



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MINUTES

JANUARY 5, 2026

CALL TO ORDER & Mayor Hawkins at 5:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

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

Absent: Council Member Verbeke

Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Asst City Manager Skopek, City Attorney Kelly, City Clerk Pierce, Police Chief Gagnon, Fire Chief Robinson, Deputy Fire Chief Strunk, Community Development Director Cohen, Asst Community Development Dir Lang, Finance Director/Treasurer Schulz, Deputy Treasurer Jones, Accountant Moss, Asst to the Manager Hagge

0 Guests

Workshop Topic: Discussion of Fire Millage

Mr. Tanghe introduced the discussion of the fire millage. He pointed out that the daytime population is far greater than the evening population due to the business headquarters and entertainment venues such as the mall. He explained that costs are doubling, additional staff is needed and action needs to be taken. He stated that staff is recommending a 1.5 mil increase to be proposed at the August election. If passed, the true impact will start in 2028.

Chief Robinson updated Council on the current renovations at the fire stations. He explained that Station 1 should be done within a month and Station 3 is about one month behind. Renovations at Station 2 will begin once the renovations at Stations 1 and 3 are complete.

Chief Robinson reviewed the revenues and expenditures in the current budget. If no action is taken, the five-year budget includes spending deficit each year. Discussion ensued regarding EMS billing, the increase in call volume and the number of concurrent calls for service. In addition, response times, mutual aid and staffing levels were discussed. Chief Robinson explained the current staffing model compared to a model showing an increase in staffing, which increases the number of vehicles available to respond.

Chief Robinson reviewed the millage options, and the mill impact on the fund balance. Mr. Tanghe summarized the breakdown of the millages from other communities and where Auburn Hills fits in comparison to others. A 1.5 mill increase is projected to cover costs for 12-15 years.

Council agreed that a 1.5 mill increase should be presented to voters at the August election.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Eugene Hawkins III, Mayor

Laura M. Pierce, City Clerk