



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS

City Council Workshop Minutes

JANUARY 6, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Marzolf at 5:45 PM
LOCATION: Admin Conference Room, City Hall, 1827 N. Squirrel Rd, Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Present: Mayor Marzolf, Council Members Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, McDaniel and Verbeke
Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Assistant City Manager Skopek, City Attorney Beckerleg, Clerk Pierce, Chief of Police Gagnon, Fire Chief Massingill, Assistant Fire Chief Robinson, Economic Development Mgr Carroll, Mgr of Fleet & Roads Hefner, Assistant to the Manager Hagge

1 Guest

Workshop Topic: Leaf Burning

Chief Massingill presented an informative news clip on the effects of burning leaves. He reviewed the City ordinance regulating opening burning. He discussed various areas of concern with leaf burning which include environmental, health and safety concerns, the financial impact of enforcement, and legal compliance with the state law.

Chief Massingill explained that there are several options moving forward which include adopting a more restrictive ordinance, adopting a less restrictive ordinance, improving enforcement of the ordinance and implementing a cost recovery ordinance related to repeat offenders. He noted that it would better serve the City to either allow burning or not allow burning as the current ordinance allows for confusion from residents.

Discussion ensued about reducing the number of hours and days which burning would be allowed and the impact of completely banning leaf burning. It was noted that only a handful of communities still allow leaf burning in Oakland County. It was pointed out that the trash hauler will pick up bagged leaves and the Senior Services Department has a leaf raking program.

Chief Gagnon suggested that a way to improve ordinance enforcement is to have the Police Department go back to being the responding unit to these complaints. At that time, if the Fire Department is called to put out the fire, then the cost recovery ordinance would be used and a ticket would be written.

Council agreed to proceed with the ban on leaf burning starting on June 1st after the spring burning and expressed that educating the residents is key, especially in the first year. Staff will move forward with a proposed ordinance amendment.

The workshop adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Brain W. Marzolf, Mayor

Laura M. Pierce, City Clerk