



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

JULY 24, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor McDaniel at 7:00 PM.

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

Present: Mayor McDaniel, Council Members Carrier, Cionka, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, 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, Recreation and Senior Services Director Adcock, General Manager of Fieldstone Golf Club Hierlihy, DPW Director Baldante, Manager of Fleet & Roads Hefner, Management Assistant Hagge, Engineer Driesenga

10 Guests

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4a. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, July 10, 2023.

Moved by Carrier, Seconded by Hawkins.

RESOLVED: To approve the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2023.

VOTE: Yes: Carrier, Cionka, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 23.07.078

Motion Carried (7 - 0)

5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

David Sanders, 224 Juniper, expressed concern with the state of the construction site on Primary Street. He stated that he likes the caution lights on the crosswalks in town. Mayor McDaniel noted that the code enforcement officers continuously check to seek compliance on the Primary Street construction site.

Tyler Stefancin, 3117 Lincolnview, questioned Zoning Ordinance Section 18.13 regarding the storage of recreational vehicles, specifically converted recreational vehicles. He explained the State process to convert a vehicle which irradiates the history of the vehicle. He shared a photo of the E-Series Cutaway vehicle that he owns and a current photo of it parked in his driveway. He requested to be allowed to continue to park his vehicle, which is going to be converted into a recreational vehicle.

Mayor McDaniel confirmed that non-traditional buses and vans that are converted are not allowed to be stored on a residential site. Mr. Beckerleg explained that in looking at the photo, his vehicle is clearly a bus which is prohibited under the ordinance.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

7a. Motion - To proclaim September 11-17, 2023 as Patriot Week and September 11, 2023 as Patriot Day in the City of Auburn Hills.

RESOLVED: To proclaim September 11-17, 2023 as Patriot Week and September 11, 2023 as Patriot Day in the City of Auburn Hills. (Attachment A)

7b. Motion – To accept an amendment to the Senior Center Grant Agreement for Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Distribution.

RESOLVED: To accept an amendment to the Senior Center Grant Agreement for Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Distribution Between Oakland County and the City of Auburn Hills.

7c. Motion – To approve a five-year golf car lease at Fieldstone Golf Club.

RESOLVED: To approve the 2024 Golf Car Fleet Operational Lease with Midwest Golf & Turf for a total amount not to exceed \$480,266.10, distributed over five years at an annual expense of \$96,053.22 and authorize the City Manager to convey acceptance by purchase order.

Moved by Knight, Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE: Yes: Carrier, Cionka, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 23.07.079

Motion Carried (7 - 0)

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8a. Motion – To consider non-renewal of Comfort Suites hotel license.

Ms. Pierce reviewed the conditions in which Comfort Suites has been operating since the last City Council meeting. Comfort Suites was to have fully operating smoke detectors in place, the pool area was to remain closed until the violations in that area were corrected and the fire watch had to continue. It was shared that upon a follow up inspection, the smoke detectors had been installed however, the sprinkler heads had been painted over making them non-compliant. The violations in the pool area were addressed and the fire watch has continued. It was also reported that Oakland County Treasury was contacted to confirm all taxes were paid for this property, and it was reported that there is a balance of just over \$3,500 due.

Chief Massingill confirmed that an inspection was completed this morning and confirmed that there had been some work completed however there are still around sixteen items that need to be addressed, one being the fire alarm panel. Some of the sprinkler heads have been replaced however, they have been painted over and now need to be repaired. Chief Massingill shared the main concern is that the fire alarm system is not alerting Oakland County Dispatch which would in turn alert the Auburn Hills Fire Department if there was an issue.

Mr. Lang, Community Development, reported that the open building permits and the electrical issues that were identified at the last meeting have not been corrected. The facility has missing electrical covers, making the junction boxes open and accessible.

Mr. Lyle Russell, attorney for Comfort Suites, Mr. Robert Haywood and Mr. Dinesh Chaundhary, Representing Comfort Suites were present in the meeting. Mr. Russell stated that Mr. Janantik Pandya (John) is the current owner, and he was not present due to an accident.

Mr. Haywood explained that the detectors that were defective have now been replaced and that the notification system does work. He clarified that the only error on the panel was because the fire sprinkler had been turned off so he could replace the sprinkler heads. He explained that the fire panel requires two phone lines and one of the lines got crossed. The phone company has been notified that this needs to be fixed. He stated that he is at their mercy for repairing the issue. Mr. Haywood stated that he is looking into a cell line as

a backup. He also shared that the fire watch is still going on and that no guest is staying in an area that is unprotected. He stated that there are one or two fire doors that are not closing properly. Based on fire code, they are able to repair the doors instead of replacing them which will save money but is an issue that will take time to resolve.

It was stated that while progress has been made over the past thirty days, the concern continues to be the health, safety and welfare of anyone staying there and making sure if there is an issue that the building is notified, and people can get out safely.

Mr. Russell commented that the prospective buyers will purchase this location if the compliance issues are corrected. If not, the sale is off.

Mr. Hawkins asked if any lives were at risk due to the violations that still exist at Comfort Suites, and why do we continue to kick this issue down the road. He expressed his frustration and stated that this is unacceptable in Auburn Hills and that this is not the type of facility we want in our City.

Mr. Marzolf shared his concerns as well. He asked if the guests are informed that there is not a properly working alarm system and that they are on a fire watch. Mr. Haywood confirmed that they are not.

Mayor McDaniel stated that there needs to be a definitive timeframe for the phone line so this problem can be solved. There are issues here that are life threatening. He instructed that the delinquent tax payments be paid directly to Oakland County with the receipt being delivered to the City Clerk's Office.

Moved by Verbeke, Seconded by Carrier.

RESOLVED: To grant a two week extension to the applicant to complete all of the items set forth on Mr. Lang's report as well as the Fire Department's report, except that the fire alarm panel has to be fully operational by tomorrow at 3:00 PM, the sprinkler system has to be fully operational working by tomorrow at 3:00 PM, a backup radio to serve as a backup system has to be paid for with proof of an invoice by 3:00 PM tomorrow, the personal property taxes due and owing in the amount of approximately \$3,500 have to be paid tomorrow. If those four items are not done tomorrow by 3:00 PM then the request for renewal will be denied. If those items are done tomorrow by 3:00 PM, then they will have the remainder of the two weeks to complete the other items on Mr. Lang, Mr. Toss, and Chief Massingill's reports.

VOTE: Yes: Carrier, Cionka, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: Hawkins, Marzolf

Resolution No. 23.07.080

Motion Carried (5 - 2)

9. NEW BUSINESS

9a. Motion – Accept the Introduction of the Resolution for the Proposed Street Name Change of Phillips Road to Bald Mountain Road, North of Walton Boulevard and Set the Public Hearing for Adoption at the Meeting of August 7, 2023.

Mr. Lang explained that the City has initiated the process of changing the name of Phillips Rd from north of Walton Blvd to Bald Mountain Rd. A Public Hearing should be held to hear comments on the proposed change. The change is being proposed for safety reasons and improved wayfinding for emergency services and the general public. The construction of the new roundabout that connects Phillips Rd, Shimmons Rd, and Lapeer Rd prompted this change. The elimination of the existing Lapeer Rd crossover has resulted in the fragment of Phillips Rd which merges into Bald Mountain Rd to no clear point of change. This change will eliminate

problems caused by having two roads with the same name that do not connect. This is a critical improvement for public safety and ensures that resources are not mistakenly routed to the wrong location. In addition, this will make Bald Mountain Rd a continuous north/south throughfare between Walton Blvd and Dutton Rd. If adopted, property owners directly impacted by the name change will be notified to allow them time to make necessary arrangements and notify others of their new address. Mr. Lang confirmed that this will affect eight residences, three utility addresses for metering purposes and one church.

Moved by Knight, Seconded by Cionka.

RESOLVED: To accept the introduction of the attached resolution for the proposed street name change of Phillips Road to Bald Mountain Road, north of Walton Boulevard, and set the public hearing for adoption at the meeting of August 7, 2023. (Attachment B)

VOTE: Yes: Carrier, Cionka, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 23.07.081

Motion Carried (7 - 0)

10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Marzolf stated that he likes the flashing signals being used at the crosswalks located at the Clinton River Trail and at Squirrel and Auburn. He would like to see more of them used throughout the City.

11. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

12. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Tanghe commented on the condition of the hotel discussed tonight.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:09 PM.

Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor

Laura M. Pierce, City Clerk



ATTACHMENT A

PROCLAMATION

PATRIOT WEEK SEPTEMBER 11 - 17, 2023

WHEREAS, throughout our country's history, the people of our great state and nation have worked together to ensure the preservation of the American ideals of freedom and liberty we enjoy today; and

WHEREAS, American patriotism has endured through times of turmoil and times of peace, carrying our nation through the darkest days of history and strengthening our commitment to the ideals upon which our country was founded; and

WHEREAS, in great reverence to the victims of the attacks on September 11, 2001, and recognition of the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, Patriot week is a time to celebrate the principles set forth by our Founding Fathers as well as the countless Patriots, vital documents, speeches, and flags that helped make America the great nation it is today.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Kevin McDaniel, Mayor of Auburn Hills, do hereby proclaim September 11 - 17, 2023 as PATRIOT WEEK and September 11, 2023, as PATRIOT DAY throughout the City and encourage all residents to renew their appreciation and understanding of America's spirit and reflect on the importance of patriotism to America's past, present, and future.

Hereby presented on this ____ day of July, 2023,
on behalf of the Auburn Hills City Council.

Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor

ATTACHMENT B

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSED STREET NAME CHANGE OF PHILLIPS ROAD FROM BALD MOUNTAIN ROAD, NORTH OF WALTON BOULEVARD

At a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, held in the Council Chambers at 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326, at 7:00 p.m. on the 7th day of August 2023, the following resolution was offered by Councilperson Knight and supported by Councilperson Cionka:

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn Hills has initiated action to rename the public road from Phillips Road to Bald Mountain Road, north of Walton Boulevard;

WHEREAS, a roundabout was constructed at the previous intersection of Phillips Road and Shimmons Road, connecting this intersection to Lapeer Road;

WHEREAS, the previous vehicle access from Bald Mountain Road to Lapeer Road has been permanently closed;

WHEREAS, the City Council held a public hearing on August 7, 2023 to receive comments and consider the proposed street name change per the City's Code of Ordinances;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that renaming the entire length of Phillips Road, north of Walton Boulevard, is in the best interest of public health and safety as it would create a clear and continual street name for the entire public roadway once complete. The new street name would assist in rapid property identification by emergency first responders and improve traffic navigation for the general population.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved that the City Council of the City of Auburn Hills approves and authorizes the renaming of Phillips Road, north of Walton Boulevard. Said portion of the roadway is shown on Exhibit A. The street name change will officially be implemented on October 1, 2023.

AYES:

NAYES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I, Laura M. Pierce, the duly qualified and appointed City Clerk of the City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Auburn Hills City Council held on the 7th day of August 2023, the original of which is on file in my office.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed my official signature on this ____ day of _____, 2023.

Laura M. Pierce, City Clerk