



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 15, 2024

CALL TO ORDER &: Mayor Marzolf at 3:00 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, Deputy Clerk Klassen, DPW Director Baldante, Mgr. of Public Utilities Deman, Assistant to the City Manager Hagge

2 Guests

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Sylvia Orduno, 131 W. Parkhurst Pl, Detroit, MI shared her desire of City Council to not pass the presented resolution and support the Water Affordability Act.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5a. Motion – To approve the Resolution in opposition to the passage of Michigan House of Representative Bills 5088-5093 and Michigan Senate Bills 549-554.

Mayor Marzolf sought clarification as to who wrote the proposed resolution. Mr. McDaniel stated that he was the author of the proposed resolution, and it was constructed from the information that had been provided regarding the topic.

The Councilmembers in favor of the resolution shared that they think the Water Affordability Act is taking away the responsibility of local governments. It was shared by those in support of the proposed resolution, that they have not had residents come to them saying that they were having trouble paying their water bills however, they have had residents come to them saying not to support the Water Affordability Act. The comment was made that the City of Auburn Hills already helps those that are in need of assistance with their water bills by not shutting off their water and working with individuals with payment plans. It was also stated that the City of Auburn Hills participates in the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) which has a program to aid those that are struggling to pay their water bills and an additional fee should not be added to the water bill. It was pointed out that there is no guarantee that those in Auburn Hills would qualify for this program yet 95% of the residents will be impacted by the charge. It was shared that while there are some good aspects to the proposed bills, it should be a decision made by the residents.

The Councilmembers in opposition of the proposed resolution shared that they have had conversations with residents that are in favor of the Water Affordability Act. This would be a solution for those that are on fixed incomes, for families that have critical health conditions, and that Councilmembers need to be the voice for those that do not feel they have one. It was shared that the Water Affordability Act would distribute the money to the locate municipalities, so local control would remain. It was also shared that those in need of water should not have to rely on the benevolence of the Staff but rather a permanent solution for thier water concerns.

Moved by Verbeke, Seconded by McDaniel

RESOLVED: To approve the Resolution in opposition to the passage of Michigan House of Representative Bills 5088-5093 and Michigan Senate Bills 549-554.

VOTE: Yes: Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Marzolf

Resolution No. 24.02.37

Motion Failed (3 - 4)

6. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ferguson, Seconded by Hawkins

RESOLVED: To adjourn the meeting.

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

No: None

Resolution No. 24.02.38

Motion Carried (7 - 0)

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Brain W. Marzolf, Mayor

Kristine Klassen, Deputy Clerk