirm the appointment of Timothy Carrier to the Election Commission to serve a four-year term ending December 31, 2027.

VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 24.01.04

Motion Carried (7 - 0)

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Gary Morehead of 14 N. Vista Dr. Auburn Hills commented on the State of Community event.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

7a. Board and Commission Minutes

7a1. Tax Increment Finance Authority Informational Meeting, December 12, 2023

7a2. Tax Increment Finance Authority Regular Meeting, December 12, 2023

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

7b. Motion – To approve the I.T. Services Agreement with Oakland County and to remove credit/debit card payments.

RESOLVED: To allow the City to renew the I.T. Services Agreement with Oakland County and to remove online payments.

Moved by Verbeke, Seconded by Hawkins.

RESOLVED: To approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 24.01.05

Motion Carried (7 - 0)

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

9a. Motion – To allow the Director of Public Works to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Consumers Energy.

Mr. Baldante presented the need to expand the various easements for the development entitled Residences at River Trail. This will accommodate the installation of a new water main for this proposed development. The City is working with Consumers Energy to allow a 25-year licensing agreement for a pathway located on the NW section of the property.

Moved by Fletcher, Seconded by Ferguson.

RESOLVED: To allow the Director of Public Works to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Consumers Energy, which shall include the licensing agreement with the provisions proposed by the City Attorney and attached as Exhibit D.

VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 24.01.06

Motion Carried (7 - 0)

9b. Motion – To allow the Director of Public Works to execute a permanent 20-foot easement to Consumers Energy located at the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Baldante shared that the license agreement will amend the current sanitary easement and accommodate the water installation project. In return Consumers Energy is seeking an easement on city property located at 1500 Brown Road. Consumers Energy is requesting a 20 ft easement for a gas pipeline installation at the north side of the property abutting Brown Road. This pipeline will support the GM expansion taking place at 4555 Giddings Rd. This is a binding agreement. Plans would begin early February so as not to interfere with the Brown Rd reconstruction starting in early spring.

Moved by Fletcher, Seconded by Knight.

RESOLVED: To allow the Director of Public Works to execute a permanent easement to Consumers Energy for a 20-foot easement located at the north end of 1500 Brown Road for the construction and maintenance of a gas line related to the General Motors facility expansion at 4555 Giddings Road.

VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 24.01.07

Motion Carried (7 - 0)

10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Ms. Verbeke shared her concerns about the proposed water affordability program that will be a tax increase to the residents of Michigan. She would like to see a resolution presented to Lansing showing the City of Auburn Hills opposes this bill. Her concern is that if the bill is passed, what is the process that the funds are shared with our residents. Mayor Marzolf stated that if people are against this item, they should seek out their local representatives.

Ms. Verbeke suggested a motion for Council to submit a resolution to the State of Michigan, that the City of Auburn Hills is not in favor of raising taxes for our residents for something that will not benefit the residents of Auburn Hills. After much discussion by the Council, Mr. Tanghe was asked to provide more information on the topic. Ms. Verbeke withdrew her resolution for further discussion.

Mr. McDaniel shared that his thoughts and prayers go out to the Rasnick family.

Mr. Hawkins shared that the Community Center is hosting a MLK Day celebration on January 15, 2024, at 9:00AM.

Mayor Marzolf wished everyone a Happy New Year.

11. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

12. CITY MANAGER REPORT

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Verbeke, Seconded by Hawkins.

RESOLVED: To adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 24.01.08

Motion Carried (7 - 0)

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:43 PM.

Brain W. Marzolf, Mayor

Laura M. Pierce, City Clerk