



**CITY OF AUBURN HILLS**  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MEETING

MARCH 2, 2026

**CALL TO ORDER &** Mayor Hawkins at 7:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Council Members Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz, and Verbeke

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Asst City Manager Skopek, City Attorney Kelly, City Clerk Pierce, Chief of Police Gagnon, Fire Chief Robinson, Dept of Public Works Director Baldante, Mgr of Fleet & Roads Hefner, Mgr of Municipal Properties Wisser, Asst to the City Manager Hagge, Engineer Driesenga

5 Guests

A workshop session was held prior to the regular City Council meeting at 5:30 PM. Workshop Topic: Discussion of New Bond Debt Issuance

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

4a. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, February 16, 2026

**Moved by Ferguson, Seconded by Fletcher.**

**RESOLVED: To approve the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2026.**

**VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz, Verbeke**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 26.03.029**

**Motion Carried (7 - 0)**

**5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**7. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Hawkins noted that Item 7a. (To amend the 2026 General Fund Capital Improvements Department budget for encumbered funds by purchase order) will be removed from the Consent Agenda. The item will be brought back at a future meeting.

7b. Motion – To adopt the annual Arbor Day proclamation.

**RESOLVED: To adopt the annual Arbor Day proclamation designating Friday, April 24, 2026 as Arbor Day in the City of Auburn Hills. (Attachment A)**

7c. Motion – To approve an agreement with Firefly Drone Shows, LLC.

**RESOLVED: To approve the Agreement between the City of Auburn Hills and Firefly Drone Shows, LLC under the terms and conditions contained in the Agreement and authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City. Furthermore, the city manager's signing of the**

**Agreement is subject to Firefly Drone Shows, LLC providing the city with a current certificate of insurance prior to the event date, as well as executing our Hold Harmless Agreement.**

7d. Motion – To approve the purchase of Structural Firefighting Turnout Gear.

**RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of six (6) sets of Lion brand turnout gear and eight (8) pairs of structural firefighting boots through Phoenix Safety Outfitters under the Sourcewell in the amount not to exceed \$28,208.00 from GL: 101-339-799.000-LABORECONOPP and 101-339-799.000.**

7e. Motion – To authorize City Manager to order and purchase road salt for the 2026/27 Season.

**RESOLVED: To authorize the City Manager to submit a road salt pre-season order of 3,000 tons and a seasonal order of 2,500 tons to the State of Michigan for the 2026/27 season to participate in the MiDEAL bid process.**

7f. Motion – To execute a utility easement with DTE as part of the Woodland Villas Subdivision Development.

**RESOLVED: To allow the Public Works Director to execute an easement with DTE for two (2) twelve-foot-wide easements on city owned property (parcel # 14-02-200-012) as part of the Woodland Villas Subdivision project.**

**Moved by Verbeke, Seconded by Knight.**

**RESOLVED: To approve the Consent Agenda.**

**VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz, Verbeke**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 26.03.030**

**Motion Carried (7 - 0)**

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **9. NEW BUSINESS**

9a. Motion – To consider the 2026 Liquor License Renewals.

Ms. Pierce reported on the status of the 2026 Liquor License renewal process. She commented that while the majority of the establishments have met the licensing requirement to be eligible for the renewal of their 2026 Liquor License, there are two that have not. She recommended approval be granted to the establishments found to be in compliance with the requirements. She further recommended a Public Hearing for the remaining two and be brought before City Council for consideration of non-renewal for their 2026 license: Lela’s Brunch and The HUB Stadium.

**Moved by Verbeke, Seconded by Fletcher.**

**RESOLVED: To recommend approval of the annual liquor licenses of those establishments that have met the licensing requirements of the City and are eligible for renewal as stated above, including Motor City Hotel and AMC Theater. (Attachment B)**

**VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz, Verbeke**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 26.03.031**

**Motion Carried (7 - 0)**

**Moved by Moniz, Seconded by Ferguson.**

**RESOLVED: To set a public hearing for Monday, March 16, 2026 to consider evidence regarding the recommendation of non-renewal of a liquor license for Lela’s Brunch, and The Hub Stadium who have not met the City’s requirements as stated in Sections 6-10 of the City Code.**

**VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz, Verbeke**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 26.03.032**

**Motion Carried (7 - 0)**

9b. Motion – To replace the Manitoba Park Play Structure.

Mr. Wisser provided information pertaining to the steady progress of updating park equipment at Riverside, Hawk Woods, River Woods, and Dennis Dearing Parks. He presented the next project which would include the replacement of playground equipment for Manitoba Park. In addition to new equipment, the playground will have drainage issues addressed as well. If approved, improvements will begin in Spring 2026.

**Moved by Marzolf, Seconded by Verbeke.**

**RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of playground equipment and associated services for Manitoba Park from Midstates Recreation in an amount not to exceed \$74,493.**

**VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz, Verbeke**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 26.03.033**

**Motion Carried (7 - 0)**

9c. Motion – To approve the Police Department K9 Program.

Chief Gagnon presented a proposal to create a dedicated K9 program within the Police Department with two dedicated teams to enhance community safety, improve operational effectiveness and foster stronger relationships between law enforcement and the public. If approved, one dog will be trained in narcotics detection and the other for explosive detection. He shared that both dogs will be trained in tracking, search and rescue, article searches, aggression training as well as crowd control. Chief Gagnon provided statistics noting the number of times other K9 units have been needed within this jurisdiction. This will be funded through forfeiture funds and not taxpayer dollars.

**Moved by Ferguson, Seconded by Knight.**

**RESOLVED: To approve the Police Department K9 program and authorize the department to utilize forfeiture funds in an amount not to exceed \$65,000.00.**

**VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz, Verbeke**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 26.03.034**

**Motion Carried (7 - 0)**

**10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Mr. Knight questioned the interest in a translation option on the body cameras the police wear. Chief Gagnon will check into the availability and pricing on the devices that are currently worn. Mr. Knight commented on the Avondale Public School millage. In response to this comment, Mr. Tanghe clarified that the city cannot take a position on any millage question nor use public funds but will educate on the issue as they have done in the past.

Mr. Moniz shared that he appreciates having materials ahead of time for the workshops and would like to see this become a new process that is followed for future workshops.

Dr. Fletcher commented that she would like to have an AED in Council Chamber and stated she is happy to see activity at the corner of Shimmons and Squirrel Roads and the installation of a traffic light.

Mr. Marzolf commented on the success of the Avondale Boys Basketball Team during the winter season. He shared that they are undefeated and wishes them the best of luck as they move forward.

**11. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

**12. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Tanghe reported that the Greystone Pickleball Club will open on Saturday March 14, 2026.

**13. CLOSED SESSION**

13a. Motion - To meet in closed session to discuss labor negotiations pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(c) of the Open Meetings Act.

**Moved by Moniz, Seconded by Verbeke.**

**RESOLVED: To meet in closed session to discuss labor negotiations pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(c) of the Open Meetings Act.**

**VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz, Verbeke**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 26.03.035**

**Motion Carried (7 - 0)**

The meeting recessed to Closed Session at 7:38 PM.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 8:30 PM.

**Moved by Marzolf, Seconded by Moniz.**

**RESOLVED: To direct the Mayor, City Clerk, and City Manager to execute the collective bargaining agreement as presented, with retroactive wages to January 1, 2026.**

**VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz, Verbeke**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 26.03.036**

**Motion Carried (7 - 0)**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Moniz, Seconded by Fletcher.**

**RESOLVED: To adjourn the meeting.**

**VOTE: Yes: Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, Moniz, Verbeke**

**No: None**

**Resolution No. 26.03.037**

**Motion Carried (7 - 0)**

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.



**ATTACHMENT A**

**PROCLAMATION**

**DESIGNATION OF FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026 AS  
ARBOR DAY IN THE CITY OF AUBURN HILLS**

- WHEREAS,** In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and
- WHEREAS,** this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and
- WHEREAS,** Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and
- WHEREAS,** trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife; and
- WHEREAS,** trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and
- WHEREAS,** trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and
- WHEREAS,** trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.
- NOW THEREFORE,** the Auburn Hills City Council does hereby proclaim April 24, 2026 as Arbor Day in the City of Auburn Hills, and urges all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and
- FURTHER,** the Auburn Hills City Council urges all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Signed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2026, at the City of Auburn Hills.

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Mayor Eugene Hawkins, III

## ATTACHMENT B

### LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS

A+ Crab Great Lake 4975 Baldwin Rd	German American Marksmanship Club 2650 Auburn Rd	OGrizzily's Bar & Bistro 3375 University Dr
Alfoccino Restaurant 2225 N. Opdyke Rd	Hill-Gazette Post 143 – The American Legion 96 Churchill	Olive Garden 700 Brown Rd
Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar 2105 N. Squirrel Rd	Johnny Black's Whiskey Park 3320 Auburn Rd	Rainforest Café 4310 Baldwin Rd
Buddy's Pizzeria 2612 N. Squirrel Rd	KPot Korean BBQ & Hot Pot 4197 Baldwin Rd	Rangoli Indian Cuisine 3055 E. Walton Blvd
Cantina El Dorado 3300 Auburn Rd	Lelli's 885 N. Opdyke Rd	Red Ox Tavern 3773 E. Walton Blvd
Chili's Grill & Bar 3940 Baldwin Rd	Longhorn Steakhouse 4965 S Baldwin Rd	Round One Entertainment 4220 Baldwin Rd
Crown Plaza 1500 N. Opdyke Rd	Michigan By The Bottle 3384 Auburn Rd	Sonesta Select Detroit 2550 Aimee Lane
Fieldstone Golf Club 1984 Taylor Rd	Miyako Japanese Steakhouse 4382 Baldwin Rd	Top Golf 500 Great Lakes Crossing
Fran O'Brien's Maryland Crab House 621 S. Opdyke Rd	Nino's Italian House 4255 Baldwin Rd	Twin Peaks Restaurant 2443 N. Squirrel Rd
AMC Theaters, Great Lakes 25 4300 Baldwin Rd, Ste 601	Motor City Hotel 2300 Featherstone	