



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MINUTES

FEBRUARY 2, 2026

CALL TO ORDER & Mayor Hawkins at 5:34 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, Chief of Police Gagnon, Fire Chief Robinson, Public Works Director Baldante, Mgr of Fleet & Roads Hefner, Finance Director/Treasurer Schulz, Accountant Moss, Asst to the Manager Hagge, Engineer Juidici

0 Guests

Workshop Topic: Roads Division / Bringing Local Road Improvements In-house

Mr. Baldante explained that there has been a significant increase in road costs. To be fiscally responsible, it was decided that it would be worth exploring bringing the local road improvements in-house.

Mr. Baldante pointed out that there are 180 total lane miles of roadway, 106 are major roads and 74 are local roads. In addition, there are over 145 miles of pathway in the City. Mr. Hefner described the road maintenance performed by DPW, which includes crack fill, blow-tack-patch-roll, infrared reheater, pavement striping, sign maintenance, and mastics. The contracted work consists of concrete maintenance, mill & overlay, and asphalt replacement.

Mr. Baldante explained that a new In-House Paving Division would require equipment, labor and material. He explained the equipment that the department currently has and noted the equipment that would be need to be purchased. He stated that eight staff positions would be needed, a DPW Deputy Director who would be responsible for the in-house roads and contract work, a crew leader and maintenance technicians, including a paver operator which is one of the key positions. In the summer, this crew would do road work and, in the winter, they would do storm repair, catch basin, sweeping, plowing and other maintenance work. Discussion ensued regarding the staffing model and training needed. It was noted that there should be at least two machine operators on duty. Equipment storage and cost savings were also discussed.

Mr. Tanghe noted that there are more conversations and more study that will need to take place. He noted that this would not start in 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Eugene Hawkins III, Mayor

Laura M. Pierce, City Clerk